



# City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center  
300 S. Church Street  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

## Meeting Minutes Finance & Administration Council Committee

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Tuesday, December 12, 2023

3:00 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

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**NOTE: TIME CHANGE TO 3:00 P.M.**

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

### 2. ROLL CALL (ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE) CONFIRMED BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

**Present** 7 - Joe Hafner; Charles Coleman; Ann Williams; John Street; David McClain; Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[MIN-23:114](#)

Minutes for the Finance and Administration Committee Meeting on Tuesday, November 28, 2023

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

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

**Aye:** 6 - Charles Coleman; Ann Williams; John Street; David McClain; Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

### 4. NEW BUSINESS

#### *RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED*

[RES-23:274](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO ACCEPT AN AWARD FROM THE FY2023 BODY-WORN CAMERA POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

**Attachments:** [Award for Body Worn Cameras \(BWC\) Grant 02640-BWCX](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 6 - Charles Coleman; Ann Williams; John Street; David McClain; Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

[RES-23:275](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO ACCEPT

AND ALLOCATE THE FY23 CONNECT & PROTECT GRANT

*Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, I do have a question, Chairman. On this particular grant, are we getting, because I know we are allocating it to Arisa according to this, are we getting any reports from them, that type of thing? I am asking because I know it speaks to what Dr. Charles Coleman and I were talking about in one of the meetings regarding other things, homelessness and all that. Chief of Police Rick Elliott approached the podium and said, so what we are actually getting is a person from Arisa to come on board with our CIT coordinator. So we will have, as part of our response team when we go out on these calls with people dealing with mental health crisis. Just this year alone since January, we have answered over 1100 calls that are CIT related or suicide related. This grant, it gives us a chance to hire a counselor person through Arisa working directly with the police department and helping work on this issue throughout the city. Most of my patrol officers are already CIT certified, but this gives us another layer to go respond to these calls; and this team can spend more time with this individual that is in need than, say, a particular patrol officer that is assigned to whatever. But it's getting that individual to whether they need to go to the crisis stabilization unit or behavioral health or wherever. It's getting these individuals to the resources they need and giving us a chance to work closely with Arisa Health in combating this problem. So it's a great tool for us; and for this kind of a grant that we received, we feel lucky.*

*Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, absolutely and I appreciate that. Thank you for clarifying that. So have they identified that person? Chief Elliott said, I can't put the cart before the horse. We have to have the approval of the funding and then this will be our next step is looking for who that individual is going to be that we will bring on to be associated with us. So we kind of got some things in place, but again, I have to let the final approval through Council be said and done before I can make any further steps. Chairman Joe Hafner said, right, and this may come up during our budget discussion too. It's one of the new positions budgeted for the police department next year. Chief Elliott said, it is. We've included this in the new upcoming budget, so again, this is a chance to get a person on board and the biggest part of it is being paid through grant money. But as far as any kind of reports on what we do, of course, we keep stats on everything. It will just be part of our ongoing statistics. Yes sir. Thank you.*

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 6 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

[RES-23:276](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 201 W. FORREST ST. JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144073-21900, OWNED BY VICKI GHANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,048.60

**Attachments:** [201 W Forrest](#)  
[201 W Forrest](#)  
[201 W Forrest Condemnation Letter](#)  
[201 W Forrest Limited Title Search](#)  
[201 W Forrest Notice of Violation Affidavit](#)  
[201 W Forrest Repair or Remove](#)  
[Council Letter](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 6 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

[RES-23:277](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO ARKANSAS GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE FY23 BUILDING RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITIES (BRIC) GRANT FROM THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA).

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 6 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

[RES-23:278](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 201 W. WOODROW, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144073-15500, OWNED BY JORGE GUERRA IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

**Attachments:** [201 W Woodrow](#)  
[201 W Woodrow](#)  
[201 W Woodrow](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Postponed Indefinitely . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 6 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

[RES-23:279](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 214 CEDAR, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144074-01900, OWNED BY WILBER DALE HEMMINGER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$295

**Attachments:** [214 Cedar](#)  
[214 Cedar](#)  
[214 Cedar](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 6 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

[RES-23:280](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 307 N. ALLIS, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144181-04900, OWNED BY LATONYA B. ANDERSON IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

**Attachments:** [307 N Allis](#)  
[307 N Allis](#)  
[307 N Allis](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter**

**be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 6 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

[RES-23:281](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 416 W. FORREST, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144073-28700, OWNED BY LENA KERSEY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$550

**Attachments:** [416 W Forrest](#)  
[416 W Forrest](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 6 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

[RES-23:282](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 500 WOODROW, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144073-18400, OWNED BY ANTHONY O. MGBODILE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$550

**Attachments:** [500 Woodrow\(2\)](#)  
[500 Woodrow](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 6 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

[RES-23:283](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 505 W. WOODROW, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144073-17500, OWNED BY THOMAS G. & LINDA BOBBITT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

**Attachments:** [505 W Woodrow](#)  
[505 W Woodrow\(2\)](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 6 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

[RES-23:284](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 602 S. FLINT, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144183-30200, OWNED BY D & G RENTALS, LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

**Attachments:** [602 S Flint](#)  
[602 S Flint](#)  
[602 S Flint](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter**

**be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 6 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

[RES-23:285](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 616 E. OAK, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144191-17500, OWNED BY JOYCE SCARBOROUGH IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

**Attachments:** [616 E Oak\(2\)](#)  
[616 E Oak](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 6 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

[RES-23:286](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 815 WITT ST. JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144192-36600, OWNED BY JAMES III & WOODROW WALKER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$740

**Attachments:** [815 Witt](#)  
[815 Witt](#)  
[815 Witt](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 6 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

[RES-23:287](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 816 HOOVER, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144181-14800, OWNED BY ROBERT WHITAKER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

**Attachments:** [816 Hoover](#)  
[816 Hoover](#)  
[815 Witt](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 6 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

[RES-23:288](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 912 E. HOPE, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144184-11600, OWNED BY DRELLA TAYLOR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

**Attachments:**    [912 E Hope](#)  
                              [912 E Hope](#)  
                              [912 E Hope](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 6 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

[RES-23:289](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 915 W. OAK, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-143241-13800, OWNED BY DEGRICK EVANS C/O EVANS DEGRICK, SR. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

**Attachments:**    [915 W Oak](#)  
                              [915 W Oak](#)  
                              [915 W Oak](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 6 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

[RES-23:290](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1104 PRATT CIRCLE, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144082-12300, OWNED BY CLAUDE MCDANIEL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

**Attachments:**    [1104 Pratt Circle](#)  
                              [1104 Pratt Cir](#)  
                              [1104 Pratt Circle](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 6 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

[RES-23:291](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1225 S. CULBERHOUSE, PARCEL 01-143241-17100, OWNED BY J&M FOSTER PROPERTIES, LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

**Attachments:**    [1225 S Culberhouse](#)  
                              [1225 S Culberhouse](#)  
                              [1225 S Culberhouse](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 6 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

[RES-23:292](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1313 PARDEW,

JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144212-20200, OWNED BY MICHELLE NUTT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$550

**Attachments:**     [1313 Pardew](#)  
                                  [1313 Pardew \(2\)](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 6 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

[RES-23:293](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1313 PARDEW, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144212-20200, OWNED BY MICHELLE NUTT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

**Attachments:**     [1313 Pardew](#)  
                                  [1313 Pardew\(2\)](#)  
                                  [1313 Pardew](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 6 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

[RES-23:294](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1506 PRATT CIRCLE, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144082-09900, OWNED BY JOSHUA JONES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

**Attachments:**     [1506 Pratt\(2\)](#)  
                                  [1506 Pratt Cir](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 6 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

[RES-23:295](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4304 RACE ST., JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144271-19900, OWNED BY CHARLES CRAIG CONYERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$550

**Attachments:**     [4304 Race\(2\)](#)  
                                  [4304 Race](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 6 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

[RES-23:296](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1617 RICH RD.,

JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-143252-25000, OWNED BY RANDOLPH & JUDITH A. REYNOLDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$550

**Attachments:**     [1617 Rich](#)  
                                 [1617 Rich\(2\)](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 6 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

[RES-23:297](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1617 RICH RD., JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-143252-25000, OWNED BY RANDOLPH & JUDITH A. REYNOLDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

**Attachments:**     [1617 Rich Affidavit](#)  
                                 [1617 Rich\(2\)](#)  
                                 [1617 Rich](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 6 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

[RES-23:299](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1702 W. NETTLETON, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-143242-00800, OWNED BY PAMELA MITCHELL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

**Attachments:**     [1702 W Nettleton](#)  
                                 [1702 W Nettleton](#)  
                                 [1702 W Nettleton](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 6 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

[RES-23:300](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1703 DARRICK CIRCLE, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144122-03200, OWNED BY JOE & MATTIE JANE SPENCE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

**Attachments:**     [1703 Darrick Circle](#)  
                                 [1703 Darrick](#)  
                                 [1703 Darrick Circle](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 6 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman



[RES-23:301](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1712 NATIONAL, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144223-18200, OWNED BY RODNEY CRANFORD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$550

**Attachments:** [1712 National\(2\)](#)  
[1712 National](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 6 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

[RES-23:302](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1817 SCENIC RD, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-143252-26600, OWNED BY CHRISTOPHER B. & AUTUMN N. CRAFT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$315

**Attachments:** [1817 Scenic\(2\)](#)  
[1817 Scenic](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 6 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

[RES-23:303](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2210 MARY JANE, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144272-25300, OWNED BY FRANCISCO TRUJILLO IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500

**Attachments:** [2210 Mary Jane](#)  
[2210 Mary Jane](#)  
[2210 Mary Jane](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 6 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

[RES-23:304](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2612 CRAWFORD DR., JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144273-02300, OWNED BY RANDY & ALEY CRAWFORD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

**Attachments:** [2612 Crawford\(2\)](#)  
[2612 Crawford](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 6 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

[RES-23:305](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3406 MEADOR, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144281-35600, OWNED BY HAZEL WATSON IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

**Attachments:** [3406 Meador\(2\)](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 6 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

[RES-23:306](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3507 ODEN, JONESBORO, AR 72405, PARCEL 01-144103-13000, OWNED BY STEPHANIE L. & JACOB MIZELL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$365

**Attachments:** [3507 Oden](#)  
[3507 Oden](#)  
[3507 Oden](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 6 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

[RES-23:307](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3806 SCHOOL ST., JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144272-16500, OWNED BY OLGA HERNANDEZ IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

**Attachments:** [3806 School\(2\)](#)  
[3806 School](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 6 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

[RES-23:308](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4605 GREGORY COVE, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144113-02600, OWNED BY WARREN LAND CO., LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

**Attachments:** [4605 Gregory Cv](#)  
[4605 Gregory Cv](#)  
[4605 Gregory Cv](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 6 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

[RES-23:309](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5411 SOUTHWEST DRIVE, JONESBORO, AR 72404, PARCEL 01-133023-02200, OWNED BY RISHANA ENTERPRISES, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$315

**Attachments:** [5411 Southwest](#)  
[5411 Southwest](#)  
[5411 Southwest](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 6 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

[RES-23:310](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5425 SUMMER PLACE, JONESBORO, AR 72404, PARCEL 01-134043-06500, OWNED BY JASON E. JACKSON IN THE AMOUNT OF \$335

**Attachments:** [5425 Summer Pl](#)  
[5425 Summer Pl](#)  
[5425 Summer Pl](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 6 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

[RES-23:311](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT PARCEL NUMBER 01-144151-19400 ON GABRIEL COURT, JONESBORO, AR 72405, OWNED BY EB INFINITY GROUP, LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$365

**Attachments:** [Gabriel Court](#)  
[01-144151-19400 on Gabriel Court](#)  
[01-144151-19400 on Gabriel Court](#)

*Councilmember Brian Emison said, Mr. Chair, the only comment that I do have is to Code Enforcement and to Director Roper's efforts today. I think we've looked at nine pages here; and it's this thin line that keeps Jonesboro from being a blighted community. So great job and merry Christmas to all the staff over in Code Enforcement. Chairman Joe Hafner said, any other comments? Thank you for that, Mr. Emison.*

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 6 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

## **5. PENDING ITEMS**

## **6. OTHER BUSINESS**

[COM-23:064](#)

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE 2024 BUDGET

**Attachments:** [2024 Budget](#)  
[PowerPoint Presentation on Budget by Steve Purtee 12122023](#)

*Chairman Joe Hafner said, the next item is COM-23:064, presentation and discussion of the 2024 budget. Just to reiterate, we will not be taking any action today. This is merely a question and answer period to discuss anything on the budget that staff and committee members and the mayor and his team want to point out. So, Mayor, I will turn the floor over to you.*

*Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, thank you, Mr. Chair and committee members. I appreciate your presence this afternoon. As we move forward into another budget cycle, we've had many variances this year and challenges. This budget reiterates that. So I want to first of all commend the work that Steve and his entire team, Christy, and others in the finance department. Many late night hours, weekends, and it's much appreciated for what you do for our community. It's not said enough, just like Mr. Roper's team putting together over 200 and some odd liens, and this is what we are designed to do. So, Council, what I would like to go ahead and say to this committee is that, and I am not going to read you my entire letter. I will do that later on. But this encompasses our investments, the expenses, the revenues and personal details that compose the 2024 city budget. You have that in your booklet in front of you. A significant answer has been expended by many of our employees to help develop the budget that not only encompasses current operations, but provides a footing to support future operations as well. Many directors, obviously every director was involved in this process as well, and their input on the direction that they felt necessary for the next year moving forward. So I would like to go ahead and invite Steve up. And I believe you all have a packet that Mr. Purtee passed out to you. If it's okay with you, Mr. Chairman, I think Steve would like to go ahead and begin his presentation with that packet.*

*Director of Finance Steve Purtee approached the podium and said, I will assure you that I don't have a resolution by the city council of the city of Jonesboro to place a municipal lien anywhere. You will not see that information in this budget document. We do ask ourselves all of this work that Roper and his team are doing. We don't see it translate to revenue, but I guess that therein is the reason for the municipal lien. But we appreciate the opportunity to visit before you today. You know, we always approach the budgeting process as an ongoing process. It's not something that we do at the end of a calendar year. It's not something that we do in one emphasis. It is an ongoing process. There are countless hours that are applied to this as you very well know, countless hours by our staff, and my special thanks to Christy. I think she has slipped out to do something else. She just works tirelessly on this process, and I really appreciate her efforts on that. Also to our directors, they obviously have a very integral part in this process as well through all of their approach and the detailness that they bring to us. It really formulates into a very good project relative to this. I will admit every one of them are good stewards of the taxpayers' money, and we appreciate that. To our administration, again, the countless hours and the oversight and the input that they provide to this process as well. Mayor, thank you to you and your team relative to that as well.*

*What I would like to do is just simply kind of get into the process here. What we'd like to do is just kind of go through the key information to the budget. In this document, you will see \$86 million in total appropriation. \$73 million of that constitutes our O&M*

expenditure. Obviously, as you know, there are two key components of a budget, relative to a city anyway. That is revenues and expenses. You will see in this document that we are taking what we would consider to be a conservative approach to revenue placement. While we would like to approach this in a more expedient manner, we find ourselves compelled to really claw back and look at the data. So in this, you will see a 1.2% increase over the 2023 budget projection relative to sales tax, revenues. That is going to translate to about a 4.8% collection rate, comparing previous year to this current year. And we are projecting that is going to be about a 3% budget increase as well in those categories. If you will recall, we projected this about over 6% last year, and so we are pulling that back a little bit. Some other key things that you will notice in here relative to the operations, there is a key in placement of employees to ensure quality customer service and protection of our citizens. Through your previous actions, and again, we really appreciate the fact that we have already done several items relative to what this budget consists of, and that is taking care of our public safety, first responders, your actions back in September relative to our police department, and then recently with our fire department. Once you take those components out, they are in this budget. They were even before we began the budgeting process, if you will. But there are in addition to other items within here, there are twelve uniform firefighter personnel, that increase there. So Chief Hamrick will have that opportunity as well. There are 13 non-uniformed employee headcount increase to serve our community. There are three position regrades and four personnel from evaluation of various skillset. This information is in your binder as well. It may be in your front pocket there.

In addition to this, through this analysis that we conducted, that was the very last piece of the budgeting process was going through all of the personnel requests. I am glad to say that we only saw a need to defer 13 additional headcount for a further evaluation. And we feel that our COLA, our cost of living adjustment, will take care of a lion's share of those requests as well, and you will see the details of that peppered through here as well. Regarding our pay adjustments, as we just mentioned, September you appropriated 19.5% increase in salaries for our police personnel. We are proud to say that minimum salary went from \$43,260 to \$52,000. I heard a report on the radio just this morning where Chief Elliott was commenting about how that fully staffed his department. So that is a great win for all of us. In addition to that, in December we approved a 7% overall increase in salaries for our fire department uniformed personnel. So you can see that minimum salary there. It is \$43,260 and went up to \$46,308. In addition to that, this budget specifically addresses the non-uniformed as well. As we have indicated already, we are anticipating a 6% salary increase. We are going to see our minimum salary go up to a rate per hour of \$15.01, and that would be our lowest grade 107 worker. So we are pleased with how that is going to place us in the community as well.

The next page, we just try to do an overview of all the various appropriation that is included in the budget. There are basically four primary categories. Here, one is our infrastructure improvement. You can see the detail here that we have \$4.5 million in appropriation. \$1.9 million of that is for parks and the master plan improvements. And then a million dollars each for miscellaneous street and sidewalk improvement and as well as a pavement management program or asphalt overlay, as we commonly refer to that. And then finally, there is about a little over half a million dollars in devoted funding for our industrial rail maintenance program, as well as our economic development activities. The other two carat categories relative to what you see on the summary page of the budget are a capital improvement fund and the depreciation fund, and identifying those appropriations for 2023. In that capital improvement fund schedule, you will see that on page 12a in your binders if you want to look at that a little bit later. That report includes \$22.4 million in total appropriation that we've done over the course of years

*relative to capital improvement projects. Nearly \$13 million of that was appropriated in 2023 through your budgeting and additional appropriation efforts, contract approvals, etc. And then finally, there is \$5.2 million in that fund remaining for appropriation, or for contracting for purchase order issuance and those types of things. You will see that probably the lion's share of that comes from our University Heights Trail program. It's a little over \$2 million in this fund relative to that. So you will see a lot of detail in there, and I encourage you to ask us questions after the fact even relative to that schedule. We think it's a good schedule. It gives us a nice roadmap of getting some of those projects fully funded, if you will.*

*The next thing, our depreciation fund as we've done for the last three budget cycles. This is \$3.3 million that we are appropriating for purchases, for fleet upgrades, fleet improvement, and those types of assets. You see here our fire department has a \$900,000 new fire engine that City Water & Light graciously assists us with a half of a million dollar reimbursement. Then additionally, a significant item in this particular fund is a \$1.2 million upgrade of our critical street maintenance equipment. Steve Tippitt has some pretty big equipment out there that we are dependent on and rely on, and some of that is needing to be addressed relative to upgrading and getting that back into the shape that it needs to be.*

*The final category on here is just simply one slot. We will hold a \$17.5 million bond issuance for revenue bond for capital improvement planning. You will see in this document that we still restrict \$1.3 million in franchise fee revenues relative to that simply as a placeholder. In the event that we decided we would not issue the bond, then that would probably be the first category that we would look at relative to re-analyzing first and second quarter activities relative to what other changes need to occur, what other considerations need to be made relative to requests.*

*Chairman Joe Hafner said, hey Steve, can I make a comment here just for clarification? So the biggest difference between the original budget we received, the working budget, and this budget is that some of the items that we talked about at the last Finance meeting (the \$5 million in reserves, the \$8 million in appropriations) some of that stuff was in the original budget, but it's not in this budget. But as we continue to work through that process and re-analyze what that money could go towards and have more discussions, at that time if there is a vote to approve that plan, we will just basically do a budget amendment and add that stuff back in, correct? But none of that stuff is in this budget.*

*Mr. Purtee said, that is an excellent point, Joe, and thank you for bringing that up. Yes, this budget, we gleaned out that resolution that failed, which included the \$5 million reserve allotment, as well as the \$8 million ARPA appropriation. That is resolution action. It can come back up at any point in time. Again, those are already dedicated funds, so they don't really relate to the general fund budget; but yes, they can be considered later, as well as the bond program can be considered. It is two separate devices, two separate animals if you will relative to how we would embark on capital improvements.*

*This reserve analysis kind of talks about some of the detail that we were referring to, and that is where our reserve position would be otherwise after this budget. You can see up here we start with \$36.3 million in O&M, and that is a combination of general fund and street fund. And then we are appropriating that \$5.2 million for the capital improvement carryover, \$3.3 million for the equipment depreciation fund. So that is going to give us a beginning balance of \$27.8 million in reserves. Obviously you can see the projection of revenues, expenses, the budgeted capital expenditures. All of*

that produces a budgeted O&M surplus of \$14,172. Again, the snapshot is, is if at the end of the year, we exactly meet our budget targets, then we will see our ending O&M fund balance increase by this \$14,172. So we would end with \$27,839,355 relative to a combined general and street fund reserve. What we always remind ourselves of is relative to our reserve requirement. Reserve requirements are for our function of the general fund only, not the street fund. Street funds are dedicated funding. But relative to the required reserves, it's 15% of current budgeted general expenditures. And on this report, you will notice that general expenditures are the expenses of the general fund as well as the capital improvements of the general fund. That is the calculation of the \$9,481,549 in that reserve requirement. Our general fund will have a balance of \$27,058,015 at the end of this budget cycle. So you subtract that \$9.5 million. That gives us about \$17.5 million in unappropriated reserves. The Municipal League as well as the Government of Finance officials, they all recommend a one to two month run rate, if you will, of your operations. Our operations are about \$5.3 million per month. So we would have about 3.3 months to sustain ourselves based on our unappropriated general fund balance.

Chairman Joe Hafner said, hey Steve. Just for clarification there, so they recommend that above what you are required to have reserved? Mr. Purtee said, ask me that one more time. Chairman Joe Hafner said, so you said that AML recommends 1.5 months? Mr. Purtee said, the AML and the Government of Finance officials recommend one to two months. Chairman Joe Hafner said, right, but that's above your required reserves? Mr. Purtee said, your required reserves would support you for that one to two month period. Chairman Joe Hafner said, that 3.3 months is based upon the \$17 million though, right? Mr. Purtee said, here is the way I look at that. Where they recommend one to two months, we have the ability to sustain ourselves for 3.3 months without any revenues. It's strictly through our required reserves through the \$17,576,000 fund. Correct. I think I just butchered that, but yes. Councilmember David McClain said, not in addition to. Chairman Joe Hafner said, well, because the \$9.5 million part of that is supposed to cover you in that event too, right? Mr. Purtee said, yes. Chairman Joe Hafner said, so we don't have 3.3 months. We have five months. Mr. Purtee said, through ordinance, we have legislated ourselves to have 15% on hand. Chairman Joe Hafner said, right, but that is to help in case we don't get any revenue. I'm saying that I think you did the 3.3 based on our unappropriated. Mr. Purtee said, you could do it either as a function of the \$27 million or the \$17 million; but you would have to have legislation to pull back the required reserve. Chairman Joe Hafner said, if a tornado or something happened, I think we would have the legislation to do that. Mr. Purtee said, that is a lot of assumption, but yes, you are correct.

O&M revenues, again, we just kind of lay out the detail here. You can see the various categories. Later we will talk about the miscellaneous revenue increase. We will also see about the franchise fee revenue decrease. Again, we have already spoken about that, that it represents the event of issuing a revenue bond if that is the approved decision. So all in all, our budget over budget increase is about \$700,000 relative to our revenues. Again, if you see any detail up there that you'd like to visit about later, we will be glad to help you with that. On the category revenues, just an overview of that, you can see again the sales tax is the primary provider of those revenues. We are projecting again at 3.1% over '23 actuals or projection. In addition to this, we are projecting we will end the year about 2% below our 2023 budget. So again that just kind of shows the pressure that we have felt on sales tax collections relative to how those are portioned. The state turnback combined is another one of those that has had a little bit of pressure this year. We are projecting that we are going to come in about \$700,000 below target. In that category, we are projecting a very modest increase of 1.3%; and primarily the reason for that is, if you study these things as

*often as we do, you'll know that legislation passed this past year to make permanent the state highway 0.5% tax. So that is now a portion through the general revenues of the state, and it's not specific to that state highway program.*

*Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, Steve, if you don't mind would you explain the turnback again? You've mentioned it already, but kind of give a little bit more clarification. What the state turned back, where the funds come from, and then how we receive them. Mr. Purtee said, yes, the state turnback is funding of fuel sales around the state as well as natural gas sales, and those types of things. They are apportioned back through legislation by the state back to the cities based on census data. So again, whatever your proportionate share of the census is, you will get that apportionment as well. Because we do receive state turnback, we are required to have a street fund, which we do. And again, that is just kind of the basics of the accounting as well. As I was referring to legislation pass, I believe it is Amendment 100 or something like that that passed relative to where the original one-half cent sales tax had a sunset clause, it has been made permanent through that legislation. So that was voted on a couple of years ago by the taxpayers to in fact do that. It again provides funding for ARDOT as well. And it makes more permanent the apportionment back to the city as well. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, Steve, if I might add, and correct me if I am wrong, but on this last year when we projected, we were going with what we had seen in previous years on the increases that had come in. And this year, that projection basically stayed the same almost intact with the year before. So we have adjusted that in this year's budget then to basically stay the same. So our anticipation in that category is not so much of an increase. Mr. Purtee said, exactly. The increase is just a little over a hundred thousand in that total category.*

*Finance Director Steve Purtee said, the franchise fees are on the opposite side of this page. You can see those there. Basically a combined budget of \$1,716,000 relative to that. Our actual receipts for '23 are projected to be exactly at \$1.7 million. So we are just simply budgeting those revenues as well. And again, we just simply identify that we would set aside \$1,342,000 of those revenues for a future revenue bond if that were the position we concluded. Our other O&M, again, these are a couple of the items I just wanted to point out here. That million dollar increase on the previous page translates into this area here. We appreciate that the A&P is supporting us with our Joe Mack Campbell turf project. And through that sponsorship, we will in effect get the first two years of that sponsorship in this particular budget cycle. That is \$953,000. That \$1,223,000, the remaining of that will be contributed to us in 2025, so you will see a similar budget of about \$300,000 in that category there. That funding, as our A&P commission member could share with us, that funding is specific to the 1% hotel/motel tax that is dedicated for parks, activities. My understanding is if you have over a thousand acres of parks, then you are at an opportunity to be able to do that; and that is exactly what our commission did at the beginning of 2022. That amasses about \$300,000 a little over each year; so effectively at the end of this budget cycle, we will have three years of that available to assist us with this sponsorship.*

*In addition to that, we are seeing an increase in SRO reimbursement. Again, our public schools reimburse the city 100% of the personnel costs and benefits relative to our SRO officers. It does not cover vehicles, equipment, those types of things; but personnel costs it does. And that is \$225,000. We are seeing an increase in that as well. As we've talked about before, we are in a very attractive window for earning interest with today's rates, and we are projecting our interest receipts will go up about \$437,000. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, Steve, if I may, I will go back to the miscellaneous SRO reimbursement. We are seeing an increased request there from our schools not only in personnel, but Council keep in mind that any of those SRO*



officers will be utilized at the school and they are not in our daily on the streets activity. So they are utilized in the school, and we are continually working. We've got updated contracts coming up to be reassessed on how we evaluate the capability of us being able to have access to some of our staffing during the summer months so we are not having to spend as much overtime. But they are being utilized so much during the school year that they created additional overtime to where unfortunately we don't have their services in the summer. So this is a continual conversation that we're having with all the public schools. Some have engaged more in additional staff that they are providing themselves, and two have initiated additional technology such as walkthrough systems in their schools that they can move and things like that, so we don't have to supply as many officers for that facility. But number one we want safety for our schools, bar none. And that is a cost that I believe that we should all invest in for our youth and our students in the community. So those are continual conversations, but we will keep you updated as well as we continue to have those.

Councilmember David McClain said, Mr. Chairman, I had a quick question. Two questions, Steve, in regards to franchise fees. One, if we had a projection on those for the next three to five, or five to seven years. I'm not asking for that now, but maybe via email, if you don't mind to send me what that looks like for us. Mr. Purtee said, we can send that. In fact, that is exactly what we provided to the rating agency and the bond paperwork relative to issuing that bond. It's a five-year historical trend of those. Councilmember David McClain said, okay. And then also on the interest on the deposits. What interest percentage do you think? Again, you can send me that via email, interest that we are receiving on our deposits. Mr. Purtee said, current interest rate is 4.05%. Councilmember David McClain said, got it. Okay. Mr. Purtee said, we are projecting that it could go up to 4.25, 4.20, something like that on our current balances. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, now also, Steve, clarify that that is all deposits. Mr. Purtee said, and again, this \$437,000 only represents our general fund and our street fund. The A&P commission has a \$5 million balance and they are earning that same rate of interest.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, question, Mr. Chairman, if you don't mind. I didn't know we were asking questions now, but I did have one general question as it relates to the taxes themselves. So, clarify. You said that projections this year were lower than what we assumed last year, correct? Sales tax. Mr. Purtee said, ask your question again. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, the projection that we had last year for this budget is down, is that what I heard you say? For sales tax? Mr. Purtee said, our current results for 23's budget are off about 2%. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, down, right? Mr. Purtee said, correct. Dr. Anthony Coleman said, okay, great. But then you are projecting a 3% increase from this year for 2024, is that correct? Mr. Purtee said, sorry, compared to budget, we were down 2%. We are up 5% compared to the previous year. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, so your 3.1% is over the projected budget for '23. Mr. Purtee said, that's over the actual of '23.

Councilmember Brian Emison said, Steve, if you don't mind, just a question. Going back to the interest rates on deposits that we were speaking about; and of course I think we will know a little bit better tomorrow after Powell takes the stand. But it's seeming like I would just urge some caution in that number, that 437 extra on that. It looks like the Fed dot plot and some of the, of course, inflation numbers that we've seen here recently as of this week and last week, looks like the Fed is talking about reducing interest rates and probably doing two cuts in 2024. So I know there is a little bit of meat left on the bone between 4% and the current overnight Fed borrowings at 565 that is currently out there; but I'm a little hesitant to put that. Unless it was going into reserves, I would hate for that 437 to go to cash flow if that makes sense.

Mr. Purtee said, yes, that does make sense; and we kind of had the inverse of this in this current budget cycle. We projected about a 2% rate of return, and we ended up nearly at 4%. And those funds go into the reserve, and likewise if we were off that target, that would be a function of our \$17.5 million reserve balance as well. And you are correct that that is another one of those first and second quarter challenges to look at revenue streams to see how they are flowing and make sure that we recognize and adapt to those as best as we can. Councilmember Brian Emison said, sure, and will applaud your efforts and also our banking relationship that we currently have. Everybody that drives around town can clearly see 5% interest rates being offered quite a bit of everywhere, but that is different when it comes to public funds and having to collateralize things of that nature. So 4.05 the way it stands today is a very aggressive rate for these types of funds that we are dealing with. But hats off to you and also the banking relationship that we do currently have. Mr. Purtee said, yes, we appreciate you confirming that for us.

Mr. Purtee said, alright, let me finish up this page here. This is just getting into our expenditures side of the house. You can see that there are basically five primary categories here: Personnel, Operations, Fixed Assets, Outside Agencies, and Mosquito Control. Historically, we just kind of look at each of these in their context here. You can see that previous year we were \$60.4 million in budgeted. We are projecting that to be \$68.2 million in this budget cycle. Obviously you see the lion's share of that relative to personnel costs and how those have trended up. And we've already spoken about those various actions that we have had. This is again categorized by classification or grouping by departments if you will. You can see that, of that \$7.8 million the lion's share of that or 50% of that relative to our law enforcement and fire protection. And then you can see those in there. Again, we are still sustaining our highways and streets with basically a \$1 million increase relative to those miscellaneous street projects that go on in those categories as well. I don't really see anything else in here. If you have any questions, I will try to answer those.

Chairman Joe Hafner said, I'll just make a comment. On the mosquito control, the 460 is the contracted rate; and I am sure if the work that ASU and Vector, whoever else is doing it, if they came up with some good ideas, we would definitely look at them. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, as a matter of fact, I anticipated that question. With the entomologist, in our conversation with ASU at the beginning, the first quarter of the year, they are going to bring back studies and recommendations on what they feel are ways that we need to possibly move forward with Vector and their partnership. So we should have a presentation in Council for Arkansas State University on this to see what adjustments we could possibly make. Chairman Joe Hafner said, thank you. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, I have a question about that too. In saying that, do we know what the county is providing too for mosquito control? Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, I had that conversation with Marvin. I don't think it's anything. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, really? I just ask because Jonesboro is small in comparison to Craighead; and then obviously if we're doing our part, we need Craighead to do their part. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, and the majority of the mosquitoes are coming from... Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, right. Okay.

Mr. Purtee said, with this particular chart here, we are really just trying to identify those what we would consider to be significant increases in expenditures. You can see the various categories here. We've just kind of gone through and tried to identify those that were relative to significant events in this particular budget compared to the previous. I'll be glad to answer any questions after the fact relative to those. Our directors can

*probably assist in that as well in a subsequent work session as well if you are able to develop some questions.*

*Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, yes, Council, I would say that we focused really on three main areas in this budget; and as you can see here, obviously Public Safety is a considerable increase. We continue to make those improvements and that will help with quality of place initiatives like the Parks and Recreation and then also our priority of the employees. Those are the three main categories addressing in this budget. Mr. Purtee said, regarding our employees, salary enhancements, again just some of the key components in this budget. There is a 4% cost of living adjustment for all full-time, non-uniform positions. We will advance their 2024 step, which is considered to be a 2% increase at the beginning of the year versus it being coordinated with that particular employee's seniority date. They receive the maximum of their 2024 increase right at the beginning of the year and have that available all year long rather than being stair stepped in based on a seniority date. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, Council, that was also what we did. We initiated that process last year in January, and so that's no change from that process. So individuals will be receiving their full pay increase in January. That way, they don't have to wait for their 2%, their four, whatever the case may be throughout the year. So that way they can budget for their family throughout the year. This is a very common sense approach, so we are asking for that again this year.*

*Councilmember David McClain said, question. Looking at it, it says 4% COLA for all full-time, non-uniformed positions, and then a 6% COLA for all full-time positions not eligible for step increases. Can you explain that? Break that down for me. Give me an example of a non-uniform position versus a full-time position not eligible for a step increase. What is the difference? Mr. Purtee said, we have probably 30+ employees that have maxed out in the step program. Councilmember David McClain said, you would give them a 6% since they have already maxed out. Mr. Purtee said, correct. They don't have the opportunity for a step. They don't participate in the step program. So all full-time employees in that category will get a 6% COLA.*

*Mr. Purtee said, the last item in this chart is just simply our longevity pay program. You can see the different details there. We have 97 employees who are eligible for this, and they will score this relative to that particular grid where they land on their years of service. As far as personnel consideration, what we like to do is look at it as to how it will impact our headcount. Our current headcount is about 610 roughly. So we are projecting that, all told, this is going to be 13 increase in non-uniformed headcount and then 12 in uniformed or firefighter headcount relative to that. You can see the various positions here. Again, the chart that you have in your binder lays this out relative to the job grade, how those are scoring. I think we have color coded that. Anything in red is changing, so you can spend some time looking through that as well. Then we will be able to address any specific questions you have relative to this. You'll kind of see that we have categorized this into new positions. There are nine that are relative to new headcount. But at the bottom here, there are two positions that are just simply new titles in our system, but the personnel are currently in roles otherwise relative to their respective activities and job grades currently. Existing positions, we have four that in theory this is what I call additional budget. The positions already exist. We are just budgeting for personnel relative to this; and again our firefighters, those 12 positions are new personnel, new budget as well.*

*Chairman Joe Hafner said, Steve, just for my education, on these new positions, the non-uniformed positions, do we have job descriptions on those that could be sent to us just so we know what their duties are? Mr. Purtee said, sure, if you want to get into*

that. Chairman Joe Hafner said, well, I was just wondering in case someone says 'hey, Joe, what's the Construction Outreach Coordinator doing?' I just don't want to say 'I don't know.' I would rather be able to give them an educated answer. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, we are going to provide you. So all these requests obviously came from the directors and then what we have seen in administration throughout the year, our additional needs in each department. Now, mind you, there were a lot more requests than what we're asking for as they shake their heads. But the Construction Outreach Coordinator, basically that is a position that is new that what we feel is like an outpatient service coordinator. If you go to the hospital, they would help you through the process. They manage you through a building process, making sure that we are providing you everything that you need. But again, yes, we will provide you all that with Dewayne. We can get all of that. Chairman Joe Hafner said, yes, I am not questioning the need like it's a legitimate request. I just want to be able to know what they do in case I get asked, 'hey, what is this person doing?' I don't want to say, I don't know. Thank you.

Councilmember David McClain said, I guess in that same vein with the positions, we've got an overview of revisions for the different positions, like that 14 different positions that are on this document. Are they the same thing, or did we just reclassify them, because it looks like you've got communications has the lion's share of positions? You've got marketing and community outreach. You've got social media specialist, digital media specialist, and then there is also a marketing coordinator for JETS. So I'm just trying to make sure, is that all the same thing or are we just reclassifying people? Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, so what you have in your communications, let's look at the top two. Those are current employees and they have been regraded, so it's not a new position. Councilmember David McClain said, that is what I am asking. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, that's right. So their current employees have been regraded. The new employees, the marketing community outreach coordinator, and that individual will be at a 112. So that is the new position only in that department, not three new positions. Councilmember David McClain said, got it. That is what I am asking. Thank you.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, my only question is, on the sheet it shows 11 new positions and then on this one, it says nine. Chairman Joe Hafner said, is it nine here and two here is the 11? Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, I'm saying this one. I'm sorry. On this one, it says 11 new positions, and then on your PowerPoint, it has nine. And then on the other one, you said that isn't necessarily a new position, but you already have it. But it's a new code. Now you're including that? Mr. Purtee said, the nine, if you will. It's the nine up top and the two at the bottom. Does that answer your question? Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, absolutely. It's just different jargon. I got it.

Mr. Purtee said, well, I'll just wrap up. You know, when you look through all the detail in here, you could probably discern just some various goals that are relative to this; and we just try to enumerate those on this last grid here. Basically, our challenge is to provide greater opportunity for our customer service in our community. We want to invest in our employees, of course and we illustrated that through recent actions that you all helped us approve. It goes without saying our commitment to infrastructure, our public safety initiatives, quality of place relative to all of the projects we have going on, we always want to be mindful of salary alignment. Those are some things that historically, when the step plan was adopted, that was ignored for a number of years. But for the last few years we have specifically addressed that. And I believe that providing us a great footwork and foundation to move forward and not have such significant changes. Obviously, we can't control the competitive market, but we can

*address the internal aspect of it as well. The two remaining things here, I think these are just real good programs for us to identify reserve funds that can either be apportioned for depreciation fund, upgrading our fleet in both Safety and in white fleet, as we call it. But then also, our capital improvement carryover fund, this is just a great tool to kind of see the snapshot of where we are. \$22.5 million in projects. We narrowed that down to about \$5 million remaining in the work that has gone on there. So we just hope that those are going to become tools that we can use in an ongoing environment to assist in our assessment. That's all I have, Mayor, unless you have some questions.*

*Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, so great job. And Council, please. Again, this is an open forum for any questions; and obviously it's still yet to come before your committee again. And so we please request that if you have any questions, anything you would like additional information on, that is what we are here for, whether it is email, conversation, pick up the phone, whatever. All the staff is readily available. So I appreciate your time and your questions.*

*Chairman Joe Hafner said, are there any questions from the committee today that anybody would like to ask? Janice or anybody? I will say, I kind of mentioned this earlier. As we get into early next year, I think it's important to continue discussions that we've had regarding the capital improvement plan and the bonding issues and everything like that. I know that took a step backwards at the last meeting we had, but I still think it's a great approach and that it just needs to be discussed more. And I want to see that come to fruition next year. So hopefully we can keep that moving forward. Anybody have any questions, comments?*

*Councilmember David McClain said, I have another question, Mr. Chairman. In the parks section, I noticed that it had a \$1.5 million for the park plan. Are we saying that we will get the plan back and we are allocating \$1.5 million to build whatever facilities or projects, parks, etc. with that \$1.5 million? Is that the plan behind that? Chief Administrative Officer Brian Richardson approached the podium and said, well, one of the things that was kind of discussed during the capital improvement project list was that we are going to be getting this master parks plan and we don't know exactly what is in it. We have a good idea of some of the recommendations; but if you're going to get it, why not just set some money aside to help implement it? So I envision some of that being some of the park projects that we've talked about are going to be recommended. Some additional personnel may be recommended. I think it's just important, as we've all kind of discussed, at some point if you're going to implement a plan, you've got to start setting money aside to actually help do it. Otherwise, it's just another plan. I think that we all collectively share the thought that we needed to do more plan fulfillment than where we have plans available that the Council has been supporting one way or another over the years. So this would be just kind of setting some funding there for projects that even without a master parks plan would potentially even be on the radar anyway. We know where some of our deficits are, but it's time we start setting aside some funding to help make some of those reality. I know that was a priority of the mayor and Steve's as they were working this was to, when we get this plan, we want to have some funding available to bring specific projects back to Council for approval.*

*Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, thank you, Mayor and Steve. I appreciate the goals on the end; and one thing that will help me is, you did that for a few things, what I'm about to ask is you shared with us what or where to find that in our binders like page 12a. That was good. So can we do that for some of these goals that we have on here? Just email it or whatever just so we can know where to look for those items?*

*Thank you so much.*

*Chairman Joe Hafner said, so I think the plan would be to look at your budgets. Our next Finance meeting will be scheduled for a Wednesday. A Thursday? Okay, for Thursday the 28th. City Clerk April Leggett said, the city is on a holiday for the 25th and the 26th, so normally meetings that are on Tuesday that are displaced will go to Thursday, so it's Thursday the 28th. Chairman Joe Hafner said, so that will be our next meeting. That is where we can take action on the budget; but if there are any questions, like the Mayor said, follow up with him directly. If we feel like we need to set up another working session at some point, it will be hard with the holidays, but if the need is there, we can definitely do it. I appreciate everybody's attention, Steve, Mayor Copenhaver, and Brian and everybody. I appreciate all of your work on it. I know budgets are never an easy process to predict the future; but especially as a city. You have a lot of different responsibilities and goals you have to meet, laws you have to juggle. More than a company. I've done plenty of budgets, but it's usually just one go in a company, and that's to have a great year.*

**Filed**

## **7. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Aye:** 6 - Charles Coleman; Ann Williams; John Street; David McClain; Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman