



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, May 1, 2018

5:30 PM

Municipal Center

1. CALL TO ORDER AT 5:30 P.M.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

3. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK DONNA JACKSON

Present 11 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent 1 - Charles Coleman

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

[COM-18:013](#) PROCLAMATION BY MAYOR PERRIN TO ERIC TURMAN FOR MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS MONTH

Read

[COM-18:025](#) PROCLAMATION BY MAYOR PERRIN TO MISS GREATER JONESBORO EMILY DOGGETT

Read

[COM-18:026](#) Presentation by Traffic Operations Engineer Mark Nichols on the Arkansas Department of Transportation 2016-2020 STIP Projects

Attachments: [MPO Projects\(\(Unsaved-306589431453847125\)\).pdf](#)

Read

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

Aye: 11 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Charles Coleman

[MIN-18:043](#) Minutes for the City Council Meeting on April 17, 2018

Attachments: [Minutes 04172018.pdf](#)

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

[RES-18:064](#) A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ACCEPT THE LOW BID AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH BAILEY CONTRACTORS, INC. FOR THE CONCESSION BUILDING, SOUTHSIDE PARK (2018:20)

Attachments: [Bid Tab - SS](#)

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

[RES-18:066](#) A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO SET THE UNIT PRICE FEE FOR SIDEWALK

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

6. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-18:026](#) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 62-40 and 62-41 OF THE JONESBORO CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF MODIFYING THE DEFINITIONS TO INCLUDE AND LEVYING A TAX UPON RESIDENTIAL BUSINESS RENTALS

Attachments: [ORD 18-026 Revision.docx](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to suspend the rules, and offer ORD-18:026 by title only. All voted aye.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said this is an ordinance that came in front of the Finance Committee. When it was in front of the Finance Committee, obviously, Chief Financial Officer Bill Reznicek was the one that was sponsoring it because it was finance related. When it was in front of the committee, a lot of questions came up as far as the enforcement of nuisance and noise related issues and stuff like that which I think obviously, isn't in the Finance Committee's realm or scope of knowledge, but we felt it was important enough to bring it in front of the Council because it is something that is growing. I think, if possible, we have to address these issues which may not happen within this ordinance, but somehow address the neighborhood quality aspect of it. I know it does bother some people because these people come in and they don't care about the neighborhood. They might come in and are not as respectful as a long-term renter may be. I know some questions were asked and I think Bill Reznicek had done some more research as far as what some other cities are doing as far as controlling maybe more of the zoning or stuff like that. I don't know if he wants to comment now. I think it is something that if we don't consider it in this ordinance, we still need to consider it somewhere down the road.

City Attorney Carol Duncan stated that our office is also doing research on it because

it had been presented to Planning Director Derrel Smith and I some time ago, not as part of the tax, but as part of could we do anything zoning wise to limit or in some way enforce some regulations on this type of business. I think it is possible, but as far as the cities that we have seen in Arkansas, I mean it is a little different looking everywhere else to see what they do, but in Arkansas, what we have seen is that the cities that have restrictions, conditional uses, or some kind of regulation of these rentals also have the same regulations of their other rental properties. I think it is important to consider if you do one, you may want to look at both. I don't know if that is something that the Council wants to do all at once, but I think it is appropriate. We haven't found anywhere where you can put a restriction on a short-term rental like that that you don't put on a long-term rental. That is not to say that you can't.

Councilmember Hafner said he thinks with the estimated revenue that would come, what we are talking about is not revenue that would come to the City. It is revenue that would come to the A&P Commission. I want to make sure that at some point, whether it is in this ordinance or if it is through another committee or commission or whatever, that we take time to look at what can we do. Councilmember John Street asked that we hold this ordinance to three readings so that it can be researched and vetted well. President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore said he sees it as two separate issues. We have an issue of a levy and a tax and then we have a code enforcement issue that is independent regardless of whether we levy a tax or not, but I think that Councilmember Street is right. We should hold it at three separate readings that will give us time.

Councilmember David McClain asked Councilmember Hafner to explain what he was requesting. Are we looking at if we can also zone certain places? Councilmember Hafner said not really if we can zone, but what other perimeters we put into place. Think, for instance, when you rent a vacation home for a weekend or a week, there are things like you can only have two cars there or you can only have ten people in the house. It is more of that kind of thing or something like that. I don't know if you can actually change zoning because you are talking about residential houses, R-1 and stuff like that. I am just saying, what can we do? I am saying we need to vet it as much as we can before we make a decision over something that may bring \$30,000 worth of revenue to the A&P Commission. We have to be cognitive of other factors. Councilmember McClain said ok.

Councilmember Gene Vance said I am glad that Councilmember Street wanted to keep it on three readings because I do think we need to study the issue you are talking about. My concern is if we do pass a tax, then we are actually legitimizing that business in town. I think it will be very difficult to restrict in any way, zoning or otherwise, in the future if we pass the tax first, but that is my thought. City Attorney Carol Duncan said as Councilmember Vance knows, I respectfully disagree. I think you can change your zoning and your rules and regulations at any time and it is completely separate from the tax. It is up to the Council's desire. Like I said, when we have done the research, every place that has any type of restriction on rental has restrictions across the board. It has restrictions on all types of rental properties, including inspections, quality standards, number of people per sq. ft. per bedroom, but it is across the board. I haven't seen any in the state of Arkansas that strictly do it for these type of rentals and not for rentals across the board.

President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore asked Ms. Duncan if she had finished her research or is she going to continue to do more research. Ms. Duncan said there is none in Arkansas that I have found. We can look at other states, but obviously, Arkansas law is more applicable to Arkansas. Councilmember Bobby Long said he has looked at Massachusetts. They do the same thing. They do a 14-day rule if it is a

vacation rental. If you rent it for less than 14 days, you have to stay in it 14 days. I think Los Angeles had an opposite view than Councilmember Vance did. They went ahead and levied the tax. They went ahead and put restrictions on it as well. Ms. Duncan said the rentals are already happening. Councilmember Long said they are. Ms. Duncan said we are placing rules on something that is already happening anyway. The rentals are going to continue to happen whether or not you pass the tax is my theory. We will be happy to look at it more if people want to make suggestions. I am just suggesting that we are opening ourselves up for the potential to be the city to determine whether it is legal to be the ones that place restrictions on short-term rentals that we don't place on longer term rentals. We need to think about what it is we are trying to regulate that we can't already regulate with our criminal laws and our code enforcement laws. If there are things, then yes, I think we can do that. If you are not talking about a conditional use to do it in an R-1 or you are not talking about a zoning change, you are talking about placing restrictions on how they use the property, we just need to be cautious and consistent that we place the same restrictions on all uses of rental property.

President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore said he believes they are all in agreement that we read it on three separate occasions. I would ask that any members of the Council or the public that have comments on this to forward them to the Mayor's office and then we will vet them at that point.

Held at one reading

[ORD-18:029](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2017 BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO

Attachments: [Budget Ordinance Justification.pdf](#)

Councilmember Chris Gibson motioned, seconded by Councilmember Charles Frierson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-18:029 by title only. All voted aye.

Councilmember John Street asked Chief Financial Officer Bill Reznicek if there was anything urgent about this ordinance or if it could do three readings. City Attorney Carol Duncan said that it was just a cleanup ordinance. Mr. Reznicek said essentially this is the cleanup ordinance that we do every year. This year is was relatively small in comparison to prior years. The largest dollar amount on there was \$525,000 which actually represented revenue for the library millage that is a pass thru. Actually, we under budgeted and that is an estimate. We did revise the 2018 budget based upon a better estimate from last year once we realized the millage was higher. But, that is not a detrimental or really an incremental impact to the city. It is simply a pass thru. The other larger item on there was \$118,000 for the cemetery building which was budgeted at \$300,000 last year and \$250,000 this year. We actually spent or pulled forward about \$118,000 of that spending into 2017 so the residual of that will be spent in 2018. We will still come in under budget on that project. The two other smaller items on there were additional spending by the Drug Task Force, one for a vehicle and the other was for additional weapons. Those are the items that make up the cleanup ordinance for the last year. There was nothing really significant in terms of overspending at the departmental level which was actually a good thing. The budget spending was pretty much on track last year of what was originally submitted.

Councilmember Charles Frierson motioned, seconded by Councilmember John Street, to suspend the rules and waive the second and third readings. All voted aye.

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

Absent: 1 - Charles Coleman

[ORD-18:031](#)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE 2018 SELECTIVE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM (STEP) SUBGRANT AWARD CHANGE ORDER WITH THE ARKANSAS STATE POLICE; AND AMENDING THE 2018 BUDGET APPROPRIATING FUNDS NECESSARY TO THE PROCUREMENT THEREOF

Attachments: [changeorderjonesboro](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-18:031 by title only. All voted aye.

Councilmember David McClain asked if Chief Financial Officer Bill Reznicek would mind speaking about this ordinance. Mr. Reznicek said this represents the state STEP grant award and this is for additional police for overtime where they do traffic enforcement on specific items like DWI, infant seat enforcement, seatbelt enforcement. This is strictly for officers who are working on overtime hours. We are reimbursed 100% by the state for those hours that they work. So, there is no additional cost to the city on this.

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to suspend the rules and waive the second and third readings. All voted aye.

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

Aye: 11 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Charles Coleman

[ORD-18:032](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF REPAIR SERVICES FOR THE EARL BELL COMMUNITY CENTER, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Attachments: [Earl Bell Repair Estimate](#)

[IMG_2113.jpg](#)

[IMG_2114.jpg](#)

Councilmember Chris Gibson motioned, seconded by Councilmember Ann Williams, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-18:032 by title only. All voted aye.

President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore asked Maintenance Director Ronnie Shaver to come up and talk about this ordinance. Mr. Shaver said we need to waive competitive bidding. This is in the budget for improvements for this year. We were trying to do patchwork, but as we started to go down and look at the windows and stuff, the front of the building has started falling off. I don't know if any of you have been by and seen it. I think Councilmember Moore almost got a piece of it. With that being said, we need to go ahead and get started. The reason I am saying that is that the only precast company around that can do this is Quality Precast here in town. I have called

Nettleton Concrete. I have called a company in Paragould. Nobody does it. There are 164 pieces of that so it is going to take some time. The reason why we need to get this done is because we have a lot of events at Earl Bell. We don't want to stop them. You can see we put up a plywood cover right now trying to protect people. That is the reason we are wanting to move on with this.

Councilmember Ann Williams motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to suspend the rules and waive te second and third readings. All voted aye.

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to adopt the emergency clause. All voted aye.

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

Aye: 11 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Charles Coleman

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[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 said I think we have agreed to hold this to three readings.

Held at second 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](#)

President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore stated that this was one that we were also going to read three times.

Held at second 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 Gene Vance asked if this was supposed to be on the third reading. Councilmember John Street said no, it is on the second. President Pro-Tempore Chris

Moore said this is the second reading and it is to be read three times.

Held at second reading

ORDINANCES ON THIRD 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](#)
[Harrisburg Road Handout.pdf](#)

Beverly Parker, 205 Windover, said she is here tonight to speak about the proposed widening of Harrisburg Road. I appreciate the opportunity to speak. I want to first start by saying I appreciate Traffic Engineer Mark Nichols and City Engineer Craig Light and all of the work that they have put into this. This is certainly nothing against them. I just have a difference of opinion that I would like to state tonight. Also, there were a couple of other people here last time and I did not get to speak, but they were also from our neighborhood and they were unable to be here tonight. I would like to articulate my concerns and I will try to be brief. I want to first also say though that I am not opposed to the intersection widening there at Windover and Harrisburg Road and at the Parker Road, but I am opposed to the widening so if you will just hang with me here. We know that it is a fact that wider roads produce faster traffic. Faster traffic increases accidents as we have seen in the Hilltop area. My major fear about this road construction under consideration is that they will turn my area of town into another Hilltop. What I perceive of Hilltop is that it is an ugly stretch of wide road void of trees and landscaping with multiple curb cuts that has traffic coming from all directions down a heavily traveled road. I avoid Hilltop at all costs. I stand before you tonight to ask you to not make my neighborhood into another Hilltop. I am not convinced that widening to five-lanes is necessary. We're widening, as I understand, a road to five-lanes because of congestion and that basically occurs two times a day, morning and afternoon, and then one time on Sunday. My husband and I have traveled this road for 25 years. My husband's corporate office was in Forrest City. He routinely traveled down Harrisburg Road back and forth during the busiest part of the day. We have had almost no difficulty getting through that area. My personal experience leads me to believe that the need is being exaggerated. I believe a three-lane road would accommodate traffic and be far less intrusive to property owners while maintaining the integrity of the area. Another concern I have is whether we are simply moving the bottleneck. One of my concerns is that will this road eventually be extended out five-lanes to Highway 1 and then we really have a traffic issue by pulling all of that traffic up through Harrisburg Road. I would really like for you to think about that. Questioning Mark Nichols and Craig Light, they tell me that there are no plans for that at this time. We may be dead and gone, but it is very likely that five-lane will at some point extend out to Highway 1. So, again, I think we are just moving the bottleneck and have cascading effects from that. Some people shrug and say this is a state road and we have little say. I simply don't buy that. I feel that this body should remember that this road is also listed as a Scenic Byway. It is a gem within our city limits. We should value this. I believe we should have more attractive entrances to our city, not less so. This road is one of the last remnants of a meandering road atop Crowley's Ridge. I feel

that it should be valued. Taking care of the trees as well and not be hasty of laying concrete in the name of development. I also want to applaud the Planning Department in terms of the biking trail and sidewalk project as part of this project and a move to multimodal transportation. This area has been proposed as a rear entrance into Craighead Forrest, but I question the desirability of traveling along a dangerous five-lane road to walk or bike. Certainly, this will make it difficult to cross the highway. I have heard Mark Nichols say that there are some allowances being looked at, but there is no guarantees. I feel like, perhaps, we are undermining our proposed biking plan before it ever gets under way. So, as community leaders, I am asking you to think more about what we are doing in terms of our road projects. I challenge you and the Engineering Department to employ alternate methods to widening this road and others in the community. For instance, we should employ traffic calming techniques. An example is what we have on the north side of Harrisburg Road when you get to the narrower part. You tend to slow down. You enjoy the scenery. It is a winding road that is very nice to drive. I know that part is not included, but I am using that as an example. Some cities are even using road diets where lanes are reduced from four-lanes to three. So, let's use these techniques to improve our traffic patterns. We should equip our Planning Department with better traffic control options such as limiting curb cuts to reduce accidents. Also, developers should be held responsible at times for installing acceleration and deceleration lanes in some areas where large apartments are being built. In closing, while I appreciate the planning that has gone into this as well as the partnership with the Arkansas Highway Transportation Department, I believe these plans should be delayed to look at other options. \$2,000,000 is a lot of money for congestion that occurs a small percentage of each day which to me is no worse than congestion in many other parts of our city. So, I implore you not to create another Hilltop in my neighborhood. Please reconsider your approach to widening Harrisburg Road to only three-lanes versus five. Join me in challenging our Engineering Department to rethink this approach and create something less intrusive and please show some love for the city's only scenic byway atop Crowley's Ridge. Thank you.

Paul Teague, 3405 Forest Hill Road, said I live immediately west of the big church. I would like to echo a lot of what Ms. Parker said. I have two or three points I want to make. I will make them real quick. We already have a big bottleneck. We already come from four-lanes down to two that basically comes together in front of the Dollar General between there and the Exxon. One of my major concerns is that is an extremely busy road. I think at the meeting the last time, someone said there is 12,000 cars a day that went through that intersection. I think that happens between 3:30-6:00 p.m. It is just really, really congested. We have a whole bunch of apartments that are built on the old Craighead Forrest Golf Course down at the far end of Forest Hill Road and then of course, there are all of the Gladiolus apartments. There is a Dollar General there and there is a Walmart there. We have a whole lot of people, a constant, steady stream of people walking either to the Dollar General, the Exxon, or to the bus stop which is right in front of the Dollar General, or to the Walmart or all three of those. Those folks may not have a car. They may choose to walk. I don't know. But, there is a steady stream of them on both sides of the road coming down Forest Hill and Hwy 1B. I am very concerned about pedestrian safety with five-lanes. It is bad enough coming down to two-lanes is what they have to negotiate now. If they have to negotiate five, I am talking about women and small children and then they are carrying groceries back home and stuff like that, I am afraid the pedestrian traffic would be much worse without making some sort of provision for them. That is really my main concern. There is obviously drainage issues which the engineers have looked at and that is going to be significant. My big worry is the pedestrian traffic that is already there and negotiating a couple of lanes and lots of traffic without adequate sidewalks.

Currently, we don't have any. That is my main concern with the whole deal. Thank you.

Sondra Essman, 1107 Medallion Drive, said she has lived at her residence for 34 years. Ms. Williams is passing out some handouts for you. While she is doing that, it is my understanding that Ms. Lack has emailed you all information regarding the ordinance. I hope you had time to read that. We hope that you have had time to look at the traffic videos that were submitted as far as the basic traffic patterns on Harrisburg and Stadium. Local traffic after peak times is light to light-moderate. Traffic is heavy all over Jonesboro at peak times. I, personally, have not had a problem getting into and out of Medallion Drive on Harrisburg Road even when I go to work in the morning or come home in the afternoon during rush hour traffic. It flows pretty smoothly. I hope you had time to drive the portion of Harrisburg Road that is being discussed. You know when we make a decision to attend a major event, whether it is an ASU ballgame or a large church, there is always going to be an inconvenience of getting out on the highway. There is going to be some wait time. If you will look at your first handout, the petition, we have 317 petitions. We, the undersigned citizens of Jonesboro, Arkansas strongly oppose the widening of Harrisburg Road south of Parker Road to a five-lane road. We oppose the five-lane road widening for the following reasons. For the most part, we are a single dwelling residential area. We do have apartments. There are only four businesses on Harrisburg Road. There are not any other major businesses until you get to Highway 1. Other five lanes are Highland, Caraway, Red Wolf with businesses lined on both sides. The city officials say they cannot justify a traffic signal at Forest Hill and Harrisburg Road because there is not consistent traffic. Well, we do not have consistent traffic all of the time on Harrisburg Road. The heavy traffic is listed on your handout. You will see the church traffic is three times per week and only when entering and primarily exiting the parking lot. Nettleton School District has 178 days. The traffic is lighter in the summer, of course. So, if there is not enough consistent traffic for a traffic light at Forest Hill Road, then there is not enough consistent traffic for a five-lane highway. With the placement of a five-lane road on Harrisburg Road, several citizens will have this new road on their front porch or their homes could be taken by eminent domain. They will have little or no parking for family and friends. It will be extremely dangerous. These citizens didn't work hard to purchase their homes and then have a road right up to their doorstep. I live a little further back and I have talked to Mr. Smithee several times. I asked him where the road would come to my neighbor across the street. She is more in line with all of the houses to Parker Road. If you go to Lakewood, he said it would be at their doorstep. He also told me the width of the highway, twelve feet, eleven for each one, three feet of grass, a sidewalk of five feet. You know you are talking 37.5 ft. or more plus for every ft. of elevation, it is 4-6 feet horizontally taken. Then, you have the utilities. So, with five-lanes, it would not only take my trees I mentioned to you earlier, it would take all of the trees that are fully grown that have taken decades to grow from Lakewood all the way to Parker Road. A five-lane road will be dangerous for the children who ride the school bus. The buses stop on Harrisburg Road to let them off. It is also dangerous for the people who ride the JET bus. They also stop on the east side of Harrisburg Road. Mr. Michael Johnson, Nettleton School Transportation Director Retired, sent all of you an excellent email regarding a personal survey of the traffic he observed on Harrisburg Road at different times of the day regarding difficulty buses would have crossing two-lanes from a dead stop with two-lanes of traffic coming at different times if there were five-lanes and possibly unexpected costs to the Nettleton School District. If you have any questions, he is here. I hope you have had the time to look at that. We are concerned with more apartments. We have several apartments now in the area. So, we have 317 petitions signed from citizens of Jonesboro that will fill this chamber over three times.

The next one you have is our proposal and there is also a map after the proposal. Starting at Parker Road, going southbound, have two-lanes until you reach Gladiolus Drive. Having the right lane as the only right turn lane. Make a right hand lane coming over the overpass go straight and not a "turn only" lane at Parker Road. Have a right hand turn lane at Forest Hill and possibly Central Baptist Church. After Gladiolus Drive, at the Exxon Station, have a traffic lane on both sides with a turn lane in the middle all the way to Links Drive. Along with saving money by doing it this way and not the five-lane only to either Forest Hill Road or the entrance of Central Baptist Church, the state/city, as required, will be able to put a completed sidewalk possibly all the way to the Links. When headed north on Harrisburg Road by the Neighborhood Walmart entrances/exits, put a turn lane there also. Plus, have two lanes start before Garden Parkway. This will help with the cars backing up during the busy times. So, we have two lanes with a center lane and several examples in Jonesboro and they have worked well and we think it will work well for Harrisburg Road.

Advantages to our proposal include the following. The City of Jonesboro/State saves money by not having to widen the bridge at the Exxon Station. You can take our proposed widened road further down Harrisburg Road. You will be able to put the required sidewalk to the destination point. You don't have to take too much of our property or the businesses for that purpose. Central Baptist Church possibly saves money by not having to remove their sign. This will let the traffic flow much easier with the center turn lane. This also helps keep our area more residential and helps save our shrinking green space. Planning Director Mr. Derrel Smith stated at the Finance meeting on March 27, 2018 that there is high-intensity traffic from Parker to Gladiolus Drive, moderate-intensity south of Gladiolus Drive. So, please consider working on the proposed area first and that is north of Forest Hill Road.

Comparing Stadium and Harrisburg, you have a handout there. Stadium has 16,000 cars, 48 businesses, and is five-lanes north of the bypass. Harrisburg Road has 12,000 cars, 4 businesses, is two-lanes north of the bypass. I talked to Mr. Brad Smithee yesterday and Stadium has now gone up to 19,000 cars. So, with an increase of 1.5 per year growth, 1% by city notes of 180, it will take 23 years to add up to almost 16,000 cars on Harrisburg Road. If Stadium Blvd. can stand and is still handling 16,000, right now it is 19,000 cars a day with a center turn lane from Parker Road south, how do you justify five-lanes for Harrisburg Road with 12,000 cars with a 1.5% increase. There were two important questions raised at the Finance Committee. The first question is where do you taper down a five-lane road into a two-lane road in a short distance? Stadium and Caraway, south of the bypass, five-lanes, two with a right hand turn lane at Parker. Harrisburg Road, north of the bypass by Burger King, right turn lane at Windover. There are two new right turn lanes happening which include Red Wolf Blvd. and Nettleton and another one at Red Wolf Blvd. and Stallings Lane. Please consider our proposal from Parker to Forest Hill Road. Center turn lanes and right turn lanes work really well and are more cost effective than a five-lane road. Second question, is there some savings from doing both projects at the same time? Councilmember LJ Bryant asked this at the Finance Committee meeting. City Engineer Craig Light said yes. We say no. We would be spending more money from the state if these two projects are combined. Parker Road to Forest Hill Road is 0.3 miles and Forest Road to the Fire Station is 0.3 miles.

Parker Road to Forest Hill Road is \$2,400,000 with a state contribution of \$2,000,000 and a city contribution of \$400,000. The requested project adding Forest Hill Road to the Fire Station would be a state contribution of zero and a city contribution of \$2,000,000. The total of both projects if done together will be a cost to the state of \$2,000,000 and the city of \$2,400,000. If we wait until the state has the money in their

budget to widen their state highway, the cost will be to the state of \$4,000,000 and the city of \$800,000. The bottom line is that the city will save \$1,600,000. We all pay state taxes. We feel like that should be for state highways. We all pay for local taxes and we feel that we should spend city money on city projects. Some of those would be that many roads need repair, sidewalks need repair, drainage. I was thumbing through channels this past Saturday and saw an interview with Councilmember David McClain and Councilmember LJ Bryant on Channel 24. They were asked their concerns regarding city projects. They were asked one of their major concerns. Councilmember McClain stated drainage, that we have drainage problems throughout the city. He is especially concerned in his ward. Councilmember Bryant emphasized sidewalks for connectivity. We don't have a homeless shelter. We need to improve the YMCA. We need a boys and girls club. City Youth Ministries, Earl Bell Community Center need improvements. Picking up yard waste sometimes is late with trucks needing repairs. We would like to use the money to help Jonesboro improve Jonesboro and therefore improve the growth of Jonesboro. Mr. Mike Downing with Jonesboro Unlimited stated that during his presentation. I thought that was pretty good. But, he also said plant more trees, not cut them down.

We have shared many concerns regarding the spending of city money on city projects instead of helping the state build their highway. They will be very happy to take our money. Mayor Perrin stated at the last Council meeting that revenue is down. So, we reiterate two-lanes with a center lane, right and left turn lanes. All of you are intelligent, successful business people. I would like for you to just step out of your position as councilmember and stand where we are standing in our shoes. Consider how you would feel if after tonight, you may lose your property you have worked so hard to obtain or your child might have to cross five lanes of traffic after getting off of the bus. Your vote tonight will affect us 24 hours a day, seven days a week for the rest of our lives. We ask you to vote no against ORD-18:019. We respectfully ask that you vote individually. We have people here tonight that I think are against this so we would just like for them to raise their hand if they are against the ordinance. And, those that are for the ordinance, please raise your hand. Thank you.

Thank you for listening to our amended proposal. We hope you consider all of the items presented. Remember, there are 317 petitions and you have several emails sent to you. There are a few other people that I think would like to share. Thank you so much.

President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore said in the essence of time, please keep it to new remarks. Thank you very much.

Selena Reithemeyer, 4102 Forest Hill Road, said at the last meeting I was at you had a gentleman make a presentation and I thought it was fantastic. I think it was from Jonesboro Unlimited. He made a lot of good points about connecting downtown with the University and ways to attract people to come here for jobs. I really want you to keep that in mind. I think some of this money could be spent doing some of the items he talked about in his presentation. Thank you.

Joe Brown, 3604 Harrisburg Road, said he lives right in the middle of all of this. I don't know and I don't think you really understand unless you live there and see it, just how crazy the traffic is on that road. There is an officer sitting in my driveway again right now trying to slow it down. If you all create a bottleneck, as fast as people come through there now, the people coming out of Forest Hill are going to have to get across two lanes as fast as people are coming through there. When it gets up there to about where Lakewood is, where the church is, before they get to that curve, it is just going

to be a death zone. It is quite incredible how fast these people go. There are a lot of young people and a lot of apartments down there. It is a very dangerous road. I am not just saying this because you are going to be in front of my house there. I think you can take your \$2,000,000 and take a center lane and go all the way past the Fire Station, maybe all the way down to the Links, or further and not have the five lanes. I am not really sure why there has to be five lanes in that little spot right there. Plus, I am also not sure there is a creek run in there when they built the bridge several years ago when they widened what they got now. I'm not sure if you won't have to build another bridge across that creek there before you get to Forest Hill. I am just asking you as a citizen. What you are going to do is what you are going to do, but it is going to be a very, very, very dangerous road when you get that bottleneck up there toward that curve. Just look at your accident reports now. How many have been killed right there in that curve? I know the church is going to be pulling out. For \$2,000,000, you can pay an officer for a lot of days to come out there and help those people get out of that church. That is just my opinion. Thank you for your time.

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

Aye: 2 - John Street and Gene Vance

Nay: 9 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;Mitch Johnson;Chris Gibson;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Charles Coleman

[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](#)

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

Absent: 1 - Charles Coleman

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Since Mayor Harold Perrin could not be in attendance, Interim Chief Operations Officer Roy Ockert gave the Mayor's Report.

Mr. Ockert said the Mayor is attending some events with the Governor tonight so he asked me to give his report. He wanted to call your attention to the fact that the

National Day of Prayer will be recognized in Jonesboro on Thursday, May 3, 2018 at Walnut Street Baptist Church at 6:30 p.m.

Last week, the Mayor and Community Development Director Tiffny Calloway were part of the Jonesboro delegation to Greenville, SC. I am sure you will be hearing more about it. You can probably request pictures or video. If you want to see a travel log, that will be at the next Council meeting.

Last week, E911 Director Jeff Presley hosted the ACIC training in the Municipal Center. Our E911 unit had four employees pass and that made them good for another year.

On building permits, residential was a little over \$6 million last month or 77% of the total. Commercial was \$1.8 million or 23% of the total. The total of building permits issued was just under \$8 million.

There are a lot of things going on in Parks and Recreation right now. Last weekend, we had 53 soccer teams that participated in the Revolution Classic, ages 9-15. We had 20 children from the Miracle League who went on a field trip to see the Memphis Redbirds play over the weekend. On May 19-20, we have a youth tournament that is being planned, ages 8-13, and right now we have 119 teams entered. There will be a re-grand opening for Joe Mack Campbell Park this Saturday at 9:45 a.m. to show off the new turf fields. We have local recreational teams that will be playing. The Mayor will be throwing out the first pitch.

Down at the end of the table, we have some new furniture, a recycling cart that is on display. We now have 10,000 of them in storage. So far, we have sold about 3,800 which is about half of the number of people who are recycling right now with blue bags in the city. The cost until June 30, 2018 will be \$20 which is less than half price. After that, the price goes up to what the city is paying for them and that is \$50. It is time for everyone to get serious about getting your recycling carts. We are also selling new recycling dumpsters for half price which is \$400 for apartments. We have a couple of those sold. That is also available until June 30, 2018 and then the price goes up. Citizens can buy carts at the Collections Office in the Municipal Center or by telephone, online, or by mail using a printed form. The Sanitation Department will start delivering carts the first week of June. They will be attaching stickers to the carts depending on what area you live in. We already have these attached to the garbage carts. This will help people remember when they are going to be collected. Beginning the 1st of July, the city will take over collections and that will end the use of blue bags. Bids are now being accepted for processing of recyclable materials. I believe the deadline for that is tomorrow.

That is the Mayor's Report. Thank you.

[COM-18:022](#)

February 2018 Financials

Attachments: [02-2018 Sales tax.pdf](#)
[02-2018 State Turnback Report.pdf](#)
[2018 February Expenditure Report.pdf](#)
[2018 February Franchise tax report .pdf](#)
[2018 February Rev, Exp and Changes in FB.pdf](#)
[2018 February Revenue Report.pdf](#)
[February 2018 Deposits Collateralization Report .pdf](#)
[February 2018 Hotel Tax comparison .pdf](#)
[Required Reserves February 2018.pdf](#)

Filed

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

RES-18:067

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

Councilmember David McClain motioned, seconded by Councilmember LJ Bryant, to suspend the rules and walk on RES-18:067. All voted aye.

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

Absent: 1 - Charles Coleman

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Selene Stanley, 1401 Linden Avenue, asked if Jonesboro is supporting recycling, why has it been made harder to recycle by adding \$20 recycling carts and getting rid of the free blue bags. President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore said the answer to that is that it was unsustainable in it's current form. We either had a choice of doing away with it or going to a new system. The new system, unfortunately, required some input by the citizens by purchasing their own cart. I hope that answers your question.

Communications Director Bill Campbell said he would like to point out that the city spent \$1 million almost for two trucks to pick up the recycling. We are one of a few cities that picks up recycling for free, much less your other sanitation. Also, the \$20 is more than half price off of what the city paid for the carts. So, we are trying to improve recycling, not make it harder for people. We hope everyone understands that. So, thank you.

Chandler Jones, 1237 S. Madison, said that she would like to ask Councilmember Ann Williams a question. Councilmember Williams said ok. Ms. Jones asked what does it feel like to be the only lady on the Council. Councilmember Williams said that is a good question. I have enjoyed being here and serving on the Council. At one point, there were other women here. Ms. Judy Furr served at one time and Ms. McCall did. I would be thrilled if another woman would run for office here or run for City Council. I hope that happens. Ms. Jones said thank you.

Kyra Pratt, 3012 Neely Road, just wanted to say thank you.

Beverly Parker, 205 Windover, said that she wanted to formally invite the Council to the Rotary of Jonesboro Centennial Project groundbreaking ceremony on Tuesday, May 8, 2018 at 12:00 noon at Centennial Park. The Mayor and whomever else of you that wants to participate in the groundbreaking is welcome to. If it rains, it will be at the Forum Auditorium. You should have gotten an invitation, but if not, you should be getting one. Thank you for the city's participation in this project. President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore asked how long this project would take to complete. Ms. Parker said it is going to be finished before our Centennial in August, 2019. However, the surface area should be completed before the fall, that is what we are working towards. Other amenities may be added in the spring. I want to commend the city for helping us with the drainage work and CWL for helping with the electrical work with taking the overhead electrical underground. We couldn't have done the project without that. It is definitely going to improve the looks of that area. I think it was really in need of some improvements. It is through our partnerships that we were able to do that. Thank you very much.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 11 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Charles Coleman

_____ **Date:** _____

Harold Perrin, Mayor

Attest:

_____ **Date:** _____

Donna Jackson, City Clerk