



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Public Safety Council Committee

Tuesday, May 15, 2018

5:00 PM

Municipal Center

1. Call To Order

2. Roll Call by City Clerk Donna Jackson

Present 4 - David McClain; Mitch Johnson; Chris Moore and Gene Vance

Absent 1 - Chris Gibson

3. Approval of minutes

[MIN-18:042](#)

Minutes for the Public Safety Committee meeting on April 17, 2018

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Moore, seconded by Councilperson Gene Vance, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 3 - David McClain; Chris Moore and Gene Vance

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

4. New Business

5. Pending Items

[RES-18:065](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STEP INNOVATION CORRIDOR STUDIES PROJECT

Attachments: [AHTD Minute Order .pdf](#)
[NARTPC Resolution.pdf](#)
[STEP-STIC-NARTPCJonesboro.Agr-revised 03.29.18.pdf](#)
[City Attorney Email Response 05182018.pdf](#)

Mayor Harold Perrin said this is the resolution for the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to enter in with Metro, which is Little Rock, North Little Rock and Conway, to do a pedestrian study. We discussed this in detail today at the MPO meeting in Bono. The last time it was tabled was because City Attorney Carol Duncan had an issue with the hold harmless or liability section of this resolution. After that, I visited with Ms. Duncan and, as you can see on the first page, they are going to

contract with an outside firm, which would put that in there because they're on the call list. It's not through the Arkansas Highway Transportation Department. It will be with one of the contractors on AHTD's call list. In deep discussion today, these are three different areas of Jonesboro with pedestrian traffic. One is on Johnson Avenue and the other one is somewhere around Patrick Street. The other one is on Church Street out on Highway 141 near Parker Park. The discussion went a long time because, if you all remember, about two or three years ago, I sent a request for three or four pedestrian crosswalks on Johnson Avenue. We were turned down by AHTD. I do not anticipate AHTD approving this again. So, we would move it to probably Church Street. We had a great discussion today. Arkansas Department of Transportation's District Engineer Brad Smithee was there. A lot of the mayors were there, and MPO Director Ms. Erica Tait did a great job of explaining the information. Basically, if this comes back and it's not feasible to do, then we are not out any money, at all. I think we need to go ahead and get this signed and sent to the AHTD. We will keep you abreast of the progress that goes on. I hope I didn't leave anything out. I know Councilmember Street is the Chairman, but I think that is basically what it really covers.

Chairmember Mitch Johnson asked if this was time sensitive or if it could wait until the next regular meeting. Ms. Tait said it probably should go to tonight's meeting because we're already sort of delayed for five months because of the discussion of liability. Mayor Perrin said when Ms. Duncan was working with Kevin in Little Rock it did take some time because of the liability issue. So, I don't see any problem with walking it on tonight.

Councilmember Gene Vance made a motion to walk it on to tonight's City Council meeting. Councilmember Chris Moore said I will second Councilmember Vance's motion, but what is the statement going to be for the reason it is walked on tonight? It's a matter of public safety for pedestrian crossing. Mayor Perrin said yes. The Fed gives ArDOT the money to do this and they only give you a short amount of time to do it. We were fortunate enough because everybody in the state submitted applications on this. We were chosen. I say we, but Metro and us were chosen to do this. I know it's because Ms. Tait has been down there working a lot with Metropolitan Planning Coordinator Paul Simms and doing a good job, and we had two really good projects, Johnson Avenue and Church Street. Johnson is highly traveled with fast traffic, so I'm not sure that AHTD would ever allow us to put any type of pedestrian crosswalk there.

Councilmember David McClain said so this was denied a few years ago. Mayor Perrin said it was denied. We were going to put in four pedestrian crosswalks. Arkansas State University was going to participate. In fact, former Chancellor Dr. Tim Hudson agreed to pay for the one that was out by Caraway, when you come down the hill, so people could get across, and there were three more.

Ms. Tait said it was denied and because the MPO and the city had spent money doing that study, we did not want to repeat that, but also because there is now a national initiative where the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has put money aside to address those issues. We thought this would be a good opportunity to bring Johnson Avenue back up. Mayor Perrin said and let ArDOT think about it again. Ms. Tait said yes. Councilmember McClain said okay. Thank you. Councilmember Moore said our study for Johnson, the study we paid for, is still valid. Ms. Tait said it is valid, and what we are wanting to do on Johnson Avenue, as far as the study, would just take that a step further. We are hoping that because we have the influence of FHWA with the national initiative, Safe Transportation for Every Pedestrian (STEP), because they are trying to address pedestrian safety issues nationwide and Arkansas did adopt the initiative, we're hoping we will have a little more backing than we did previously.

Councilmember Moore said you never know. Mayor Perrin said that's right. You never know.

Motion made by Councilmember Gene Vance to recommend to City Council and walk on tonight's agenda, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore. All voted aye.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gene Vance, seconded by Councilperson Chris Moore, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 3 - David McClain;Chris Moore and Gene Vance

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

6. Other Business

7. Public Comments

8. Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Moore, seconded by Councilperson David McClain, that this meeting be Adjourned . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 3 - David McClain;Chris Moore and Gene Vance

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson