



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

PUBLIC SAFETY COUNCIL 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 (ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE) INITIATED AND CONFIRMED BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

Present 12 - Brian Emison; Chris Moore; Chris Gibson; David McClain; Joe Hafner; Kevin Miller; Anthony Coleman; Janice Porter; John Street; Charles Coleman; LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Councilmember John Street asked if RES-25:061 could be removed from the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Chris Moore motioned, seconded by Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman, to approve the consent agenda with the exception of RES-25:061. All voted aye.

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Moore, seconded by Councilperson Charles Coleman, to Approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of RES-25:061. The motioned PASSED with the following vote:

Aye: 12 - Brian Emison; Chris Moore; Chris Gibson; David McClain; Joe Hafner; Kevin Miller; Anthony Coleman; Janice Porter; John Street; Charles Coleman; LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

[MIN-25:046](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON JUNE 3, 2025

Attachments: [CC Minutes 06032025.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-25:057](#)

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH EAST ARKANSAS BROADCASTERS FOR RENTAL OF JOE MACK CAMPBELL SPORTS COMPLEX

Attachments: [July 4th 2025 - EAB Signed Contract.pdf](#)
 [JULY 4TH 2025 EAB 1.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-073-2025

[RES-25:058](#)

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH SAGA COMMUNICATIONS OF ARKANSAS LLC D/B/A JONESBORO RADIO GROUP FOR RENTAL OF SOUTHSIDE SPORTS COMPLEX

Attachments: [JULY 4TH 2025 JRG.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-074-2025

[RES-25:059](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH TRAC-WORK, INC. FOR THE CRAIGHEAD TECHNOLOGY PARK INDUSTRIAL LEAD - SWITCH POINT PROTECTION & GRADE CROSSING MAINTENANCE PROJECT (2025:17)

Attachments: [Bid Tab.pdf](#)
 [Contract 2025 17.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-075-2025

[RES-25:060](#)

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH DAIRY QUEEN FOR SPONSORSHIP OF ONE SOFTBALL FIELD AT THE SOUTH SIDE SOFTBALL COMPLEX

Attachments: [Dairy Queen-Southside Softball 2025.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-076-2025

[RES-25:064](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE FY2026 SELECTIVE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM (STEP) FROM THE ARKANSAS STATE POLICE

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-077-2025

[RES-25:066](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY ATTORNEY TO CERTIFY THE CITY OF JONESBORO 2025 ANNUAL FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA) CERTIFICATIONS AND ASSURANCES FOR THE JONESBORO ECONOMICAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM (JET)

Attachments: [2025 Annual Cert & Assurances.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-078-2025

[RES-25:067](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE FY26 GREAT STRIDES/TRAILS FOR LIFE GRANT FROM THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, HERITAGE AND TOURISM

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-079-2025

RESOLUTIONS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

[RES-25:061](#)

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING FREE UTILITY SERVICES FROM CITY WATER AND LIGHT FOR TRAIL LIGHTING PEDESTALS ALONG CREATH AVENUE

Councilmember John Street asked to be recused from voting and discussion on RES-25:061 due to his membership on the CWL Board of Directors.

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

Aye: 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Abstain: 1 - John Street

Enactment No: R-EN-080-2025

6. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-25:019](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR SHJ HOLDINGS DBA THE DEN-ZONE OF JONESBORO

Attachments: [SHJ Holdings dba The Den-Zone of Jonesboro Private Club Application](#) [Red Publication Receipt](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison to suspend the rules and offer ORD-25:019 by title only. All voted aye.

James Elwyn Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, said, what I am going to ask for you to do on this particular bill is be honest with yourself, because some of you are going to want to lie to yourself. And say something that you're going to prove, that your actions is going to prove the opposite. Are you in favor of underage drinking or not? Notice that this is located in an area where most people are under the legal drinking age. And for the first time in their life, or with recent history, they have no parental supervision. They can do whatever they want to do. So, we are going to take the booze right to them. And if you vote for this, you are for underage drinking. And I challenge The Jonesboro Sun and other media to print who votes for this. And, I know it will be two more readings before you actually get around to voting. And who doesn't? because it will save me a lot trouble because I'm going to tell everybody I can how you voted on this, so that they will know whether you are for underage drinking or not.

