



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, August 4, 2020

5:30 PM

Municipal Center

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

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

3. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK DONNA JACKSON

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

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

[COM-20:033](#)

Dr. Shane Speights, NYIT, to discuss research on the potential of the health impact of 5G technology

Attachments:

[City of Jonesboro Cell Towers](#)

[HWeinstock_5G_email_07172020](#)

[Weinstock 5_email_08042020](#)

[Glover 5G_email_08042020](#)

[Smith_email_08042020](#)

[Kelley_email_08042020](#)

[Weinstock 2_email_08042020](#)

[Weinstock_email_08052020](#)

Dr. Shane Speights gave a presentation that discussed the research of the health impact of 5G technology which is attached.

Councilmember Bobby Long said, thank you for your presentation. I didn't know a whole lot about this until a couple of weeks ago and it was brought to my attention by a constituent. I got with Mayor Perrin and we decided for public information and the safety of our city that we get this discussion going. I think you have shown that it is an important discussion to have. I think one of the things that I am not for sure that you mentioned, but it is my understanding that the FCC regulations on regulating cell phone uses has not been updated since 1996. So, it is 24 years old. So, there is virtually no regulation on this. When I was looking at this data, I really wasn't one way or the other, but I think that one of the things that I gathered from you and I want to get your opinion on this, is that it seems to me that there is so little data on this and there is a propensity for there to cause harm that it seems like me that one of the courses of action that we would need to do and I would ask the Mayor to consider this

would be to put a map on our website as to where our 5G towers are so far in this city and identify where those towers are slated to go and also to review our IT policies as far as how we go about approving additional 5G towers whether it be through AT&T or Verizon. And, also, I think that some of those suggestions as far as limiting the further approval of 5G towers until more studies can be done or even until 2022 might be a good road to travel down, as well as if we decide to limit those towers until more studies are done and we can get a handle on exactly what we are doing to our city because one of the important things to realize is like Dr. Speights said before is that these towers, we require a lot of them. So, it is not just the radiation that you are getting from your cell phone, but it is the sheer number of 5G towers that is going to have to go up around this city because you have to have a line of sight for them to work. So, with the sheer number that is going to be emitting radiation 24/7, I think it would be wise for us to tread on this precaution and take precautionary measures until we can get a handle on what we are actually doing to our city and to the residents of our city. Would you agree with that Dr. Speights?

Dr. Speights said, that was a lot. Let me kind of paraphrase. I think that certainly a lot of cities are having this same debate and this same discussion and it is things like several of them as I mentioned in the presentation have kind of taken the wait and see approach. Again, this is non-ionizing radiation. Its' ability to penetrate the skin is not really founded. 5G is actually a higher frequency and as to your point, you have to have more of them because it doesn't just penetrate very far. It even, sometimes, doesn't penetrate through leaves and trees and rain and things like that so you have got to have more of them. So, that is where the caution or the question comes in, well, I have got to have more of them and I know that I have got all of these devices that are going to be communicating with it. And, that was one of the pieces that I ran into in the research was the sheer volume of devices that will be communicating on this type of platform, much more than we are using now from an ipad or an iphone or what have you. This that I go back to is the internet of things that basically communicates with everything whether it is a vending machine, there are a lot of things out there from a business standpoint and from a public use standpoint that would be communicating on these platforms. I can see where certain cities and locations would want to kind of do the wait and see. But, I will say to this point right now, and those different associations and societies including the FCC and the CDC, right now they don't have that scientific link to it causing actual cancer or harm or things like that. Most of those are in things that are rat studies or in petri dish studies or on bacteria or on things like that. And, so, we really just do not know, to be honest with you. It is hard for us to make a comment on 2G, 3G, and 4G and we are pretty much guessing on 5G because that technology has not been out at any length at all to make an educated guess on really. I am sorry that I can't be more concrete. This is certainly not a concrete issue on either side. Councilmember Long said, I think that would be a cause for caution because we can't be concrete one way or another and I am not really for sure if we want to expose that for the benefit of having our refrigerator tell us that we need to go buy eggs. You said 5G can't penetrate that far so if these towers were put high enough, what would be the radiation increase if they were put higher up? You said you didn't want a 4G tower put at ground level. Well, how far up does 5G tower have to be before it becomes relatively nonexistent to people on the ground? Dr. Speights said, I know where you are going with this and I don't really have the answer. That would be a technical question that I can't answer. I know that, again, through my reading one of the concerns is the 5G towers have to be lower. They almost have to be near a street lamp level is my understanding because they are weaker. They don't have a lot of power and so you have to have them closer to whoever the user is or the device is. I believe there is a minimum on the 4G towers of 150 feet that they have to be in the air. That non-ionizing radiation actually dissipates quickly as you get further away from the

tower. You mentioned something else which I think is already available. There is a website now where you can actually track, I think different towers that are within the city limits or within your geographic location. I actually went and looked myself to see how far away that my own home was from different towers and antennas and that sort of thing. So, that may already be publically available, I am not sure. Councilmember Long said, thank you. I do think it would be wise for us to review our IT policies until we get a better grasp on this 5G and know where those are going to be located and try to keep them away from schools.

City Attorney Carol Duncan said, it is actually in our Planning Department policies. We have that already. We have and we hired an expert actually. We hired an attorney or we didn't, City Water and Light hired an attorney because obviously it affects them as well. One of the things that the FCC required of cities and local utility companies is that we allow these to be coming on posts or poles that we already own, that was a requirement under the FCC. City Water and Light hired Jason Carter to help us draft our policy and we passed that about a year ago and we put every restriction that we were legally allowed to put under the federal law in it. We put as much control in as we could legally according to Jason Carter who does this statewide. City Water and Light obviously has interest in protecting their poles just as much as we have interest in making sure that somebody doesn't put it right in front of your picture window where you are looking out at the trees or whatever. So, we put as many restrictions I think as he said we were allowed under the federal law. But, it might be worth inviting Jason Carter to come and do a talk about what is and what is not allowable based upon what the federal government has given us.

Mayor Harold Perrin said, Councilmember Long, when you and I started our dialogue, probably a month ago I guess now, I called Jason Carter, who, again, drafted our ordinance and he represents all of the utilities and all of that stuff in Arkansas. He said he would be happy to come up to Jonesboro. What I thought we would do is that we would start with Dr. Speights and then we can bring in the one who actually drafted like Carol just mentioned, the ordinance so we can get right into the depth inside of that, but we will make sure that he covers what we want to hear in his presentation. Ms. Duncan said, and to be clear, he doesn't represent Verizon and AT&T and that kind of thing. He represents the people like cities and utility companies where Verizon and AT&T were going to be attempting to maybe force them to allow them to install on existing poles. It was to our benefit to have him here. He doesn't represent the actual 5G companies. Mayor Perrin said, and I can schedule that too. Councilmember Long said, I think that would be good. Also, I think that Dr. Speights had mentioned that there is also a website that people can go to see where those 5G towers are located and possibly where they are slated to go. I think that is something that would be good to have a link on our website. Mayor Perrin said, I think also too, if it were me, I would want all of the stuff that he talked about here on this PowerPoint. I am sure he would be glad to share that. Once we get that, we can send that out to all the councilmembers. Councilmember Long said, I appreciate that. Mayor Perrin said, that way it will give you every one of those and one night just start going down through and just pulling up and reading every one of them. Councilmember Long said, just to make it clear, I am not against 5G. I just want to make sure that what we are exposing our citizens to is safe and not only effective. Mayor Perrin said, I will make a note and Mike Downing will too that sometime tomorrow we will get Jason scheduled probably for the 18th, the next council meeting. But, I want to make sure that he understands what we are trying to get to so that when he comes up here from Little Rock, that he said that he would be glad to do that.

Read

[COM-20:039](#)

Presentation by Craig Light, City Engineer, on the status of construction projects.

Attachments: [Construction Projects 8-3-20](#)

City Engineering Director Craig Light gave a presentation update on the status of construction projects.

City Engineering Director Craig Light said, every Monday the Mayor holds a department head meeting where we go over our project lists and keep our sheets updated. Chief of Staff Mike Downing suggested that we present that list to the council tonight so you can see what we have going on. I believe the spreadsheet was sent out to everybody earlier today. I don't know if you have had a chance to look at it. I believe there were copies handed out here at the Municipal Center as well. I am not going to read through every item on here. But, the first set of projects are projects under construction. We have the Shooting Sports Complex, the Highway Department has a couple of jobs, the Hwy. 18 BNSF Overpass Project and the Caraway Road and Highland Drive Intersection Project. A couple of key things about those is that the Highway 18 overpass Project, they are planning on closing the Highland Drive railroad crossing next Tuesday and opening up the Watt Street bridge. And, so, traffic will be diverted over the bridge and then onto Cain Street. There will be a change in traffic pattern in that area next week. The Highway Department is preparing a press release on that which should go out on Thursday or Friday. That is going to be a big change in that area. We are going to have a bridge. Emergency services won't be blocked anymore by trains in that area. Actually, stage 4 of the project is the beginning of the overpass over Highland Drive over the railroad tracks there. That is pretty exciting. On the Caraway/Highland intersection, it is progressing along, but they do have a delay in getting their traffic signal equipment and it is about two months out. And, so, there may be some delays in that project as it proceeds. I think they are about finished up on the south side of the roadway. I think they will probably put down the rock or they have been putting down the rock and probably put asphalt and then they will move onto the north side of the roadway and start working on those northeast and northwest corners, but it will be some time before they get the temporary tract of the signals up and be able to do the changes inside the lanes. So, there is going to be a little bit of a delay on that because of equipment. Again, that is a Highway Department project. That is not one we are managing in-house. The Shooting Sports Complex Project at the top of the list, it is progressing well. I believe that we have a change order pending to have add some additional time to the project. If you will remember, when that project was originally bid we cut the shot curtain out of the project and we said we were going to try to find funds savings throughout the project to be able to fund the shot curtain and find a cheaper shot curtain. I believe we have achieved that. So, we are working on a change order that would reconcile the contract, get the shot curtain back in, and keep us below our original budget for the project. I have not seen the change order, but hopefully, there will be a deduction in the total contract amount plus we are going to get the shot curtain with that. So, that should be coming fairly soon. I talked to the architect about it yesterday afternoon about that.

The Veteran's Village Project is coming along well. I don't know if any of you have had a chance to drive by there, but they have got all of the foundations and slabs done except for one of the structures and they are preparing that now. They have actually started framing a few structures as well. So, it is starting to go vertical over there. They are making some progress on that project.

The next two projects currently underway are miscellaneous sidewalks and miscellaneous drainage. These are just projects that we do with the miscellaneous

funds that the council has budgeted to us. On sidewalks, our next project is Aggie Road and then we will move over to East Street and we are going to try to get this downtown alley finally finished. City Water and Light is supposed to move in on the 10th to get their power lines final moves on those and get that one out of the way. We have a longer list of sidewalks. So, if anybody is interested in what our list looks like, we will be happy to provide that to you of ones that we want to get done this year. Basically, it is the list from our last lawsuit. We are going to go through there and try to get all of those completed before the end of this year. On miscellaneous drainage, again, we have an annual bid contract. They are working on a project over on Jefferson Avenue right now. They will move over to Amberwood Cove when that is done and then a small project out on Granite Pointe, Quail Ridge, Bennett Drive, but we just moved through that list as funds become available. So, some of those projects may carry over to the next budget cycle.

On the next page, there are projects that are funded, but are still in the design and planning phase. They are not ready to go to construction quite yet. We have been working on the Downtown to A-State Bike Trail Project, which is the Creath Street project that starts here at City Hall and goes down towards A-State. We are at 90% plans on it. We have 41 properties that we are going to have to acquire for that project. It is small slivers of frontage along the right-of-way. We are getting appraisals done on those now and then we will start going through the acquisition process for those pieces of property. So, that is the next phase on it. The University Heights Link Trail which is on the other side of the university, they have started the survey work on it to start the design process and get that thing ready to do. It will probably be another 18 months or so before it would go to construction as well. There is still some funding that we are still looking for to build that entire project. We have about a third of the funds we think it is going to take to actually build the entire project at this point.

The Railroad Spur out in the Industrial Park, we are reviewing the construction plans on that and it should have the agreement with the Federal Railroad Administration sometime this fall for the council to execute so we can actually put our hands on their \$2.3 million and actually start construction with that. That project is moving along well. Post Foods money is not available until October 1st, but Jonesboro Economic Development is moving forward with the acquisition of some property that we are going to need for the project so they are a contributor in the total cost of the project and the acquisition of the property was included in the grant in the total funding package so they are moving forward with acquisition now.

There are a lot of projects on this list and I don't intend to go through every one of them, but at the bottom of this page, you will see a list of a lot of ARDOT projects. These are the ones that if you will remember a few years ago, the city put in \$8.7 million that we put towards \$90 million in highway department construction projects. These are the projects that were from that original list and their current status. We have two of those that are going out to bid. Actually, tomorrow, those bids will open. The I-555, Highway 49 at Red Wolf interchange and improvements. The estimated cost is about \$7 million on it. The city's share is \$1.4 million and that \$1.4 million has been budgeted to spend this year on that project. So, assuming that the bids come in good and the Highway Department is ready to award, they will be expecting us to write that check to them for that \$1.4 million. The other project is the Southwest Drive, Main and Highland intersection. The bid opens tomorrow. The original estimated amount was \$1 million for that intersection improvement and that is what the city is obligated for. It is capped at \$1 million. So, anything above and beyond the \$1 million, the Highway Department is going to be picking up on that project. Hopefully, we see some good bids come in tomorrow on those. There are two other projects on here, the Highway 1B

Project is set to bid in November of this year and the Highway 351/Airport Road Overpass project is set to bid in November of this year. So, there is going to be a lot of construction barrels up next year because we are still going to have the Highway 18 Project still going on and have the Interstate Project going. There is going to be a lot of construction continuing in Jonesboro for a while with the highway projects.

On the next page, we have some not funded, but council approved applications. These are grant funds applications projects that we are still trying to get developed in terms of getting some money in order to get them funded. We are looking at a 2nd Phase of our railroad spur project of about \$2.5 million to expand our storage capacity on the railroad out in the Industrial Park. For those of you that may or may not know, the city does own six miles of rail out in the Industrial Park that we manage and maintain. We are looking at enlarging that facility to better support the industry out there and allow them to grow. The other projects we have not heard if we have got the grants or not. I have put the dates on here for the MLK Trailhead Monuments. We should know around October if we have got funding. The Washington Trail will be around October. The A-State Link Bridge Trail is a build grant that we applied for and it is about \$8 million and that would be the overpass that would connect ASU to the Downtown Trail. So, we are hoping that the project gets funded, but we won't know until later in the year if it does. If it does, we will begin to hire a consultant to begin designing and moving that project forward. A couple of the other projects that we are working on that won't necessarily result in construction. We are in negotiations with a new track agreement with BNSF for the use of our track out in the Industrial Park. They want to make some changes to it and City Attorney Carol Duncan is helping with that. We are working through that issue. I am not sure exactly right now how good those negotiations are going. We are working on that one. Also, on here is the potential closing of two crossings, Fisher Street and Culberhouse. These are ones that the railroad have approached us about the possibility of closing those at grade crossings. We have been in conversations with them for some time about that. We have got some agreements that we have received and I don't think the Mayor is quite ready to bring that forward because the amount of money that they are offering is not where it should be yet.

We continue to work on our ADA Compliance audits. If you will remember, we hired an outside consultant after our last lawsuit to begin helping us develop a transition plan to get us into compliance with all of the ADA compliance. They have come in and trained a few people on sidewalk inspections. They have prepared a preliminary right-of-way transition plan. And, now, they are starting to move to the next which will be Joe Mack Campbell Park. They will go through and do a complete audit of Joe Mack Campbell Park and then, here at the Municipal Center. We only budgeted \$50,000 for this project for this year and it is slated for seven years. So, for the next seven years, we are going to spend \$50,000 trying to get ourselves into compliance. We would like to see if we can't accelerate that a little bit. It has kind of held us back this year. We feel like we could have gotten done a lot more if we just had the money to be able to do it. So, I think we are going to try to ask for a little bit more money next year, not the full allocation, but we would like to see some more so we can actually get some more facilities done and try to get this thing wrapped up. Seven years seems too long to work on one project like that. And, then the last is the Shooting Sports Complex Phase 2. The Phase 2 of that is our extension from Arkansas Game and Fish and Wildlife was that we have until September of next year to have the facility complete in terms with our agreement with them. That means that we can shoot trap, skeet, rifle, pistol, and archery and that we have some place to go to the bathroom. So, we are still going to need to find some sort of bathroom facilities out there to get those done before September of next year. Now, anything beyond that in terms of maintenance

buildings or clubhouses or range buildings can all be funded later. To meet the obligation of that original grant, we are going to have to provide bathroom facilities out there so that will be something that we will be asking for next budget cycle. That is the current list of projects. I didn't include asphalt projects on here because we have spent all of our asphalt money already this year. We also received some money for railroad maintenance and I didn't include that because we have already spent that money this year. If anybody has any questions specifically, I will try to answer them.

Councilmember Gene Vance asked, on the Shooting Sports Complex restroom facility, you are saying you haven't started design or anything at this time and you are going to wait until January for the new budget to design and build and open that facility before September, nine months, actually eight months if you do it by September 1st? Mr. Light said, we have some pavilions designed that include bathrooms and that is what we are planning on doing is just building those couple of pavilions with bathrooms. So, they are designed and ready to go to bid as soon as we know the funds are going to be available to do the contract. Councilmember Vance asked, should we be looking for those funds in the next month or two to let that get started? Mr. Light said, our current contract is probably going to be complete by the end of September. So, there is some construction window that will be left to be able to start doing some construction and not be in each other's way. So, if funds were made available, we would put it out to bid and get a contract started. Councilmember Vance said, I guess we need to ask Mr. Hafner to start looking for some money. Mayor Perrin said, Councilmember Vance, I think you are correct on that. If you remember a few weeks back, we said at the end of June, we were going to look and see how COVID and all of the sales tax and things have gone and then go back and look with all of the department heads and we have done that. I think that report is ready to go out tomorrow. We can certainly add that to the list so that would take care of what you are talking about. Good point. Councilmember Vance said, I would think that one project that has not been funded should be looked at as a priority on the new funding. Mayor Perrin said, right. They have done a great job, the department heads. I give them credit in meeting with Steve and with Mike and they have looked at that. Mike is going to send that out tomorrow. We went over it today. They have done a great job of asking for only what they need. I will report on sales tax and stuff in just a moment in my Mayor's report. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, Councilmember Vance is correct. There is a lot of this stuff that should have priority. As I mentioned at the last meeting, Steve and Mike have met with the department heads so it is just going to be a matter of prioritizing the new requests that we are going to get or the revisited requests and discussing it with the different department heads and coming up with a doable list. Whether it be police radios or a variety of other things, there are a lot of needs that we hopefully can address. There are the main ones. Mayor Perrin said, that has been done. When you get that tomorrow, that list where you have had many hours of department heads sitting down with Steve Purtee and with Mike Downing and going over that. I reviewed all of that today. Councilmember Vance said, I would also include that ADA compliance on that also.

Councilmember David McClain said, I know we have got a committee set up to fund raise on this and Craig highlighted that a little bit in his presentation. How much have we seen? Have they raised anything or have they started fundraising efforts? Councilmember Joe Hafner said, I know the committee has met once or twice so far, but they got a late start because of COVID. I think the Chief has a presentation he may be making at sometime regarding potential funding for the Shooting Range. I think COVID put that committee three or four months behind. Councilmember McClain asked, we don't know if the conversation has started yet? Mr. Light said, I believe there is a meeting this Thursday at 5:30 p.m. at Embassy Suites with the committee.

Mayor Perrin said, I believe that this will be the third meeting that this committee has had and that is going to be on my Mayor's report. They are meeting this Thursday. Chief, do you want to add to that? Police Chief Rick Elliott said, yes, the committee has met in the past and we have some potential people lined up for naming rights in the fields. We don't have contracts in hand yet. We are still working out the details on what the fields will sell off for. Right now, we are looking at a yearly fee kind of like out at the ballparks. Say a trap field goes for \$50,000 or \$5,000 a year for ten years would be our contract. So, that is something that we are looking at. If you have a trap and skeet field, the combo fields, obviously it would be more because those fields cost more. In talking with committee members, we have donors you might say on the hook that want to and have committed to, but we do not have anything in writing just yet because we are still trying to firm up numbers on cost. I think at this meeting on Thursday, we will be a little bit closer to that. We are also talking about other partnerships with this project. We have to also take into consideration that CWL has been a great partnership in this project with what they are putting into it. So, we need to factor that also, the dollars that they have put into this as an in-kind donation. Mayor Perrin said, that is right. Thank you. We can put Craig's project list on the website, that will be no problem. What he is saying is that we have got these projects in construction now, these other projects are pending, and things that need to be done once things settle down, we will go back and pull back out again. You can see that they are pretty busy. Thank you very much.

Read

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

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

[MIN-20:068](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON JULY 21, 2020

Attachments: [CC Minutes 07212020](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

[RES-20:101](#)

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

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-091-2020

6. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-20:027](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO PERMIT THE SELECTION OF THE POSITION 1 COUNCIL MEMBER FROM EACH WARD TO BE VOTED ON BY ONLY THE CITIZENS OF THE WARD IN WHICH THEY SERVE

Attachments: [Casteel Email 07262020](#)
[Casteel 07262020](#)
[Dougan 07272020](#)
[crail 07282020](#)
[Ivener email 08042020](#)
[Pradeep email 08042020](#)
[Taylor email 08042020](#)
[Radin email 08042020](#)
[Pradeep 2 email 08042020](#)

Councilmember Bobby Long motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-20:027 by title only. All voted aye.

City Attorney Carol Duncan said, so, I think what the Mayor had asked me to talk about is there was a question I believe at committee as far as when these ordinances would be required to be passed and filed with the County Clerk's office. The deadline for getting something on the November 3, 2020 election we believe, according to our election coordinator, you have to be 70 days prior. So, that deadline would be August 25, 2020. In order to get this through council and approved and ready to be filed at the County Clerk's office, the council would have two options. The first option would be to waive one of the readings which would be at the desire of the council and then you would finalize your vote on this on the 18th, which would give you plenty of time to get it on the general election of November 3, 2020 assuming that it passes. And, then the second option would be at some point for council to determine that they want to hold a special called meeting in order to accommodate three readings. But, that is the only possible way to complete this in time to get on the November 3rd election date if that is the desire of the council.

Councilmember Bobby Long said, with that being said, I want to move to postpone this ordinance temporarily until the second meeting in January 2021. Councilmember Chris Moore seconded the motion. The roll call vote: Aye-Vance, Moore, Gibson, Street, Johnson, Hafner, Long, McClain and Nay: Frierson, Coleman, Williams, Bryant. (8-4)

Mayor Harold Perrin said, this ordinance will come back for consideration on the 2nd council meeting of January 2021.

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

Aye: 8 - Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner and David McClain

Nay: 4 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

[ORD-20:028](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO CALL AN ELECTION DURING THE 2020 GENERAL ELECTION ON THE ISSUE OF PERMITTING THE SELECTION OF THE POSITION 1 COUNCIL MEMBER FROM EACH WARD TO BE VOTED ON BY ONLY THE CITIZENS OF THE WARD IN WHICH THEY SERVE

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Mitch Johnson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-20:028 by title only. All voted aye.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gene Vance, seconded by Councilperson Bobby Long, that this matter be Postponed Indefinitely . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

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

[ORD-20:029](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND AUTHORIZE DENNIS NEAL RESURFACING TO EPOXY RESIN FINISH FIVE SETS OF RESTROOMS AT CRAIGHEAD FOREST PARK FOR THE PARKS DEPARTMENT

Attachments: [Craighead Forest Restrooms Estimate](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Bobby Long, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-20:029 by title only. All voted aye.

Councilmember John Street said, that was through Public Works and they emphasized the urgency of that project being done due to the use of the park and the lack of adequate facilities and they wanted to go ahead and get it done. This being a one type job, there wasn't anybody else to bid on it and that is why they are waiving the bidding process for it, but based on that and the urgency of the need, I would move that we suspend the rules and waive the second and third readings.

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

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

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

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

Enactment No: O-EN-030-2020

[ORD-20:031](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, FROM C-3, GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT TO RS-7 SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT LIMITED USE OVERLAY FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3515 LONGCREST DRIVE AS REQUESTED BY CARLOS WOOD ON BEHALF OF B & T LAND COMPANY, LLC.

Attachments: [Application](#)
[Rezoning Plat](#)
[Staff Summary - City Council](#)
[Pictures of Rezoning Signs](#)
[TURMAN LONGCREST REZONING-REV071020](#)
[USPS Receipts](#)
[Warranty Deed](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore to suspend the rules and offer ORD-20:031 by title only. All voted aye. Councilmember Moore said, Mr. Mayor I would ask that ORD-20:031 be read on three separate occasions.

Held at one reading

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

ORD-20:025

AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE AND ABANDON A 40' DRAINAGE AND UTILITY EASEMENT LOCATED ACROSS PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2610 NESTLE WAY IN THE CRAIGHEAD TECHNOLOGY PARK IN JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AS REQUESTED BY JOHN EASLEY OF ASSOCIATED ENGINEERING ON BEHALF OF JONESBORO CITY WATER AND LIGHT

Attachments: [Abandonment concurrence - 2610 Nestle Way](#)
[Notice](#)
[Petition](#)
[Plat](#)
[utility letters](#)

Held at second reading

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Perrin reported on the following items:

On our sales tax, we did get those in at the end of July, on the City of Jonesboro, compared to last year, we are up \$362,899 or 3.3%. As compared to our budget, we are up \$193,262 or 1.7%. When you take in the county sales tax, as compared to last year, the previous period, it is up \$409,000 or 4.8%. As compared to the budget, our budget is up \$513,901 or 6.1%. The total combination of the city and the county as compared to last year, we are up \$772,682.36 or 3.9%. As compared to our budget, it is up \$707,000 or 3.6%. Again, that is good news with what we have gone through with COVID. I am real pleased. It is hard for me to believe, to be honest with you. I really thought that it would be going the other way, but thankfully it is not.

They announced today that the census has been extended until September 30, 2020. If any of you all have not gone in and done the census on your computer or whatever, they have extended that nationally until September 30, 2020. Let me remind you that every person that is counted is about \$3,000 per person for this city and this county. That is a lot of money when you take that on the census. As you all know, the census is only done every ten years. I would encourage you all to tell your friends and neighbors, please get on the census and get counted.

On August 18, 2020 at 2:00 p.m., we will have a groundbreaking for the Veteran's Village. Mark that on your calendar. We will put it on the website and all of that with the upcoming events.

On our small business emergency grant, if you all will remember in our HUD project in

the Grants Department, we got \$362,000 that we can hand out in our grants to small business emergencies to help them for PPE, utilities, salary. There are a lot of things that you can do. It is very broad on what you can do. We have received seven applications for a total of only \$70,000. So, what we have done, we are going to extend that out until August 18, 2020 and I would ask Bill Campbell and others, let's get the word out more about this grant. This grant is here for our people here in our city and small business people. You can see \$70,000 off of that \$362,000, there is a lot of money left that we certainly want to put into the hands of our people that can help them pay for utilities or whatever. I encourage you to do that. I know that one of the media is here. So, Keith, if you would, put a hard sell on that, will you. We definitely want people to apply for this.

The Shooting Sports Complex will meet this Thursday at 5:30 p.m. at Embassy Suites.

The SkyCop Committee for cameras is going to meet. That committee will meet on Thursday, August 13, 2020 at 5:30 at First Community Bank.

Our skate park at Allen Park, hopefully we will start construction on that. That has been some time in the making in the design. We got it all done and construction out for bid. Construction on our new skate park at Allen Park will start this week.

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Chris Moore said, the Mayor turned the meeting over to me because one of the items is going to be a walk-on sponsored by all twelve members of the Jonesboro City Council. Tonight, the Public Works Committee met and pass unanimously a walk-on and I will offer this to the full council. It will be RES-20:114. Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Joe Hafner, to walk RES-20:114 onto the agenda. All voted aye.

[RES-20:114](#)

A RESOLUTION FOR THE RENAMING OF MIRACLE LEAGUE PARK IN HONOR OF MAYOR HAROLD PERRIN

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Joe Hafner, to suspend the rules and walk on RES-20:114 onto the agenda. All voted aye.

Mayor Harold Perrin said, thank you. Councilmember Chris Moore said, Mr. Mayor, thank you for your service. Mayor Perrin said, thank you, thank you very much. Thank you very much. I am humbled and honored. Boy, you would never thought that I would be caught for words would you. But, thank you for the kids. I appreciate it. I appreciate it very much. Councilmember Moore said, all of your help and all of your service to this city Mr. Mayor. Mayor Perrin said, well, thank you, thank you.

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

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

Enactment No: R-EN-092-2020

Councilmember John Street said, Mayor, I would just echo what that says and God

Bless You for being the wonderful public servant that you have been and dedication to the city, locally and state wide and the nation for the boards that you have served. Thank you brother and we appreciate you. We will always be fond of everything you have done. You have advanced this city so far in the last twelve years. It is just unbelievable. I hope that we continue in that same vein. Mayor Perrin said, thank you.

Councilmember Mitch Johnson said, it has been an honor to serve with you Mr. Mayor. You are a great leader and you were very inspirational for me when I got on the city council and I am glad that we could do this for you. Mayor Perrin said, thank you sir. Thank you.

Councilmember LJ Bryant said, thanks for your service Mr. Mayor. Mayor Perrin said, thank you.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said, well deserved Mayor. Mayor Perrin said, thank you.

Councilmember Bobby Long said, Mr. Mayor, thank you so much for everything. You have meant a lot to me. Mayor Perrin said, thank you Bobby. Councilmember Long said, I really appreciate it also that the sales tax numbers that you gave before is not only a testimony to the strength of our community that you helped develop, but the tenacity of our business owners and just their unwillingness to lay over and let this thing just run roughshod over our city. So, thank everyone. I thank the Mayor and everyone for shopping local and thinking of our local proprietors and small businesses that make this city run. Mayor Perrin said, thank you.

Councilmember David McClain said, I echo everything. Mayor, thank you for everything you have done and I really appreciate you. Mayor Perrin said, thank you David.

Councilmember Chris Gibson said, I just want to say Mayor you have set the bar almost unachievably high for your successor, thank you for all that you have done. Mayor Perrin said, thank you sir.

Councilmember Ann Williams said, I have really loved working with you Mayor. It has been wonderful. Mayor Perrin said, thank you Ann.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, Mr. Mayor, the 22 years that I have been with you have been an honor and a pleasure. Thank you for your service. Mayor Perrin said, thank you, thank you Chris.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, it has been a great honor. I echo what someone else said that bar is going to be a high bar to reach for whomever comes to that seat. I thank you for all that you have done for our city and for every individual in the city. Mayor Perrin said, thank you Dr. Coleman.

Councilmember Gene Vance said, Mayor, you have deserved all of the accolades tonight, but this doesn't mean you get to quit. You still have to be here until the end of this. I will say this, the first year that you and I were elected, those first two year terms, that four years was probably as rough on you and I as these last twelve years have, those were challenging times then just as they are now. Mayor Perrin said, right. Thank you Gene.

Councilmember Charles Frierson said, Harold, you know how much I appreciate you. I would just say Vaya con Dios. Mayor Perrin said, thank you Charles.

At approximately 6:47, Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman stated that he needed to be excused for just a minute. This is at the 1:13:22 timestamp on the video.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Patti Lack, 4108 Forrest Hill Road, I want to say thank you too to Mayor Perrin. It has been a pleasure to get to know you over the past years and I know we had a little conversation and it is going to be a pleasure to have you sit in the audience so you can see this side of what we see. So, you are more than welcome to sit on this side now. Mayor Perrin said, thank you very much. Ms. Lack said, you are welcome. I would just like to say a couple of things. Last week I attend the Nominating & Rules Committee meeting and that is when we were talking about having the proposed amendment for the ward and the city. When Bobby Long made the amendment... Councilmember Chris Moore said, as a point of order, you cannot discuss something that was already on the agenda tonight. Ms. Lack said, I will just skip to the chase then. It is difficult with using zoom to listen to what the votes are from this side. I would just like to recommend because it is nice to see everyone's smiling faces up here on the screen, but sometimes it is difficult to hear what the votes are. In order not to question this, because I do have a question because I thought it was one vote and it was really two votes on that. So, I would just like to recommend that from this point on since we use zoom, I would like to recommend that any item or any ordinance that all of you vote on until we stop using zoom that we do individual roll call. Because I think with the noise that is on there, it is difficult to understand when everybody says yes and maybe, sometimes, we don't always hear the no and the number of it. So, that is just one request that I would like to make. The second request that I would like to make is and I think this would be really helpful is that I think that we are getting a little bit better with the virus. You can see more things opening up. If whomever the head of the committee is whether it is Public Works or the Finance that that person is actually present here in the meeting room. I only say that because I think that it will look more professional. I think the person will have a lot more control of the meeting. You can see that things are set up and I think that today was an example of it of how we got a little late start with making sure that everything was working right. Also, too, that we are really consistent with asking for the public comment and for waiting and giving the phone number and having the people reply because that is one thing that I think we have. So, the thing of having individual roll call, for having the chairman here, and then also too is I think that you have noticed that in light of the banks and the post office and all of that is that they have these plastic screens here to divide the people. I hope that maybe we can work something out in the next couple of months because I don't know how long this virus is going to be, that maybe we can have more of the council people here because it is nice and encouraging to see your faces. It is nice to see your faces here. I think we need to start working on how we can start getting back a little bit to normal and having more participation. Thank you very much.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, Mr. Mayor, in regards to one of Patti's requests, I noticed the other night I was watching a council meeting and it was on public access and I don't know if it was Fayetteville or Conway, but on the overhead screen, as the councilmembers voted, there was a list of their names on the software program and it showed the vote on the screen overhead so that you could actually look and see even if you were on zoom. Mayor Perrin said, Jason, let's check that out. Ms. Lack said, I think that would be really helpful because I think when you hear it and you hear all of the background noise. Councilmember Moore said, the people at home and watching on zoom and us, we would be able to see the list and the yeas and nays. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, April has already checked into that if you want to let her speak. Councilmember Gene Vance said, one comment that I would have on that is we need

to look at our lighting because the lights that are on right now are washing out the screen and from here we can't even see what is on the screen. Mayor Perrin said, okay, so noted. We will check that out. Deputy City Clerk April Leggett said, I do have a quote from our software system that requires a lot of extra money, but we can also use CARES money if that is a possibility. Councilmember Moore said, anything would be a possibility that we can consider. Mayor Perrin said, we will get with you tomorrow. Councilmember Moore said, I just noticed and I don't which city it was over on public access and I watched their city council meeting and how they conducted it. They conducted it relatively similar to us, but every vote, when the Mayor calls for the vote, every vote appears on the software program. Mayor Perrin said, Batesville is that way. And, that is good. That is a real good comment. Councilmember Mitch Johnson said, I would agree with councilmember Vance. I have watched a couple of these and it is really difficult. You can barely see the name and you really can't see anything else up there. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, I will add the money to the vote tracking to the money that Councilmember Vance charged me to find the other stuff. I will do my best. Obviously, the administration is going to have to help come up with the priorities. The Finance Committee gets to hear it. Mayor Perrin said, we will get on it tomorrow.

City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I just want to say because I don't get to talk when the council talks, but I sat in that room with you over in the old City Hall, one of the first meetings were we started talking about the Miracle League Park. Your vision for it from day one, I am not going to lie, I saw the numbers and what it was going to cost and how I thought we were never going to get this done, but you were so persistent with that and I am just very proud that the council made the decision to honor you in that way. It has been a pleasure. I feel like I have known you forever, but it has been a pleasure. Mayor Perrin said, thank you. I appreciate that Carol. Thank you very much. The kids enjoy it dramatically. The big thing about that is that kids that could not play and watched their brothers can now play. That is the whole thrust behind the Miracle League. Thank you very much.

Councilmember Bobby Long said, there was one other question. Are we still monitoring our Facebook live feed of this? Are we still monitoring that or are we still doing that? Chief of Staff Mike Downing said, we indicated months ago, I think we only asked for comments on Facebook live the first or second meeting because of the delay. So, we have email. We did get some email comments relative to the ward voting, but they became irrelevant because it was dropped. We are not taking comments through Facebook live. Councilmember Long said, okay, I have just had some people ask. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, there is just too much of a delay. Councilmember Long said, if we were still doing that I would ask that they put two minutes instead of one, but since we are not doing that, there is no reason to do that.

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