



# City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center  
300 S. Church Street  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

## Meeting Minutes City Council

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Tuesday, May 17, 2022

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

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

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

#### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

#### 3. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

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

**Absent** 1 - Charles Coleman

#### 4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

##### [COM-22:019](#)

PROCLAMATION TO MR. GRANT HARBISON, JONESBORO HIGH SCHOOL BAND DIRECTOR, FOR RECOGNITION OF RECEIVING THE MILKEN FAMILY FOUNDATION EDUCATOR AWARD FOR HIS INSTRUMENTAL ROLE IN STUDENT SUCCESS

*Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, Good evening. I am excited this evening to bring before you one of our community members. I have known this young man's parents for a long period of time. A lot of times we recognize athletics and sports accomplishments in our community, but I think it is important that we do for all in our community. I am very proud of Mr. Harbison. Grant Harbison is the band director at Jonesboro High School. First of all, I want to say thank you for what you do in the community and more importantly, the lives you touch in our youth in this community and you lead them to truly be leaders as well. If not here, but all across the country. I appreciate and I have watched you grow up. You have excelled at the highest standards. I am proud to have a proclamation today in your honor.*

*Whereas, Grant Harbison, has been band director at Jonesboro High School for eight years and has taught at the Jonesboro School District for twelve; Whereas, a Jonesboro High School graduate himself, Mr. Harbison earned a bachelor's degree from Arkansas State University and a Master's Degree at the University of North Texas; And, Whereas, Mr. Harbison was presented with the acclaimed Milken Educator Award and the \$25,000 prize for his role in fostering excellence in both the arts and academics teaching nearly 200 musicians who routinely earn honors in state and regional festivals. According to the announcement and Whereas, Mr. Harbison is one of the only sixty educators nationwide who will receive this award for the 2021-2022 school year; And, Whereas, the Milken Educator Awards are deemed as Oscars of*

teaching. They are provided by the Milken Family Foundation led by Lowell Milken, one of America's most renowned philanthropist. So, now, therefore, I, Harold Copenhaver, Mayor of the City of Jonesboro by the virtue vested in me by the city and the state of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim Grant Harbison Day in the City of Jonesboro. Congratulations Grant. Thank you.

Mr. Grant Harbison said, thank you. Thank you so much. Chief Elliott asked me to keep this under 30 minutes so I'll see what I can do. Really, I just want to say thank you! This is an incredible honor, especially to be honored in front of my hometown city council. I am absolutely floored and I am very thankful for all of you and all that you all do for our city because it takes a village to make this a wonderful place. And, hopefully, my little corner is a wonderful place as well as making Jonesboro better. So, thank you all so much for everything that you do for our city and making it a great place to live. Councilmember Chris Moore said, thank you.

#### Read

[COM-22:012](#)

#### YOUTH ADVANCEMENT COUNCIL END OF YEAR REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Copenhaver state that the Mayor's Youth Advancement Council will make a year-end presentation to the city council.

Coy Morris, I serve as the Chairman of the Council. First, I want to extend a huge thank you to City Council and the Mayor for allowing us the opportunity to be involved in something like this. None of what we accomplished this year would have been possible without your support. I would also like to express my gratitude to Ms. Shelly Anderson. I really can't say enough about Ms. Shelly and the effort that she put into the council. Since the council's inception, Ms. Shelly has worked tirelessly to help us succeed. She is truly a remarkable person and I know I speak for everyone when I say we couldn't have made it without her. Thank you Ms. Shelly. The Mayor's Council has been a once in a lifetime experience and I cannot truly thank you all enough. At this point, I would like to give the floor to the Council Committee Chairs to give reports on the council's accomplishments. Thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you.

Kennedy Maloney, I am chair of the Communications and Technology Taskforce. Our job as a taskforce is to aid the council and its tasks by creating graphic designs and aiding them in marketing their events. The platform we used mainly was Instagram. A council of students meant to reach the youth of the community needed developing a social media presence. So, we started the MYAC Instagram, Facebook and TikTok. Our primary focus was Instagram as it allowed us to reach that target audience and create interactions that encourage thoughtful dialogue on social issues in our community. For example, we partnered with our Diversity and Inclusivity Taskforce to create a visual aspect to their Black History month's spotlights. Additionally, we launched graphics for the tornado relief in Trumann that reached over 126 counts on Instagram and 3,000 on Facebook. Photos that we took of the volunteers were then featured on Good Morning America. Lastly, and arguably most importantly, our taskforce most shared material is about our applications for the MYAC Class of 2022 to 2023. The post regarding applications reached 145 and 136 accounts overall. We've taken our Instagram from 0 to 96 followers and that number will only continue to grow. Thanks to Ms. Shelly, we have an absolutely wonderful Facebook page that helps us reach even more members of the community. I would like to thank the Mayor and the City Council for allowing us to be a part of the Mayor's Youth Council. Whatever we came up with, Mayor Copenhaver was always there to give us a smile and a thumbs up telling us he thought that was great and we should continue to do it and reach our goals. So, this experience has allowed me to become a better leader, a better

*volunteer, and a better community member. I would recommend MYAC to any student with a drive to help others and a solid work ethic without missing a beat. This council really proves that just because you are young does not mean that you cannot make a change. Thank you to the MYAC for all of the lessons I have learned as the Chair of the Communications and Technology Taskforce. I can't wait to see what the next chair does for this taskforce and this council. Thank you again to the City Council and to the Mayor for our creation. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you for your service.*

*Lonnie Ervin, I served as the Health & Safety Chair for the Mayor's Youth Advancement Council. The Jonesboro Health & Safety committee of the Mayor's Youth Advancement Council is a committee of young individuals in the Jonesboro area. On this council, we find new and improved ways to address the health and safety of our community. The ways that we do this is to have monthly meetings with our council and then we discuss what ideas or plans we think we should improve on for our community. After this, we bring our ideas to the executive board and then we set deadlines to achieve our goals. This year only we have partnered with the other taskforce committees to have a vaccine clinic during the National Hispanic Month, as well as a bike-a-thon in our community. Some projects that are still in the works are the Animal Control Adoption Drive with the Diversity Inclusive Taskforce and the EMT Program in our community. It is a true honor this year to serve as the Chair of the Health & Safety Committee for the Mayor's Youth Advancement Council. I want to thank the Mayor, Council, and Shelly Anderson for all that you have done. And, for whomever fills my duty next year, I wish you the best luck. Thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you.*

*Judy Kim, this year I was the Community Outreach's Chair. Our Community Outreach goal this year was to work with local non-profits and businesses to schedule informative educational opportunities, guest speakers, and tours. In October, we had a pink day to raise breast cancer awareness where students and adults wore pink. We also had the tour of the Bradbury Art Museum at A-State where there was an exhibition that explored storytelling through graphic novels and comics. We also planned a MYAC Bike-a-thon that would go towards Make-a-Wish and this council. However, it was cancelled due to the lack of participation. And, I would love for the next chair to continue some of these projects, improving them, and advertising them better which wasn't done as well as it should have been this year. I have loved having the opportunity to serve in this position this year. I would love to thank Mayor Copenhaver, the council, and Shelly Anderson for their constant support and encouragement. Thank you for making this council happen. Mayor Copenhaver said, absolutely. Thank you.*

*Jose Garza, Good evening, I want to start off by saying thank you to my team that I represent, the Diversity and Inclusion team. Our mission is to highlight and honor those who make up the minority in Jonesboro. Even though this was our first year, we still accomplished a lot and we did it wonderfully. We started the year off with a bang. We had a vaccination clinic in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month and in partnership with the New York Institute of Technology at ASU and the Jonesboro Hispanic Center. That day, we successfully vaccinated 36 individuals for Covid-19 and 41 for the seasonal flu. On that day, we received praise from the school's head doctor. Individuals also received a \$50 gift card to TaMolly's and a free lunch that afternoon. I can only thank my own co-chair, Marielis Cubero Perez, and Gina Gomez, who runs the Hispanic Center. Next, we highlighted prominent historical figures on Black History Month and Women's History Month. We know the importance of history and we are thankful to be given the duties to highlight a vast variety of amazing groups that are made up of in the minority. Lastly, I would like to thank you all for the support that we received this year. And, we hope that the future of this taskforce flourishes into something amazing. I*

would also like to thank Shelly Anderson because she has been a wonderful help. Thank you. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you.

Jude Qualls, I am the City Beautification Taskforce Chair. I would like to say thank you to Shelly Anderson, my team, and all of you for the support and the ability to do this, to be able to serve my community and help to improve our city. So, this year has been a pretty good year. We have focused on making inroads in our community and building support and systems in which we can work to build on next year. We did a conductive cleanup on South Caraway where we picked up over 40 bags of trash and turned what was kind of a nasty bit of road into a beautiful stretch of cleaned area. We are looking for further projects to continue this year such as we are painting crosswalks with the help of the Annie Camp EAST team. Currently, we have over 15 student volunteers this Saturday. We are working on a citywide mural downtown to leave our Mayor's Youth Advancement Council mark on the city. We are working on how big for next year, we will work on pollinator gardens, bringing green space to our city, and generally, making our city more beautiful with everybody's help. Thank you. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you.

On behalf of Parker St. Pierre who is the chairman of the Planning and Engineering Taskforce, I am Matt Hughes and I was told to give this due to unforeseen circumstances. The Planning and Engineering Taskforce under Parker St. Pierre had a very busy year. Following the tornadoes in northeast Arkansas, this is a big deal, he decided to help his neighbors in Trumann, he and his taskforce by organizing both a blanket drive and providing lunch to victims and first responders. They had two separate meals that they provided. The first meal they served over 500 people. The second one over 250 additional people. This project was recognized on Good Morning America and highlighted on their America Strong segment. I have seen them working and what I have noticed with them, they have got a lot of ideas so they just need to find the execution, but that was a good one. Parker wanted to express his continued appreciation to Mayor Copenhagen, Shelly Anderson, and all of the other committee members. First of all to the Mayor, thank you so much for implementing this group. What a wonderful way to allow teens to be a part of the decision making process. It has been an eye opening experience and it has given all of us a true appreciation of what a wonderful city Jonesboro truly is. Personally, this group has helped me develop my leadership skills and has helped given me a wonderful opportunity to make connections that I will begin to use as I begin to pursue my professional goals. Yes, same. I consider it to be a real honor to be selected for the inaugural class of the MYAC. To Shelly Anderson, thank you for being there for us for our day to day questions. You have always been very encouraging and have worked non-stop supporting us to achieve our goals. You have also shown us that working in a group like this can be both fun and productive. To my committee members and fellow MYAC members, it has been a pleasure working with each of you. I have made lifelong friends and have memories that I will cherish. Congratulations to the new MYAC class and I wish you all much success next year. I can't wait to see what you all accomplish. Thank you. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you.

**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; Chris Gibson; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - Charles Coleman

[MIN-22:038](#) Minutes for the City Council meeting on May 3, 2022.

**Attachments:** [Minutes](#)

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

[RES-22:077](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ALLOCATE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDS TO FUND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-076-2022

[RES-22:080](#) CONTRACT WITH RITTER COMMUNICATIONS TO INSTALL FIBER CONNECTIVITY AT THE SHOOTING RANGE

**Attachments:** [Quote City of Jonesboro Shooting Range 3702 Moore Rd Dedicated Fiber In](#)

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-077-2022

[RES-22:081](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO AMEND THE SALARY AND ADMINISTRATION PLAN AND AMEND THE 2022 BUDGET

**Attachments:** [Non Uniform Job Titles by Grade 2022.05](#)

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-078-2022

**RESOLUTION REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA**

[RES-22:079](#) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FY22 LOW-NO EMISSIONS GRANT

*Community and Development and Grants Director Regina Burkett said, this is an application to purchase five hybrid buses trolley style for the City of Jonesboro. We have got some buses that are out of service so we are trying to upgrade what we have right now and build a fleet. So, we are applying for five for this amount of money in this grant here. So, do you all have any questions? Mayor Harold Copenhaver asked, Regina, are these hybrid vehicles? Ms. Burkett said, yes, these are hybrid buses. Mayor Copenhaver said, we have an aging fleet. If I am not mistaken, JET Director Michael Black told me that we are looking at around \$700,000 to replace this aging fleet and with this being hybrid, while the grant money is available, this is the request. And, again, this is just a request to apply. Ms. Burkett said, yes, this is just a request*

to apply for the grant. With fuel prices going up, I think that this is something that we have to look at for a savings to the city by looking into hybrid. If you get hybrid and you have an issue, we will have gas in hybrid. Just for a cost analysis, we need to look into this for the fleet.

Councilmember Bobby Long asked, what is a trolley style bus? Is it what we have got already? Ms. Burkett said, no. Councilmember Long asked, what does that look like? Mayor Copenhaver said, Bobby, they are serviceable, ADA compliant, just like a regular vehicle. Ms. Burkett said, yes, they are. We have gotten three different quotes. We are looking at the same company right now that has placed trolleys in Eureka Springs, Fort Smith. I think it is the same company. They are all handicapped accessible. They have windows that go up and down. They are air conditioned. We are looking at three that hold 21 passengers and we are looking at two that hold 30 passengers. Councilmember Long asked, what is the charge? How long can you run those between charges? Ms. Burkett said, I think we can go about 300-350 miles between charges. Mayor Copenhaver said, again, they are gas as well, so is the hybrid nature so it will go longer. Ms. Burkett said, with the price of diesel, what we have right now runs on diesel and the cost is outrageous right now. So, it is a great cost for the city.

Councilmember LJ Bryant asked, how does the capacity compare? I know you just said the passenger count on the new ones. How is the passenger count on the current ones? Do you know? Is it like a small increase or about the same? Ms. Burkett replied, I think it is an increase. I think we might have 20 right now or somewhere around 20 on what we have right now. And, so, we will have two that will hold 30 and the others will be 21. Mayor Copenhaver asked, Chief Operations Officer Tony Thomas, if that was correct. Mr. Thomas replied, yes, that is correct. Currently we are about 18-20 per vehicle. We run a special route for various occasions.

Councilmember Long asked, how long will those buses normally last? Ms. Burkett said, usually, about seven to ten years I think with the information that I have been given. That is what they have told us on the videos that we have watched. Councilmember Long asked, who takes them after? What happens to the buses after their longevity? Where do they go? From what I have heard, the batteries in those are non-disposable or they can't be recycled or anything like that. So, who takes the buses after they are done? You can't really trade them in. I like the idea. I've always wanted to ask what happens. Ms. Burkett said, I haven't really asked. Councilmember Long asked, what happens to an electric vehicle or an electric bus after their lifespan has ended? Who takes them? Where do they end up? Ms. Burkett said, well, I haven't asked that so I can't answer that question for you. Councilmember Long asked, do we to keep them and store them or dispose of them? Ms. Burkett said, hopefully, we can sell them. Hopefully, since they are hybrid, we can use the gas power and sell them. Mayor Copenhaver said, our fleet is aging at this point councilmember and we are looking to have to address that and that will be a full price issue. And, so, with a matching grant, that would obviously help the city. Councilmember Long said, I like the idea. Ms. Burkett said, the money that we are seeing right now is historical. We will never have that money again so we need to go ahead and go forward with that I think.

Patti Lack, 4108 Forrest Hill Road, said, I really appreciate Regina for explaining this because when I was listening at the Finance meeting. I wish some of these questions were brought up because what I had heard and the reason why I did pull it was to have some of these answers. What I heard was that the trolley buses were going to be really cool and we could have them here and maybe they would increase our ridership here in Jonesboro. I know that Brian had said that it was 15% matching to the \$796,000 so we

could get five buses for the price of one. One of the things I just want to say and question also too is with the JET bus. I didn't realize that we have an aging fleet because the buses look pretty new to me. I have never ridden a JET bus. The question would be is that how is the ridership? What are the numbers of people that are using the buses right now in Jonesboro? Another question would be is a JET bus holding their own ground without having to add money to it every single month or is it something that is we need to look at? I know a few months ago, I believe we got another grant to build shelters with wi-fi around some of the bus stations. I don't know how that grant is going, whether we received that. And, then the last thing is that we get these really cool things, but what is the maintenance to it because I know in some situations is that we have to build a separate special building to house these trolley buses. Is that going to be another expense that we have for getting these buses? So, those were my concerns. Regina answered a lot of them. And, I think it is that we have to take the opportunity with the grant money and some of the questions were answered. But, again, are the costs justified and that is my question that I wanted to bring up. Thank you. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, Mayor, just as a point of order, the question before us is just to apply for the grants. I just want to be clear. I just want to be sure of that. Mayor Copenhagen said, that is all we are doing is applying for a grant. Chief Operations Officer Tony Thomas said, just from a maintenance perspective, their staff is already in place. The grant does support training of staff for the type of vehicles that we are utilizing in or we are applying for in the grant. So, overall, it is a pretty budget neutral process for us in that the grant does allow for funding for training for staff that is already in existence in order to work on the new components of this type of vehicle. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you Mr. Thomas. I appreciate that.

Councilmember LJ Bryant asked, what is the thought process on hybrid versus all electric or is all electric buses not really a thing? Mr. Thomas said, all electric are a thing. When we looked at all electric, when you look at the lead time related to an all electric vehicle as well as the overall costs, they are significantly higher than the hybrid. And, so, we just thought a transition to hybrid was an initial first step for the City of Jonesboro. And, then, in the future, if opportunities arise, then we can look at an all electric vehicle. But, for a first step, we wanted to ensure that we had some protocols in place for maintenance, we had some protocols in place for charging stations and different things like that. And, that is more long term than the current application. Councilmember Bryant said, thank you. Mayor Copenhagen said, Councilmember Bryant, also, the longevity of travel time from hybrid versus electric, electric doesn't have the capacity that we need at this point and the expense per vehicle is about three times the cost of what a hybrid is.

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

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

**Absent:** 1 - Charles Coleman

Enactment No: R-EN-079-2022

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

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*RESOLUTION TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING*

[RES-22:085](#)

A RESOLUTION TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE ABANDONMENT OF A PORTION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY ALONG JAYBEE DRIVE LOCATED IN THE CLEARVIEW ESTATES IN JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AS REQUESTED BY PRUETT PROPERTIES, LLC.

**Attachments:**     [Letters](#)

*Councilmember Chris Moore motioned, seconded by Councilmember John Street, to amend RES-22:085 to move the time from 5:15 p.m. to 5:25 p.m. All voted aye.*

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

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

**Absent:** 1 - Charles Coleman

Enactment No: R-EN-080-2022

*ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING*

[ORD-22:023](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, ARTICLE III, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-2 MULTI-FAMILY LOW DENSITY DISTRICT TO PR-RM MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 625 GANT STREET, 641 GANT STREET, AND 907 KITCHEN STREET, ALL IN JONESBORO, AR AS REQUESTED BY TIM COOPER.

**Attachments:**     [H21-150 GESTRING REZONING PLAT](#)  
[Staff Summary - City Council](#)  
[Site Plan](#)  
[Survey](#)  
[Application](#)  
[Property Information](#)  
[East Perspective](#)  
[Elevation Perspective](#)  
[Sidewalk Perspective](#)  
[Gant Deed](#)  
[Kitchen Deed](#)  
[Certified Mail Receipt](#)

*Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-22:023 by title only. All voted aye.*

**Placed on second reading**



## 7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[ORD-22:020](#) AN ORDINANCE FOR THE TRANSFER OF LOCATION OF A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES #3354

**Attachments:** [Eagles Transfer](#)  
[Eagles Ordinance](#)

**Placed on third reading**

[ORD-22:021](#) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, FROM R-1, RESIDENTIAL TO I-2 INDUSTRIAL FOR PROPERTY LOCATED EAST OF NESTLE ROAD AND NORTH OF DEER LAKE AS REQUESTED BY THE JONESBORO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

**Attachments:** [Staff Summary-City Council](#)  
[Plat and Legal Description](#)  
[Location](#)  
[Application](#)  
[Certified Mail Receipts](#)  
[List of Adjoining Property Owners](#)  
[Property Owner Notification](#)  
[Charge Sheet-Paid](#)  
[Receipt](#)

**Placed on third reading**

### ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-22:014](#) AN ORDINANCE TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO PLACE VARIOUS TRAFFIC SIGNS AT DESIGNATED LOCATIONS AS DETERMINED BY THE TRAFFIC CONTROL COMMITTEE

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

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

**Absent:** 1 - Charles Coleman

Enactment No: O-EN-024-2022

## 8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

*Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported on the following:*

*E911 held its open house this afternoon and Director Ronnie Sturch's team of operators are finally working in conditions appropriate for the incredible jobs they do. We talk about first responders and they are the life blood of any city, but these are the first responders in the most literal terms. They receive the initial call and no one calls them and says great job. Please do that when you run into or I would advise all city council to take a look at the wonderful new 911 center that we have. But, with the new and improved technology, more comfortable workspaces are now available and we show the appreciation to the workers they deserve. I am proud of our E911 center and it is no longer a source of concern, but a source of pride.*

*Our Animal Control Department has been spreading the word and I want to reiterate how crucial it is this time of year to remember to not leave your pets in the car while you are running errands. I know that it is tempting just to drop off for a quick carton of milk, but in this heat, that puts incredible stress on our pets who do ride and are out in the heat a lot. Let's face it, we always take a little longer. Please prepare to make arrangements and leave your pets somewhere other than the car when you go out.*

*We had another busy weekend downtown this Saturday with the OASIS Festival. These are first class events that were hosted by Downtown Jonesboro and the film and digital media festival was also anchored by our own Brandon Carter of our Communications Department. The Arts and Eats portion provided tents and attractions up and down Main Street and it was a thorough enjoyment.*

*Also, I welcomed the state Lion's Club International at Embassy Suites. And, let me tell you, Kraig Pomrenke and his Embassy Suites team do a great job in attracting conventions and visitors to Jonesboro. He even went to Little Rock this evening to sell Jonesboro to target more conventions for this community. I know we have so many more of those conventions headed our way.*

*I want to say thank you to Regina Burkett and Chief Operations Officer Tony Thomas. They went to Little Rock yesterday to attend a broadband forum. As we have made clear, providing options to high speed broadband and quality streaming access are a priority of this administration and we eagerly await word on what areas of the city might qualify for grant funding. Judging by what Ms. Burkett and Mr. Thomas were told, we should have an update for you, hopefully by the next city council meeting.*

*Today I attended a retirement celebration of Superintendent Bryan Russell of the Valley View School District and we appreciate his commitment and wish him the best in his retirement.*

*I also went to Project Care, which is a concept I started to get organizations together to discuss services they provide for individuals with special needs. This has grown to more than 30 organizations not only in Jonesboro, but throughout northern Arkansas working together to help ensure no one is left behind. I also want to say to Chief Elliott and Sheriff Marty Boyd who are also in attendance today to discuss their concerns and hear the objectives of this committee.*

*I want to thank and ask everyone to keep Dr. Coleman in their thoughts. He hosted a fish dinner last week and it was free to all comers. That's the kind of gentleman Dr. Coleman is and I am impressed by all he does for the community. He isn't feeling well this evening. So, I know he will recover quickly, but I will ask everyone to remember him in your prayers.*

*I've heard a few people getting antsy about the city pool. I know it is going to open on Memorial Day. That is only 14 days away. We will get the pool open as soon as possible.*

*We declared last week as Salvation Army Week in Jonesboro. I salute the men and women who work tirelessly, often for no pay to help those in need throughout our community. Salvation Army workers, we salute you.*

*The City of Jonesboro lost a loved one this week, in the words of the JET Director Michael Black, Jessie was a world-class transit captain. On Saturday, Jessie McFarland, who's last job before his retirement this year from the city in January was driving a JET bus. He loved driving the JET bus. He was a Deacon and anointed at the Praise Outreach Church and loved driving buses locally and around the country. Our condolences go out to his wife of 50 years, Shirley, and their family and loved ones.*

*In closing, I want to thank Mike Foster and the Pickering Firm for providing a sizable donation to our Mayor's Youth Advancement Council. This is such a good cause for those high school students and it takes money to make it happen. So, Mr. Foster, thank you so much.*

## **9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

*Councilmember John Street said, Mayor, I would just like to commend you for implementing the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council. I think that is a wonderful addition and if it's any example of this year's initial class, I look forward to seeing what they are going to do. They are extremely impressive. I also want to congratulate Mr. Harbison and Milton. I have known Milton a long time. I know he is a very proud father. Milton is very dedicated to his family and his son is an example of that, but a very good representation of the City of Jonesboro nationally. Mayor Copenhaver said, absolutely. Thank you.*

*Councilmember LJ Bryant said, Mayor, good job on updating the 911 center. I know we have a lot of good people working there that need resources. I remember when I first got on the council and towards various things, that is the one thing I was like if I step on the wrong thing I think 911 is going down, you know. They desperately needed it. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you.*

*Councilmember Chris Moore said, just a quick update to Mitch and the Public Safety Committee. I spoke with the Mayor just a little while ago and he is going to speak with ASU and see if he can get a lead on a third party evaluation on the mosquito controls. Thank you Mayor. Mayor Copenhaver said, absolutely.*

## **10. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*Patti Lack, 4108 Forrest Hill Road, I know I have been up here many times talking about the neighborhood at Russell Hill Drive, Harrisburg, Brownstone, Makala, and it is all around the Savannah Hills Apartments. I have to tell you guys that I looked back at the agenda and it was four years and four months ago and granted we had a different Mayor and we didn't have a new city council person on there. But, when Mayor Harold Perrin said, and I am talking about Russell Hill Drive where it is that single lane road that connects the apartments, is that Mayor Perrin had said that he had seen the roads and it needs to be adjusted quickly. They should be widened. They should be curbed. They should be guttered. There should be better drainage. And, there is millions of dollars of work to be done and we need to do it sooner versus later. And, that was four*

years and four months ago and nothing has been done to that road. When the vote was cast that all of you have cast to approve the additional apartments and so that is 92% of you approved to continue to build, but nothing has been done to that road. I don't know if any of you have gone out there lately, but I decided that I would do my own traffic study. And, I promise you that I will not send a bill to the city, but on May 4th, I decided to sit at the street corner and from 7:00-8:00 a.m., I counted 123 cars that passed through the intersection of Makala and Russell Drive. Sometimes, there were four cars at a time that were coming out of the apartment complex. Two of them would go down Russell Hill Drive speeding. I don't know what the speed limit is there. And, then some of them would go down Brownstone. Brownstone has kind of been patched up a little bit so they are getting wear and tear from the units also. The units that have been built on the northeast side of that, there are 24 units that have not been completed yet. So, when you add up there, I know that Derrel will say that there is 1.5 cars per unit, but really, I don't know. I count two. So, that is going to be right there 48 more cars using that intersection pretty soon. I also decided that I was going to do a study and I counted the apartments over there at Savannah Hills. And, there is approximately, and I am including the unfinished ones, there is 390 right now. The new construction that is going on with the connection road that will be on Craighead Forest Road is that there is going to be 66 more units that are going to be built there. So, that is going to add that many more cars to that intersection. So, when that apartment complex is done, there is going to be over 450 units in that area. Russell Hill Drive, Brownstone, and Craighead Forest Road are not adequate now and now we are going to put on over 100 more cars on those streets if nothing is done. So, we just want to call attention to that. And, there are a few other people who would like to speak. I know that Derrel Smith has proposed zoning codes that is going to be a public hearing next week at the MAPC. I have not gotten a form and I don't know where it is being announced. But, I don't know if those zoning codes are going to be applied to this apartment complex as far as parking spots on there. So, thank you very much and there are a couple of more speakers.

Tony McLoy, 1010 Russell Hill Drive, I brought a little picture to show. This is Russell Hill and I spent a few hours out measuring because I knew it was really tight, but I really didn't know how tight in numbers. I am an HVAC contractor which is why I look the way I do because I came straight from work, but, anyway, I apologize for that. I live and die by numbers. So, I really wanted to get a number of how close this road really was. A standard truck with its mirrors is eight feet wide. Okay, so you need 16 feet to clear each other. So, on our road, we have as little as 13 feet 10 inches. Obviously, it is a one way road. You can't have two vehicles go down this road. So, for about 250 feet, it is less than 16 feet. For at least 250 feet, it is a one way road. So, it makes it very, very difficult because the people have no place to get around each other so they only pull into our yards. So, now our yards are rutted up. There are giant, I say giant, they are about the size of this podium and they are about eight inches deep adjacent or across from our mailboxes. So, it is very frustrating trying to get out of my driveway and go out and I understand that they need a way of egress and I am fine with that, but we really need to address the fact that we can't even drive down our road. The second issue that I had, I bought the house and I signed on Monday and Thursday we got a rainstorm, water was up to my slab. And, so I called and they came out and looked. There was a minor issue with one of the culverts and they said that they would take care of it, but I got myself out there and took care of it. But, anyway, what I am saying is the drainage still to this day, we get the construction drainage from the new apartments. And, I was assured that all of that drainage is going to go to their retention pond. But, I assure you that it is not. I have received several free 2x4's in my front yard. I am not complaining a whole lot about that because the 2x4's are kind of expensive now and it helped me out on a couple of jobs. But, 2x4's sitting in my front

yard from a construction job that the drainage is supposed to be going the other direction. So, drainage is a big issue and the narrow road is extremely disconcerting especially since we have over 100 cars an hour in the mornings. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you for your concerns. Thank you.

LaToya Rucker, 1014 Russell Hill Drive, I do have some photos (see COM:22:018) to share with the council. I came to discuss the property damages that have occurred not only to my property, but my neighbors as well due to the increase in traffic on our narrow street. The first picture is of my mailbox demolished by a guy who said, and I quote, I was trying to dodge a water puddle. And, you can see it is all over my yard. The second picture is six months later during the snowstorm by a driver under the influence who hit my mailbox, left the scene, and my husband ran through the snow and tracked her down at the apartment complex behind us. The third picture is a picture of a flatbed truck turning around on our street and backed into our neighbor's mailbox knocking it over. The fourth picture is another neighbor's mailbox down the street knocked over by a speeding vehicle. The fifth picture is of a deep rut that my neighbor discussed earlier. It is one of the largest on the street due to vehicles pulling over to the side of the street in order to permit other vehicles to pass by. My concern, as well as my neighbors, are our children and grandchildren who live in the neighborhood and/or play outdoors. My daughter plays basketball and sometimes her ball rolls out into the street. Mailboxes can be replaced, but human lives can't. My neighbors and I are asking for solutions and we need them now rather than later. Thank you. Mayor Copenhagen said, okay, thank you.

Ron Blackburn, 798 Brownwood Circle, I am a lifetime citizen of Jonesboro. I here this evening to continue request for the city to correct street and drainage issues in the R-1 neighborhoods that surround the development of Savannah Hills apartments. On April 11th, Patti Lack and myself, met with Brian Richardson and Derrel Smith to discuss the ongoing problems that were presented earlier tonight by my neighbors. During that meeting, we discussed the Traffic Impact Study that was triggered by adding 66 more apartments. I requested that before the city engineer mitigates necessary street improvements with the developer that the city host a neighborhood meeting to get input from those affected. Their response was that the city does not have an ordinance that requires it. It is my request tonight that the city has that meeting because without it, the transparency of our government is in question. In closing, I would like to recognize my fellow neighbors in attendance. Will those neighbors and friends please stand? Thank you. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you for your comments and I appreciate everybody coming out that is in attendance tonight. I will further direct that. I will be out there tomorrow to look at your concerns and I appreciate you bringing them forward. Thank you.

Derrick Coleman, 4101 Hickory Lane, good evening Mayor and Council. Although the neighbors have spoken on something that I was about to say, I am still going to say this part at least. Infrastructure, mentioning the word infrastructure. Well, I've got seven parts of infrastructure that needs to be taken care of or looked at and observed. We will start off with JETS. The city's transportation system has been a vital part of the community and its needs. It needs to remain a permanent fixture. As the budget allows, please consider the necessary upgrades to vehicles and equipment. Please ensure that opportunity performs and abilities to continue to meet its needs. Meaning that we need more at the bus stations than what we have. We need more sitting stations for people to sit and rest because two days ago, a young lady was at a bus stop, her and her kids and they didn't have anywhere to sit over here by Walmart, at the Walmart Market Center. She couldn't. She didn't have anywhere to sit. So, what me and my wife did, we took her stuff and put it in our car and we took them home. So,

*this is a thing that needs to be addressed. If you have these bus stops, they need to be stations where people can sit and relax until the bus arrives. With that being said, I am going to move on to another agenda. Broadband – God knows I hate Suddenlink. I am going to be honest with you. Suddenlink is horrible. I have a business, several businesses in town and out of town. Suddenlink is not going to work with us. They are not going to work for us. Yes, they charge us every time something goes on, an extra \$5 here or \$10 there, but we need competition. Now, you mentioned about competition with broadband. I am interested in what the competition is going to be. Is it going to be Ritter? Is it going to be AT&T? Is it going to be DirecTV? As long as it competition, it is fine, so people can get a better choice to get a better service to internet instead of getting Suddenlink. Now, broadband internet in the city as the city continues to grow, it does need its residents. Many have shifted to work from home, to work a job from home to in home schooling their children. We are all aware of the issues that we face with the company who has been allowed to create a monopoly of cable and internet services. Prices continue to go up without doing any changes or in their quality of services. Please consider entertaining the services of other companies and that's all for that. And just, my last, but not least, as the people of Russell Street just mentioned, flooding, the streets. You know what I did the past two weeks? I walked the street on Hickory Lane and got a petition, created a petition from my neighbors to create sidewalks and speed bumps for my neighbors because they are healthy and they walk their dogs. I don't want them getting hit. Yeah, we reduced the speed limit from 30 to 25, but they drive down that street. If my grandkids get hit, or anybody else's kid gets hit or one of my elders gets hit, I am not going to have an understanding about this. So, please consider putting up a sidewalk. You don't have to put it on both sides. You can just put it on one side. I saw the new speed tables that you all got out here. Please put one or two there on Hickory Lane. I am asking you, but I do have a petition that is already signed. I just haven't turned it in yet. So, with that being said, thank you council. Thank you Mayor. Thank you everybody. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you for your comments.*

[COM-22:018](#)

Pictures of damage to property on Russell Drive presented by LaToya Rucker, 1014 Russell Drive

**Attachments:** [Russell Hill Pictures 2022](#)

**Filed**

[COM-22:023](#)

PETITION FROM DERRICK COLEMAN TO REQUEST SIDEWALKS AND SPEED TABLES ON HICKORY LANE

**Attachments:** [Hickory Lane Petition](#)

**Filed**

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

**Absent:** 1 - Charles Coleman

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Harold Copenhaver, Mayor**

**Attest:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**April Leggett, City Clerk**