Held at one reading

[ORD-25:020](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4700 INDUSTRIAL DRIVE

Attachments:

[Application](#)
[Certified Mail](#)
[Deed](#)
[Rezoning Plat](#)
[Rezoning Signs](#)
[Staff Summary](#)
[Publication Receipt](#)
[Staff Summary - CC Minutes](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison to suspend the rules and offer ORD-25:020 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading[ORD-25:021](#)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2025 FOR THE PURPOSE OF FINANCING VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS; PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON THE BONDS; PRESCRIBING OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Attachments:

[jonesboro-25-capimp-or.docx](#)
[jonesboro-25-capimp-or-Ex-A.docx](#)
[Jonesboro Redlined Bond Ordinance - June 17.pdf](#)
[Jonesboro Redlined BPA June 17.pdf](#)
[jonesboro-25-capimp-or.docx](#)
[jonesboro-25-capimp-or-Ex-A.docx](#)
[ORD-25-021 - SIGNED - Bond Redacted.pdf](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Joe Hafner, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-25:021 by title only. All voted aye.

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore to waive the second and third readings. The motion passed with the following vote: AYE - John Street, Kevin Miller, Joe Hafner, Chris Gibson, Ann Williams, Chris Moore, Dr. Charles Coleman, Brian Emison, Janice Porter; NAY - David McClain, Dr. Anthony Coleman, L.J. Bryant.

Councilmember Joe Hafner motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to adopt ORD-25:021 with the numbers submitted by the bond counsel. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson. ORD-25:021 was adopted by the following vote: AYE - John Street, Kevin Miller, Joe Hafner, Chris Gibson, Ann Williams, Chris Moore, Dr. Charles Coleman, Brian Emison, Janice Porter; NAY - David McClain, Dr. Anthony Coleman, L.J. Bryant.

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Joe Hafner, to adopt the emergency clause on ORD-25:021. The motion passed with the following vote: AYE - John Street, Kevin Miller, Joe Hafner, Chris Gibson, Ann Williams, Chris Moore, Dr. Charles Coleman, Brian Emison, Janice Porter; NAY - David McClain, Dr. Anthony Coleman, L.J. Bryant.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, so, let me start off by saying that I'm definitely moving and I'm forward. I'm sorry, I'm moving. I desire to move Jonesboro forward. That's what I'm trying to say. And, I have had meetings with the mayor and administration. But, I still have questions and still have some things I'd like to understand. And, I do regard having and needing to have untraditional funds in order to move Jonesboro forward. I understand that. And, so, it's not the bond issues itself that's not really fully my concern. And, it's some projects that I'm not fully for, but I do understand you know, I get it, but this is my question. The bonds would be paid through franchise fees and it's my understanding that most of the franchise fees that we use now, and Steve can help me, but most of the franchise fees that we use now go towards some infrastructure, some roads and things like that. And, so, I'd like to know how we are going to pay for those improvements over the next several years while we're paying these bonds back, if that makes sense.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said, I have a question. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, we have a motion on the floor. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, oh, I'm sorry. Mayor Copenhaver said, that's fine. The motion on the floor was to waive, is to waive the second and third readings. That was up for discussion. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, oh.

Councilmember David McClain said, so, well, mayor, if I may ask question then on that. On the waving of the second and third readings. If, Paul, you don't mind. Mayor Copenhaver said, councilman, let me, let me go ahead. We've got a process here. City Attorney Carol Duncan asked, can we withdraw that motion and let them speak and then remake that motion? Councilmember John Street said, sure. Ms. Duncan said, okay, that would be great. Mayor Copenhaver asked, do you withdraw your motion? Councilmember Street replied, yes, sir. Mayor Copenhaver said, okay. All right. Ms. Duncan said, we will them make their presentation, then you all can ask your questions. Councilmember McClain said, sure.

Mayor Copenhaver stated, I think this will answer the process and everything else. So, and I appreciate that. So, before we discussed this item and we are discussing it, Paul Phillips, if you would please come to the podium on the finalized revenue bond offering. It's important that tonight we emphasize the transparency in which this administration has approached this matter. Mr. Phillips recently stated at one of the public meetings, this process is typical for bond revenue actions by other cities. Several of these projects have been in discussion for years. In September 2024, the council authorized a resolution to move forward with the revenue bond proceedings. And to make sure we are all clear of the details of revenue bonds, we brought in the experts a month ago, including our bond counsel from Friday Firm, Ryan Bowman, and financial advisor from Crews & Associates, Paul Phillips, as well as, the bond underwriter, Michael McBride from Stephens, Inc. And, once again, they're all here in person to detail the process for you to consider this evening. But as I've said it before, and I'll say it again, we have a moral responsibility to prioritize these projects. It will save lives, as well as a moral obligation for maintaining this level of transparency. Each one of these projects are life saving and potential life saving projects. Whether it's making sure that we get a call from 911 answered in an emergency in a timely manner to making sure a person or child has a basic right to walk without constant fear of being struck by a car, ensuring that we provide a safe road for motorists on South Caraway Road. We have lots of needs, lots of needs as a city, but these have repeatedly been discussed and prioritized between conversations with council, committees, and public input meetings. This revenue bond gives us the ability to save lives without increasing taxes. I think we owe it to the residents to invest in the safety of our community and Jonesboro families. So, Paul, if you would, please.

Paul Phillips from Crews & Associates, said, for the record, Mayor, members of the City Council, Paul Phillips, with Crews & Associates, the city's financial advisor. Many of you know that today we offered the bonds or Stephens did earlier today. And, we are going to highlight some of the aspects of that offering today. I think you're going to be very pleased with the offer that's put forth before you for the City of Jonesboro. But, before we kind of get into those details, I do want to thank the members of our working group and financing team. That team included officials from the city, staff of the city, Ryan Bowman with the Friday Law Firm, and Michael McBride and his team with Stephens. I just want to recognize those folks for their hard work. It takes a lot of coordination, cooperation, strategy to bring us to this point tonight, and I commend them for all of their hard work in getting this here. As you know, think of your own money, people have a choice where they want to put their money, and they haven't had a chance to invest in Jonesboro for over two decades. And, they asked questions like, what's the population trend? What's the security for bonds? What's the repayment capacity? And they asked all of these questions that you would ask if you were going to invest in Jonesboro. And, they ask all those questions. And, listen, I'm not surprised people came out and invested in Jonesboro today, and that doesn't surprise me. It's one of the best cities and communities in Arkansas. So I'm not surprised by the results that we experienced today. As a matter of fact, I'm very pleased. Many of you may recall, a few weeks ago, I stood here and I said, you know, I think, I said, I have a high degree of confidence that we will get a double A credit rating by virtue of an insurance policy from assured guarantee. We attained that policy, the bonds are rated double A. So, congratulations. Nice, nice work. You don't just get that given to you, you have to earn it and Jonesboro earned it.

So, a week ago, Michael and his team at Stephens began the premarketing of the bonds. They have the preliminary official statement that answers all of those questions. I just kind of summarize there in terms of population, security, and structure of the bonds. And, so, they've been, during this past week, they've been soliciting feedback from potential investors, where they might want to invest on the yield curve, how much they might want to invest, what type of rate structure, different things that they might want to implement that might differentiate them from the crowd and make a better offer to the city. My responsibility is to come in here and try and deliver the absolute best execution I can for the city. That's my role as a fiduciary to the city. So, that process culminated this morning with an official order period. So, Stephens began the order period at 9:00 a.m. It concluded at 10:30 a.m., and at that time, they had a litter over \$45 million of orders on the bonds. Great nice book of business, right? Well, that's more orders than bonds, right?

So, what's the next process? With the conclusion, we got with the team at Crews and Stephens and evaluated adjusting rates. And, what I mean by that is we ratcheted down yields on the bonds so the interest cost gets lower. And there's a little bit of science and a little bit of art to that because you want to ratchet down the rates, but you don't want your investor to run away because you did it to them. So, a little bit of art. So, anyway, we were able to accomplish that across quite a few maturities. And, ultimately, we finished the day on the financing with a 4.96 true interest cost. So, that was while, you know, several basis points, it was better than the things we've been looking at over the last several weeks. And as we've all learned recently, it doesn't take, there's a whole lot of things in the world that none of us control that can move this market drastically in a few days. And we've had that discussion in here before. So, that's why I presented to you tonight as an ordinance. We have been talking about this for a while, with the three readings an emergency clause.

So at the conclusion of the order period, your agenda packet had the ordinance in it with some blanks for the final terms of the bonds which we were able to consummate

by about noon today. We delivered those to Ryan Bowman at the Friday Firm who has since put that data and that information into your bond ordinance. With the adoption of the bond ordinance and the publication of it, the team at Stephens can then go and get the confirmations from their customers tomorrow. I mean, as you might expect, investors attitudes change, maybe hourly, but certainly daily. There is a different appetite for this, that or the other. So, it's important that when somebody delivers you an order and you tell them we're going to write tickets on that tomorrow to confirm it, to deliver. So that's where we are at now. That's, you know, we have talked about this process for a while and the need for locking in the interest rates and volatility of the market and what have you. So, I'm going to pause mayor. If there's some sort of highlight I didn't hit that you'd like for me to or if you want to have anyone else on our team address anything, let me know.

