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From: Patti Lack <pglack@suddenlink.net>

Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 2:39 PM

To: Joe Hafner <Joeforjonesboro@gmail.com>; Ann Williams <edgecoffeehouse@hotmail.com>; Charles Coleman <crcjab@sbcglobal.net>; David McClain <DMcClain@jonesboro.org>; John Street <jwstreet@sbcglobal.net>; Larry Bryant <LJ@ljbryant.com>; Council Comments <CouncilComments@jonesboro.org>

Cc: City Clerk <CityClerk@jonesboro.org>

Subject: Comments and Questions for the Finance and Administration meeting on April 28, 2020

Hi Joe Hafner,

I am writing you this email because I have a couple of comments and questions concerning 2 of the Resolutions that are on the agenda today at the Finance and Administration Meeting today April 28, 2020.

The resolutions that I have listed have comments and questions about is Resolution 20:049 and Resolution 20:051.

I hope you will address and read what I have written.

I. RESOLUTION 20:049. Authorizing the City of Jonesboro to amend the 2020 annual budget for the police department.

-First, why is there a need for the police department to rent space?

-The space to be rented is just over 2000 square feet, which is not very big. I would think that there would be some vacant rooms either at the Main Police building on Caraway, or at the police building on Washington or even in the City municipal building- especially if it is temporary.

-The contract that the police department will sign is for \$2750.00 per month. That's a lot of money for that little space.

-Several months ago, when the 2% sales tax was trying to be passed, all the citizens heard was that IF we DON'T pass this tax, we're going to have to lay off officers.

Where did the department all of a sudden have this extra money to pay rent on a small space?

When reading over the contract, if the police department wants out of the contract, there will be some stiff penalties.

-The police department and the citizens of Jonesboro will be paying \$33,000 just in rent for one year! That's about the amount of the salary of a new police officer- or pretty close.

*If this is because of one of the emergencies that we are dealing with today and the police department is going to get reimbursed, how much is the reimbursement and where is this money coming from? I would think that there would be a much cheaper place to rent here in Jonesboro.

2. RESOLUTION 20:051. For the City of Jonesboro to enter into an agreement with the Northeast Arkansas Industrial Development Commission for funding of Economic development services.

Looking at the contract that is attached, it appears that the City of Jonesboro will make one installment prior to 6/30/2020 for \$167,250.00

For economic services AND \$227,500.00 for Capital improvement related to industrial property.

If you add these both up you get \$394,750.00!

The comments that I would like to make is that \$394,750.00 is a lot of money especially when we heard last week at the City Council meeting that the City of Jonesboro will have a shortfall of \$12,000,000.00 to \$15,000,000.00 in the next couple of months.

I would think that we need to cut any unnecessary costs/projects right now and try to get back on track.

I believe that they City of Jonesboro gives Mark Young at the Chamber Office several \$100,000's of dollars to basically do the same thing that this commission(NEAIDC) is going to do. I know that I have questioned the projects that Chamber has produced. Also, I remember that they were late in giving their report last year.

This new commission doesn't have to give a report till next year.

I just don't know why we need both the Chamber and this new commission to do the same thing and especially having to pay double the price.

Please explain to me why we need this commission now, with our city's financial situation and why do we need 2 groups doing the same thing?

Thank you Joe for answering these questions. I'll be watching so keep that phone close! I've memorized the number- 336-7248

Patti Lack