Mayor Copenhaver said, you know, I think again, the relevance and you really hit on it. If you would Paul, just kind of one more time, explain the relevance of when the bond offering went out this morning, the confidence of the investors in the community of the repayment opportunity. That's what you always look at as the investor, but more importantly, what that says about the City of Jonesboro and the process that we put forth. Mr. Phillips replied, yeah, I mean, obviously, investors have choices, and let me tell you say you, there's offerings, all around the country to the tune of billions of dollars every day in this tax exempt market. So they do have choices. This, maybe Michael could speak to some of the granular details, but this offering had a really nice blend as you would expect people in this part of the state, individuals, you know, banks, things of that nature, trust department that care, and they put their money with their mouth is. And, then in other parts of the state and then institutional accounts as well. This is a name, no one owns, right? No one's, had it on their radar even for two decades. So, I think it says a lot about what people think about Jonesboro, the future of Jonesboro, and I think they all go to sleep, and sleep well at night, knowing that they bought bonds that are repayable by a revenue stream from the City of Jonesboro. I don't think anyone is going to lose sleep over that.

Mayor Copenhaver asked, would Ryan or Michael like to make any additional comments? Ryan Bowman, Friday Firm legal counsel, said, thank you, Mayor, members of council. Ryan Bowen with Friday, Eldridge, & Clark. First, let me echo what Paul said thank you for the opportunity to work with the City of Jonesboro. I was born here just a few blocks away, a couple of decades, so it's a special honor for me to be able to serve in this capacity as bond counsel to the city. So, I'm happy to answer any questions. As the mayor pointed out, you have a copy of the ordinance that has been completed since the bonds were offered this morning by Stephens. So, I'm happy to walk through any of those changes, any questions that you might have on the revised ordinance. I'd be happy answer any questions on that matter. Certainly anything related to the ordinance or any legal questions, I'm here to address those.

Councilmember David McClain said, I do have a question mayor, well, a couple of questions. So, first I want to say, not necessarily against the bond itself or doing projects, things like that, I think the biggest thing, like I've said before, is how we've gotten here as far as first time having an ordinance itself. I think my biggest, the biggest glaring question I have is in your experience, Paul, or tell me your name of again, I'm sorry. Mr. Bowman said, Ryan. Councilmember McClain continued, Ryan, thank you, Ryan. Have you guys waived second and third readings at every revenue bond? Is that, I know you said that's customary but maybe give me the last two deals you guys have put together that happened.

Mr. Bowman said, I'll be happy to answer that question. I have been at the Friday Law Firm since 2000, so, 25 years and in every bond issue that I worked on for cities, counties, you name it, across all 4 corners of our state, every governing body must

suspend the rules and adopt the ordinance in one night. That's only because as Paul mentioned the race that you see in the ordinance before you tonight are only good for tonight. So, if you don't adopt this, those rates are no longer good and the process has to start over. So, that is a common practice for every entity in the state that is going to issue a bond. Councilmember McClain asked, so, when was the last one that you worked on that that happened? That took place, waiving the second and third reading. Mr. Bowman asked, the last meeting that I attended? Councilmember McClain said, no, the last revenue bond that was issued. Mr. Bowman replied, I'm trying to think of the last one that I worked on. Revenue? Franchise fee? Or just any bond issue in general? Councilmember McClain said, give me any bond issue you got. Mr. Bowman said, I have worked with the City of Tonitown recently on sales tax issue. Councilmember McClain asked, do you think, I know you said rates are locked in for tonight, for today? Do you think if we were not to adopt tonight and if we waited, then we went through three readings, do you think there's potential for the rates to even decrease even more? What do you think? Mr. Bowman replied, that is definitely not a legal question, so I'm going to defer to a banker to answer that question. Councilmember McClain said, okay, okay.

Michael McBride stated he could answer that question. Mayor Copenhaver said, and a lot of it too, councilman, is confidence in our community. And, you know, if we continue to not show favoritism or we continue to back off and wait every six months in all this, eventually, the investors to a revenue bond are going to say we don't have confidence anymore in that community. So, I'll go ahead. Michael McBride with Stephens, Inc. said, the issue would be, investors are used to it being done a certain way. As Ryan has stated in his 25 years, this is how it's always done. And, my 17 years at Stephens, this is how it's always done. If you move to a third reading or second and third reading, at different, every investor that has bought in and is expecting to have their tickets written tomorrow, will go away. I can't say that for 100% certainty, but if, I would say with high confidence, anyone, if we were to go back to them tomorrow and say, look, the process that you're absolutely used to, that everyone else does, that that we've discussed with the council has not been executed, those investors will go away. And what does that mean? It more than likely means, no, I can't guarantee anything with interest rates. It more than likely means, now I can't guarantee anything within trades. It more than likely means that your trades would go substantially up, because there are going to be less people willing to buy your bonds.

Councilmember Chris Gibson said, If I recall correctly when Paul presented a few weeks ago, that number was well north of 6% is that correct, Paul? Is what we were projecting out. Mr. Crews said, It is my recollection that it was north of five but less than six. Councilmember Gibson said, okay. Mr. Crews said, yes. Councilmember McClain said, the last question, mayor, here on that subject, is there not a way, like I said, if we don't have second and third readings, or if we waive second and third readings, is there not a way for us to stipulate bond price, where it doesn't go above a certain number in terms of our interest rate? Is that doable or have you guys ever done that in the past? Mr. Crews responded, I think what you're asking me is to establish some parameters. Councilmember McClain said, yes. Is that doable or has it been done? Mr. Crews said, you could do parameters, but Ryan, if you've got another opinion because I don't want to write your opinion for you, but you can do parameters, but ultimately, you're going to come back with an ordinance that has the final terms and then we're back to where we are again tonight. Mr. Bowman replied, correct, that's correct. And I'll add this, you know, we are telling the investors that were going to close on this transaction on July 22nd. Okay. If you went through the three reading process, then obviously those bondholders would not get their bonds on July 22nd. That would space it out for three months, let's just say. And I'll let Paul and Michael disagree with this, but an investor that can purchase a bond today,

knowing that it's going to get those bonds in 30 days as opposed to buying a bond where it knows it's not going to get it closing until 90 days, it's going to go with the rate that's good for 30 days. The bond that can close in 30 days. And, so, basically we would have to start this process over if you spread this process out over three different readings.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, I have a question. Mayor Copenhaver replied, just a minute, councilman. I'd like Mr. Purtee, if you would, please come forward, and I think Councilman Coleman, you did have an earlier question, and I'd like to get that answered for you, on the bonds itself, on the funding, that we'd already put those. Finance Director Steve Purtee said, I think I'll try to recall the question. It was regarding basically we're dedicating or appropriating \$1.1 million in franchise fee revenues to retire this bond. The question is, is how would we replace those? The other thing, I guess you'll see later in your finance or in your agenda this evening, we've got our April financials there for you. If you look on page three of that financial report, we're showing reserve balances of \$29.9 million. We're showing available reserves of \$20.3 million. Our \$1.1 million, that would be appropriated for this bond, would effectively reduce that reserve if we weren't able to replace it another way. So, we have other avenues available to us, relative to those expense streams that are supporting that. Simply, it's going into the general fund at this time.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, sure, thank you. That was a great answer. But I had another question, and I don't know if Steve or whoever can answer this. But, I don't know all the jargon, okay, so I'm not in all that, all right? I'm just a country boy. I'm thinking, we are at now. Is this vote to go with the bonds? And, that means we're going with these projects that were presented. Am I right? Okay. So one project in particular is the 911 Center. My question is, well, let me say this too, because you use, I'm a wordsmith too, Mayor, and use some words moral responsibility. And, I don't ever want to be questioned my moral responsibility in reasons why I make decisions or anything like that. And, so, to go there, I thought I was a little low, but I think we all understand that. But, let me say this. I don't quite understand how are we paying for a building to be built and we have not decided where it's going to be built. And so that's kind of confusing to me. I'm just trying to figure that out, because we have a committee that's supposed to be deciding where it's going to be built. And what if we can't. I'm just, hypothetically, devil's advocate, what if we can't decide, you know, within a year and we got, I think, three years to do these projects or whatever. So, help it make sense to me, this country guy, all right? We're paying for this project, but we hadn't decided. And, so, for me, when I'm asking this question, that's why I'm asking the procedural efforts because I'm thinking, okay, it'll give us at these three readings, at least give us time to figure out where we're going to put the building. And especially if we're trying to decide. And, so, help me understand.

Councilmember Chris Moore asked, Mr. Mayor, do you want me to speak to that? Mayor Copenhaver said, absolutely, councilman. Councilmember Moore said, Dr. Coleman, so, as you know, the mayor has appointed a committee of chairs from the council, and then he added myself to that committee. So, Mr. Emison called the first meeting, and we set some guidelines on that. And, I think the basic consensus of the committee is that we know which building and what the dimensions and what the cost of the building. The only item that we have to select is simply the location. It's not a question if we want to build a Police Department or an E-911 Center. It is simply are we're going to build it at A or are we going to build it at B? We've ruled out all other properties. I feel quite confident that we're going to make that decision, probably within the next two weeks or three weeks. We've got a list of professionals that are going to come and speak to our committee to help us make that decision. As soon as our committee can come to a consensus, we will bring it to the council. The

committee is only four people. We will bring it to the council, and the council can then hash it out, decide based on what we tell them, what the experts tell them, and what the council wants to make, a decision of. So, tonight's bond action is simply to acquire the money. By no means have we decided the location or the extent of the project. That will be forthcoming and it'll be forthcoming quickly. I don't know if that clears up.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said, well, I'm just going to make a comment, Mayor, if I may. I think it's something that's important to still remember is that each of these three projects still have to come before of us for approval before the money is spent. We're basically voting on let's proceed with the bond so that the projects can be funded instead of having to take, okay, we're going to spend, you know, \$500,000 this year and then a million next year, you know, out of the budget. We're basically borrowing that money now, so we did these projects done, and not have to piecemeal them year by year. So, just because we're saying, you know, we're voting on whether or not to approve the bonds doesn't mean that, you know, the administration has a blank check. You go, just do these three projects, with no more council input. They all have to come back to us for a approval before the money's actually spent on those projects.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman replied, I mean, I hear that, councilman, I do colleague, I hear that, but then I'm just thinking about we voted in September for them to and I'm just trying to understand, but we voted in September, for them to kind of get information and let us know what the bond and blah, blah, blah. And, then we literally skipped the Finance Committee to come before the full council. And, so, I don't know if I necessarily trust the process in that regard. I mean, why would we skip the Finance Committee when we and then y'all say that we have spoken and we talked about it and presented it. It was presented to Finance as a public or as a presentation. It was not an ordinance. It was a presentation. So, that was our first time hearing it. That was our first time receiving information. So, we didn't have time to really vet or even ask questions in that meeting. So, you know, and I know I've heard everyone say it. So, we don't have to repeat that. But, I don't particularly, I don't want to say I don't trust anybody, but I guess the process, you know, when we've circumvented Finance Committee, even for this, I question it.

Councilmember Hafner said, all I'll say is you show me any project that hasn't come before council that was required to before we voted on it? Councilmember McClain said, none of them were required to. No ordinance is required, according to our attorney. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, that is inaccurate. No ordinance is required to go to committee unless it is being walked on. They are all required to come to council. Councilmember McClain said, right, but not committee. Ms. Duncan replied, but also just as a point of clarification, Resolution 24:114 was approved by Finance Committee and council. So, there was legislation that was approved. It wasn't just a presentation. Legislation was approved by both Finance and City Council to move forward with the bond issue and putting it together.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman replied, wait a minute, resolution from when? Ms. Duncan said, it was Resolution 24:114. The final action was on September 17, 2024. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, right. Ms. Duncan continued, and it was a resolution of intent regarding capital improvements, authorizing and offering of capital improvement revenue bonds and prescribing other matters pertaining there to. So, there was actually adopted legislation. It wasn't simply a presentation. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman No, I was referring to this particular project. This ordinance did not come through finance. Ms. Duncan said, no. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, it was a presentation in finance, which was the first time we learned of it. So, it was not an ordinance. That was a resolution. And at that time, I

don't know if I asked, but I heard Chris or someone ask, I'm sorry, councilmember, Chris Moore asked, now, this is not saying that we are fulfilling the bond. This is just giving them an opportunity to question and get some more information. I remember that in September. We're talking about, I'm referring to this one. I'm referring to this that was presented to us a few weeks ago as a presentation, not an ordinance. And, if we don't have to come through finance or any other subcommittee, I personally, and this may be a personal opinion, but I don't know why I come to these subcommittees if we don't have to come to them. If we don't have to present it to these subcommittees or vet. That's just me.

Ms. Duncan stated, it's just not in your rules. I looked. Mr. McClain asked me to look. And I read through all of your rules again, and y'all haven't adopted that in your rules that makes that a requirement. You can, we can change the rules, but it's not there right now. Mayor Copenhagen said, you know, I think councilmen as we move forward this evening with the conversation, obviously, when it comes to the transparency of this, we have discussed this in over a year and a half. Some form of these projects, period. Everybody in this council and many in this room are well aware of the projects that have been ongoing for, and finally, the end result of the destination of what the ones we have been before us. The public hearings, I felt it necessary because just because finance, this is a public safety issue. This deals with every one of the city council members, not just that one committee, that a committee of the whole, it was important to call a meeting 30 days ago, for you all to be at the public forum, and we only had two that were absent. At that point in time, we made the presentation of known projects that were in front of you. We talked in more detail and responded to your request, which was to provide a timeline of each and every one of these projects. And, we have done so. We've been held accountable to your questions and to what you have asked us to do. This is important for our community.

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore, to suspend the rules and waive the second and third readings.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, I do have a statement to make again. Mayor, this is not a question of safety. It's not a question of safety. These are financial questions. That's it. So, to politicize this, I mean, I just think that's a little, to say that, you know, we have, were questioning safety. This is not a matter of safety. It's a matter of process and a matter of questions that we have regarding the finances. That's it. That's it. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you for your comments. We do have a motion on the floor. If you would, please cast your ballot, roll call, please. Mr. McClain? RESPONSE – No.; Mr. Hafner? RESPONSE – Yes.; Mr. Street? RESPONSE – Yes.; Ms. Porter? RESPONSE – Yes.; Mr. Moore? RESPONSE – Yes.; Dr. Anthony Coleman? RESPONSE – No.; Mr. Miller? RESPONSE – Yes.; Ms. Williams? RESPONSE – Yes.; Mr. Bryant? RESPONSE – No.; Mr. Gibson? RESPONSE – Yes.; Mr. Emison? RESPONSE – Yes.; Dr. Charles Coleman? RESPONSE – Yes. Mayor Copenhagen stated, that motion does carry 9-3.

Councilmember Joe Hafner motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to adopt with the numbers submitted by Bond Counsel. Mayor Copenhagen asked, is there anyone here in the public would like to make a comment? I don't see any. The Council voted electronically. ORD-25:021 was adopted by the following electronic vote: AYE - John Street, Kevin Miller, Joe Hafner, Chris Gibson, Ann Williams, Chris Moore, Dr. Charles Coleman, Brian Emison, Janice Porter; NAY - David McClain, Dr. Anthony Coleman, L.J. Bryant.

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

Aye: 9 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and Ann Williams

Nay: 3 - David McClain;Anthony Coleman and LJ Bryant

Enactment No: O-EN-018-2025

[ORD-25:022](#)

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-1 TO TC-O FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2800 & 2809 GREENSBORO ROAD

Attachments:

[Application](#)

[Certified Mail Receipts](#)

[Deed](#)

[Greensboro Road Letter](#)

[Notification Letter](#)

[Plat](#)

[Site Layout](#)

[Staff Summary](#)

[Publication Receipt](#)

[14106-SDP - UM-R3.pdf](#)

[24155-CSDP-1U.pdf](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Joe Hafner to suspend the rules and offer ORD-25:022 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[ORD-25:012](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO PLACE VARIOUS TRAFFIC SIGNS AT DESIGNATED LOCATIONS

Held at second reading

[ORD-25:015](#)

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

Held at second reading

[ORD-25:017](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE AND ABANDON AN ALLEY LOCATED IN BLOCK 3 OF KNIGHT'S FIRST ADDITION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

Attachments: [2025.04.28.ATT - abandonment.pdf](#)
 [2025.04.28.Release - Summit Utilities.pdf](#)
 [2025.04.28.response from Craighead Electric-Empower.pdf](#)
 [2025.05.02.let from Engineering Dept. .pdf](#)
 [2025.05.15.let from Ritter approving abandonment.pdf](#)
 [CWL 20250515 100615.pdf](#)
 [Gibson.pdf](#)
 [Petition to Abandon an Alley \(FUMCJ\).pdf](#)
 [Plat Depicting Alley.pdf](#)
 [2025.05.15.Optimum consent.pdf](#)
 [2025.05.15.CWL - UPDATED1.pdf](#)
 [2025.05.15.CWL - UPDATED2.pdf](#)

Held at second reading

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

ORD-25:016

AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING A DOWNTOWN JONESBORO ALTERNATIVE TRUCK ROUTE

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

Aye: 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Enactment No: O-EN-019-2025

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported on the following:

I would like to start and say, you know, I'm a die hard, ASU fan, and I recently was honored to help welcome Chris Pezman and his family to the City of Jonesboro. He's the new Vice- Chancellor for Intercollegiate Athletics. I hope you all will join me in being excited about the future of the Red Wolf Athletics under his leadership.

Please join me in congratulations, NEA Baptist on the new physicians recruitment process. The charitable endeavor will certainly help Jonesboro attract talented physicians. The endowment is made possible primarily by Chris Fowler who has donated \$5 million for this endeavor.

On the subject of health, our Animal Services Department is watching out for the health of our four legged friends by having another reduced fee, vaccination clinic, this Saturday. This event requires a pre-registration and guess what? It's already full. But ,I am mentioning that so we can remain aware of the need and response for our animal healthcare in Jonesboro. Rabies shots are required by law and other vaccinations help reduce the spread of deadly diseases.

The glass recycling project continues to grow. 44,000 pounds of glass is being transported this week to Little Rock for recycling and we do sell that glass. We don't make a lot on it, but at least it's some money that will be coming back and we can

utilize it going toward our landfills.

The lighting project on Creath is underway. It will not only increase safety, but also beauty. And, as we improve our community services, we have learned that aesthetics are also important to the quality of life and increases desire to live here.

Speaking of safety, the Police Department wants to remind all of us about doing some simplest things to fight crime. The easiest step is to lock our car doors. A vast majority of car break-ins are crimes of opportunity simply put. Prevent crime, lock your doors.

This is hot weather, and it's alluring our youngsters to the parks, accessibility projects are going on at Allen Park and are getting closer to having a splashpad at Allen Park complete. If the humidity and temperature continues to rise, we may have our next city council at the splashpad.

Speaking of youngsters, the Northeast Arkansas Children's Museum advocates held an informal meeting here in the chambers last month. It was a two hour drop-in event. It was very well attended and I want to commend those who are working to make the dream of this ambitious project come to life. There are some brochures about the NEA Children's Museum in our lobbies and Donna has some available as well, so please ask her for those.

The Mayor's Youth Council recently held a free coding class at Valley View High School. I attended and it was very interesting. I'm not aware of coding, but it's a different way of looking at things. And, these youth were very engaged for four days. It was a huge success and I want to say thank you to the students through the Mayor's Youth Council who ran the camp. And of course, they provided all the information. You would be proud of all these young people, for they have completed 1,178 volunteer service hours during last year's period in the Mayor's Youth Council.

Finally, I have to applaud all the city staff, volunteers, and committees who made last weekend so busy and fun in Jonesboro. Saturday morning started with the Juneteenth parade, which kicked off several days of celebration. There was a Dare Car show, a police motorcycle rodeo, and to top it off, the Clydesdales paraded all around town. I'm not sure how many people were in attendance. It was thousands of people, but it was easy to estimate that everybody really enjoyed showing up for these Giant Beauties. There was a purpose of it, though. The folds of honor awarded a \$10,000 scholarship to a young, Jonesboro woman, Ella Kate Harris. The folds of Honor gives scholarships to the children of servicemen and women who have died or been injured in service to our country.

And I might add, as well, Danny's here, I just want to say thank you again to the Parks and Recreation Department for having successful events on weekends as well. Sometimes we overlook that and we take that for granted, but when you have 80 teams coming in here to our community, that is multiplied sixfold by the number of individuals that stay here in our community. And I think our downtown community was very pleased with the attendance of the Clydesdales. I know our businesses responded in a big way. They were very pleased, but we couldn't do it unless you had the efforts of the city personnel and city leaders and directors and their teams making this a reality. So, again, it was my honor to meet many of the veterans that were on hand and they made that event very special.

[COM-25:019](#)

APRIL 2025 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Attachments: [April 2025 Financials.pdf](#)

Filed

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Chris Moore said, just a couple of things to note. I know the Mayor was there. I saw Ms. Malone Saturday. The crowd downtown on Saturday at the Clydesdales was unbelievable. It was more than the Christmas parade. I mean, it was packed all the way from East street up. I couldn't believe it myself. However we got Anheuser-Busch to send their horses to dry county is beyond me. But, I am going to tell you it was huge and it was well received. The other thing, I think, Mr. Shatley and A&P Commission, have a proposal that will be coming before the council in the next few weeks to consider changing Main Street to one wider lane, same direction, same traffic, everything would be the same, but to go along with the large truck ordinance will be to convert Main Street to one wide lane, one way. So, we'll be looking forward to that. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you for your comments. Councilmember Moore said, yes sir, thank you.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kelsey Smith, 219 South Church Street, said, I own a salon down here. I've heard multiple rumors about them taking the parking lot away, the lower one that's right across from my salon and I was wondering. I've called, I've emailed, I've sent a few things, and I have gotten no clarity on it. So, I'm just trying to see if you know anything. Mayor Copenhagen responded, I'll tell you what, give me a call on Thursday and then we'll set up that meeting with you. Ms. Smith said, okay, thank you. Mayor Copenhagen said, I'd be happy to. Ms. Smith said, one more while I am up here. I've also asked about crosswalks or a speed bump on Church Street. Mayor Copenhagen stated, and that's in the whole process. Ms. Smith asked, is it? Mayor Copenhagen replied, yes, ma'am. Ms. Smith said, okay. Mayor Copenhagen said, for all that to be. We will discuss that on Thursday. All right, thank you.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

_____ Date: _____

Harold Copenhaver, Mayor

Attest:

_____ Date: _____

April Leggett, City Clerk