



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, September 5, 2023

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

PUBLIC WORKS 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;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

[COM-23:046](#)

PRESENTATION FROM CARI WHITE, CHAIR OF THE ECLIPSE COMMITTEE

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, we have Cari White here to kind of give us a short update or as long as you would like Ms. Cari, but I am sure it is short, on the Eclipse Committee. I am very pleased with her stepping up to the plate and honoring our request to serve in this role for our city as we approach something that we have never seen before.

Ms. Cari White said, absolutely, thank you all so much for having me tonight. I just wanted to give you all an update on what we have been doing. The Eclipse Committee has been meeting for the last few months. And, our conversations are revolved around what to expect. We are gathering a lot of information from communities who have also gone through this. You would be surprised to learn that there are about 100,000-200,000 people expected, not just in our area, but also in all areas of the state. Arkansas is in the direct path of the Eclipse this year. We are not in the four minute zone of when it will be completely dark. We are in the 2+ minutes of the zone. The four minutes is up through Texarkana, Petit Jean Mountain, Russellville, and on up that way. As it goes this way where we are, we are in the 2.16 minutes. The thing that we are trying to do mostly that we are focusing on is to educate the public on the possibilities. And, thank you to Sally Smith at the Police Department who has written up some safety procedures for us to start publishing in January as the eclipse gets closer. It is April 8, 2024. That is a Monday and it is during the middle of the day. So, if you will go to the Arkansas Sky Observatory website: www.arksky.org, you will be able to see the path of the eclipse. And, you will get some really good information on how it will happen, how it will start getting dark, when it will be completely dark, and then when it will start to fade away. The thing that most people don't realize is, is that encompasses about a 2 ½-3 hour span starting anywhere from 10:30-11:00 a.m. going

to 2:00 p.m. So, there will be a good chunk of the day that will be dark. Now, if it is cloudy, we don't have to worry about it because nobody is going to come to Jonesboro because we won't be able to see it. But, there are people who follow eclipses. On the other hand, if it is cloudy in Central Arkansas, then they will be coming our way. So, we just want to be prepared. We have representatives from the Jonesboro Police Department, the Fire Department, the Parks Department, Downtown Association, the Hispanic Center, who thanks to them, they are translating all of the documents that we will be putting out into Spanish. We have a representative, Sam Hummelstein, of course, because he is an eclipse guru. And, several others who are helping us on the committee. I want to just say that if you don't know it, when our citizens are called upon to serve their city, they answer the call. And, we have had almost perfect attendance at every meeting that we have had. And, I am happy to say that. We have ordered, thanks to the A&P Commission, we have ordered 75,000 pairs of safety glasses. I know that Arkansas State University has ordered enough safety glasses for their student population. We will be getting those distributed and will put those at convenient locations that people can pick up for free for that day. The Oasis Arts Festival is going to be that weekend. One of the things that we want to concentrate on too is notifying our restaurants and grocery stores and convenient stores about when we expect people to start arriving. People can start arriving as early as the Wednesday before and then staying through the eclipse. The catcher is, is that as soon as it is over, they start leaving and that could cause some congestion, some traffic congestion. But, I know that JPD is working on that as well, as far as inlets and outlets, as well as, the State of Arkansas, the Department of Transportation, they have hired a consultant to advise police departments in the path of the eclipse as far as safety and how to get people shuffled in and out. Our airport will also be very impacted by this event. There is no specific demographic for people who love to chase eclipses according to Dr. P. Clay Sherrod, who I will tell you about in a moment. But, anyway, we feel like that we are making really, really good progress on our plans, on our publicity plans, on our safety plans, on our advising the public. We will do a lot of media starting in January, February, just to keep that on top of people's list as well as meeting with the pastors in the city so they will be able to put things in their Sunday bulletins so that folks that don't have facebook or look at facebook all the time or look at the media all the time will also know what is going on that day. I told the Mayor I am going to stay home that day. I am just not going to be out anywhere that day. So, now, to Thursday. Thursday evening at 6:00 p.m. at the First National Bank Arena Hames room, there will be a presentation which will be both interactive and fun and informational from Dr. P. Clay Sherrod, who is the Executive Director of the Arkansas Sky Observatory on Petit Jean Mountain. The presentation will probably last about an hour and a half. We have really been working hard, the committee, and I, and everyone who has social media pages. The Chamber has been very good about sending out email blasts for us. And, we want to get as many people there as we can get there, especially people who are in positions of authority in our city, like you all, as well as all of the department heads, school administrators, please help us get the word out to folks who have access to a lot of people in our community. Because I feel like that is our most important goal is to make sure that nobody in our city is caught off guard on that day not knowing exactly what is going to happen. It is going to be the experience of a lifetime. I've never seen one, but I understand from those who have that it is just a very emotional and awesome impact on you when you are able to experience it. So, we want to make sure that everybody knows the good and the safety precautions that need to be taken on that day. I hope that you all will help me get the word out and that you all will attend our event on Thursday evening at 6:00 p.m. at the First National Bank Arena. You can enter in the lower red entrance. It would really help our committee a lot if all of you were well educated on the event that is going to happen in our city on April 8, 2024. And, Mayor, thank you very much for allowing me to come

and thank you for appointing me to the committee. You all know how much I love my community. So, I was not going to tell him no, that I wouldn't do it. So, please help us get out the word and please attend the meeting so that you will know. You will be aware of everything that we expect to happen.

Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Ms. White for your commitment and what time are we looking at the eclipse? Ms. White said, well, it is going to start getting dark at around 12:30 p.m. It will be complete eclipse around 1:10 p.m. or 1:15 p.m. and then it starts getting light again. So, that is where that span of the two hours comes from. But, totality will happen around 1:00 p.m. – 1:10 p.m., something like that. We will know more as we get closer to the date of the exact times. And, we will make sure that we get that publicized. Dr. Sherrod does have on his website, the Arkansas Sky Observatory, guestimates of the towns and each town's start time and end time if you want to look that up. Okay. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Ms. White. Ms. White said, thank you, see you all Thursday night. Mayor Copenhaver said, I appreciate you very much.

Read

[COM-23:047](#)

PROCLAMATIONS HONORING JUDGE TOMMY FOWLER

Arkansas State Senator for District 20 Dan Sullivan read the proclamation: "Dear Judge Fowler, I could not pass up this opportunity to congratulate you on receiving the 2023 Franklin N. Flaschner Award from the American Bar Association Judicial Edition National Conference of Specialized Court Judges in recognition of your exemplary contributions for providing high quality judicial education and training to judges. Your leadership, expertise, and wisdom have positively impacted many throughout your legal career and tenure as a district judge. Without question, you have demonstrated tremendous dedication and has left a lasting impression on all you have touched. In honor of your outstanding achievement in Arkansas and the impact on the judiciary in our nation, please accept this Arkansas flag and United States flag, both of which were ceremonially flown on the date you received your award, Saturday, August 5, 2023. The citizens and leaders like you, who help build and sustain important components of our democracy in order to benefit everyone. It is an honor to serve you and the Arkansas Senate and I join you and your family and colleagues and staff and the City Council in extending our sincere congratulations and heartfelt appreciation for you. May you continue to be richly blessed in your endeavors." Mr. Sullivan said, I will present you with this. I also have two flags, the Arkansas flag and US flag flown over the capital on the day you received your award. So, you'll keep those and again, thank you very much. Judge Fowler said, thank you.

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, while we are up here I would also like to provide you with something. I would like to also reiterate this is our hometown boy right and we are proud of you. Judge Fowler said, thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, you take the initiative and you move forward, but you take care of our citizens, our community and our youth in our community and I want to say thank you. "Proclamation Honoring Judge Tommy Fowler: The Honorable Tommy Fowler, Craighead County District Judge here in Jonesboro, was recently presented the prestigious 2023 American Bar Association Judicial Educator of the Year Award and presented for successful efforts in providing high quality education and training for judges. The award was given to an Arkansan for the first time. A Jonesboro product and the son of educators, Judge Fowler takes special pride in educating his peers around the country; Often using his own vacation time when travel is required to teach in other states; And, as a member of the faculty for the National Judicial College, Fowler educates not only judges, but clerks, trial court administrators, and court reporters; And, his education generally involves

concepts that are cutting edge for new and courtroom activities such as anonymous vehicle traffic laws and enunciated concerns; So, Now therefore, I Harold Copenhaver, Mayor of the City of Jonesboro, by the virtue of the authority in me vested by the laws of the State of Arkansas do hereby proclaim today Judge Tommy Fowler Day in the City of Jonesboro, Arkansas." Please accept this on the city's behalf. Judge Fowler said, thank you Mayor.

Read

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

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

[MIN-23:080](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON AUGUST 15, 2023

Attachments: [CC Minutes 08152023](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-23:150](#)

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ACCEPT THE LOW BID AND ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO GIBSON SIGN-MART FOR THE REFINISHING OF SIX (6) WELCOME TO JONESBORO SIGNS

Attachments: [Bid 2023-18 Refurbish Welcome Signs Tabulation](#)
[welcome sign star on left](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-166-2023

[RES-23:152](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO APPLY FOR THE FY23 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) THROUGH THE OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS AT THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-167-2023

[RES-23:153](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 214 CHESTNUT, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-143134-01100, OWNED BY MABRY PROPERTIES & HOLDINGS LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$175; LEGAL DESCRIPTION: ARMOUR, MINNIE ADD N1/2 LOT 7

Attachments: [214 Chestnut Affidavit](#)
 [Supporting Docs-214 Chestnut](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-168-2023

[RES-23:154](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 223 MILLER AVE. JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144181-58000, OWNED BY RONNIE & JACQUELINE STANBACK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6122.51; LEGAL DESCRIPTION: STANBACK REPLAT OF N 50' OF LOTS 1-2-3 BLK 12 MATHEWS ADD 50X150

Attachments: [223 Miller Affidavit](#)
 [Supporting Docs-223 Miller](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-169-2023

[RES-23:155](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 308 B VINE, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-143134-25400, OWNED BY DAVID & GAIL OESTERBLAD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$175; LEGAL DESCRIPTION: NISBETTS 1ST ADD PT LOT 3 59.10X123

Attachments: [308 B Vine Affidavit](#)
 [Supporting Docs-308 B Vine](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-170-2023

[RES-23:156](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 310 OLIVE, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-143134-19200, OWNED BY DAVID & GAIL OESTERBLAD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$175; LEGAL DESCRIPTION: NISBETTS 1ST ADD N60' OF E103' 60X103

Attachments: [310 Olive Affidavit](#)
 [Supporting Docs-310 Olive](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-171-2023

[RES-23:157](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 416 W FORREST ST, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144073-28700, OWNED BY LENA KERSEY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275; LEGAL DESCRIPTION: HALTOM'S 2ND ADD LOTS 9 & 10 50X132

Attachments: [416 W Forrest St. Affidavit](#)
 [Supporting Docs-416 W Forrest](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-172-2023

[RES-23:158](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 600 N CHURCH, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144074-10300, OWNED BY JACQUELINE STANBACK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$215; LEGAL DESCRIPTION: HAYES SECOND ADDITION LOTS 7 THRU 10 INC

Attachments: [600 N Church Affidavit](#)
 [Supporting Docs-600 N Church](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-173-2023

[RES-23:159](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED RESOLUTION AT 1119 W HUNTINGTON, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-143134-36900, OWNED BY GAIL OESTERBLAD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$175; LEGAL DESCRIPTION: NISBETTS 2ND ADD PT BLK 11

Attachments: [1119 W Huntington Affidavit](#)
 [Supporting Docs-1119 W Huntington](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-174-2023

[RES-23:160](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1121 W HUNTINGTON, JONESBORO, AR, PARCEL 01-143134-36800, OWNED BY DAVID & GAIL OESTERBLAD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$175; LEGAL DESCRIPTION: LOT 0, BLOCK 11 OF NISBETTS 2ND ADD PT BLK 11

Attachments: [1121 W Huntington Affidavit](#)
 [Supporting Docs-1121 W Huntington](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-175-2023

[RES-23:161](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1202 ROSEMOND, JONESBORO, AR , PARCEL 01-143244-07200, OWNED BY MARY ANN BRADSHER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$175; LEGAL DESCRIPTION: FRIERSON'S ADD BLK F & G

Attachments: [1202 Rosemond Affidavit](#)
 [Supporting Docs-1202 Rosemond](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-176-2023

[RES-23:162](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS,

TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1208 NETTLETON CIRCLE, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-143241-33400, OWNED BY BARBARA MCDANIEL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$175; LEGAL DESCRIPTION: LOT 26, BLOCK A OF STUCK BRO 3RD ADD

Attachments: [1208 Nettleton Circle Affidavit](#)
 [Supporting Docs-1208 Nettleton Cir.](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-177-2023

[RES-23:163](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1225 S CULBERHOUSE, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-143241-17100, OWNED BY J&M FOSTER PROPERTIES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$175; LEGAL DESCRIPTION: ELDERS WEST SIDE ADD E160' OF LOT 1

Attachments: [1225 S Culberhouse Affidavit](#)
 [Supporting Docs-1225 S Culberhouse](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-178-2023

[RES-23:164](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1506 GARLAND, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144204-12500, OWNED BY BILLY F SPENCE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275; LEGAL DESCRIPTION: WHITES, J. T. RE-SUB DIV OF A PT OF BLK C OF MCCARTY ADD

Attachments: [1506 Garland Affidavit](#)
 [Supporting Docs-1506 Garland](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-179-2023

[RES-23:165](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4102 MANILA, JONESBORO, 72401, PARCEL 01-144271-05900, OWNED BY MATTHEW GODWIN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$350; LEGAL DESCRIPTION: KIECH 1ST ADD PT LOT 31

Attachments: [4102 Manila Affidavit](#)
 [Supporting Docs-4102 Manila](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-180-2023

[RES-23:166](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4407 STONEBROOK, JONESBORO, AR 72404, PARCEL 01-134042-08500, OWNED BY ELIZA M STONE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$175; LEGAL DESCRIPTION: FOXMEADOW VILLAGE LOT 5, BLOCK D

Attachments: [4407 Stonebrook Affidavit](#)
[Supporting Docs-4407 Stonebrook](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-181-2023

[RES-23:167](#)

A RESOLUTION TO EXECUTE A TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE AGREEMENT TO MAINTAIN A CONTROL DEVICE

Attachments: [1140 Jonesboro R49 & 351_S3, 1 & 2 \(08-08-2023\)](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-182-2023

RESOLUTIONS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

[RES-23:147](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO PURCHASE PROPERTY FOR A LAW ENFORCEMENT FACILITY AND APPROPRIATE RESTRICTED FUNDS FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Attachments: [IND DES 2 COJ Contract](#)
[907 Congress Cir. Jonesboro AR - Appraisal](#)

Mayor Harold Copenhaver stated: Before we begin discussion on that, I would like to make a few notes. I would like to put some insight into this. I have had several questions through members of the community about this. So, let me make a few statements, factual statements about the property and I will open it up for discussion. In 2020, a tornado destroyed a 10,000+ sq. ft. facility that was being primarily used by our Jonesboro Police Department for off sight operations. Following the tornado in 2020, the city entered into a lease for a temporarily smaller office space on Matthews to fill the immediate need until a permanent solution could be found. Agents that did not fit into the newly rented space were temporarily moved to an old city hall on Washington. The City of Jonesboro received an insurance payment for a destroyed structure of rough \$1.2 million. During the time, the city started developing plans to construct a new building on city owned property. After the plans were drawn up, the architect's estimation was about \$3 million of that cost. At that point, Rick Elliott began researching other options for another suitable off-site facility. He brought this building to my attention and felt confident that it would fit the needs and internal modifications could still be kept under the cost closer to our insurance settlement number. He further specified that the open shop space in the building served a need for storage and vehicular base investigations. In 2022, roughly one year ago and with council's approval, we entered into a lease with an option to purchase. It was clear in intent at that time, if the building showed to meet the chief's needs, then we would move forward to purchase or produce equity in that facility. In July, the council approved the city to engage with an architect on internal remodeling plans upon the purchase of the building per RES-23:100. So, it is simply a question, do we pay rent for the next four or five years with no equity or exercise our option to purchase or actually get an asset that has value to me. We need to open it up if there a need for discussion, but to me it is a business decision.

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Mitch Johnson, to pass RES-23:147.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, I would like to speak on that for just a moment. Approximately three years ago, we were offered the exact same building and we considered that for the maintenance and Ronnie and his staff to move in there. Wisely, I think, that the council decided rather than buy that building, we would construct a new building within the city compound off of Dan Avenue. And, for the exact same reasons, I met with the Chief last week on Friday. Chief Elliott and I toured Ronnie's completed building and the Chief concurred that the exact same building would serve his needs also. It contained a break room, several offices, drive thru storage in the back and that we could construct the exact same building that would suit all of his needs. I think the same logic applies today as it did three years ago. We consolidate and keep all of our operations within one property. What has happened also in the last three years, we have had multiple break-ins in that facility within the bobwire fenced area. I think having a law enforcement presence, even if it is minor, that comes and goes at odd hours would be a benefit. Ronnie and them constructed their building at a cost of \$1.1 million that was in the height of the pandemic. Material has since come down some since that point. We have a \$1.2 million settlement. So, what I would ask the council to do is to do the same thing for the police that we did for Ronnie, rather than buy a 20 year old building. It is not a bad building, but it is not up to government standards. Ronnie and them's building is red iron with all concrete block and brand new. I would ask that we do the exact same thing. We take the \$1.2 million insurance settlement and rather than buy a building and remodel it and acquire more land, we construct a new building within our compound and we keep all of our operations together. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you for your comments.

Councilmember John Street said, three years ago, Ronnie Shaver, and I agreed, I voted to build a new building, but Ronnie needed to be next to the Street Department. That was his major serving agency. That was one of the reason why it was more practical to go there. Based on the numbers that I have heard to replace that building, if we built the exact same building, it would be over \$2 million. So, I don't think we can build it, but Craig may have some general idea of what construction costs for a commercial building like that would run, but I can assure you that the price that they are asking for it is a fair price. We are not getting robbed on it by any means. Councilmember Moore said, listen, my comments do not reflect on the negotiation of the price of the building or the sellers. I know there have been some emails go around that questioned ownership and all of that. My comments have nothing to do with any of that. Mine are strictly practical. I emailed the City Clerk to get a copy of the contract of how much we spent on Ronnie's and it was \$1.1 million.

Engineering Director Craig Light said, as the Mayor mentioned, a few years ago, we did engage an architectural firm to develop plans for a facility. After the floorplans were put together substantially, the estimated cost was over \$3 million for the office building and it did have a warehouse bay. So, this is primarily an office building space, not a warehouse space. And, the renovations to the building that are proposed are several offices. I'm not sure how much that is going to cost just yet, but we do have an architect engaged to start doing those plans as well. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I have a question. I have brought this up once before, I guess my question is, when are we going to fast forward to actually get a building that is going to house the whole police department? I guess the second part of that question is, is it feasible, maybe to temporarily rent this building while we are working on getting on getting the money to actually build the complex that we actually really need, so we keep going back and forth, back and forth? So, what direction are we going with that? Or, are we going in any direction at all?

Mayor Copenhaver said, if I can answer some part of that when in discussion with Chief Elliott, obviously, this is a specialized unit that being in-house with other units is not necessarily the best situation for them as well. And, in this contract, councilman, we are held to that contract for the next four years on the rent as well. So, we are looking at a total of \$380,000 total payout on the rent of this facility. And, in my Mayor's Comments, I do want to address your concerns about a facilities plan on how we need to move forward with our overall facilities and I am going to be asking Council to support that so we can move forward to get exactly where you want to get it to be. I will be addressing that later as well. Councilmember Moore said, Mr. Mayor, and I think that will fall right in line. If we built a new building, we would have to continuing renting the building that we are currently in for three years because you know how government moves at a fast pace. When I looked at the total time it took from the time that we decided to build Ronnie a new shop until it was actually completed, it was about a two year or maybe slightly over a two year process. By the time the building was designed, put out to bid, it was constructed, and it was ready to move into. It may be prudent to rent it for that time or finish out our lease at that time while we take the insurance settlement and construct a new building.

Councilmember John Street asked, can we hear from the Chief and see what his opinion is? In talking with him, he seemed to indicate that was the best solution to do in the interim anyway. So, I would be interested to see what the Chief has got to say on it. Police Chief Rick Elliott said, certainly. The building we are looking at not only meets our needs for today, but 20-30 years down the road. As Craig mentioned a while ago, we currently have an architect on board taking the warehouse space and designing it for office space. So, the building that we are currently looking at and then something similar to it, like Ronnie Shaver's shop out here on Dan, similar, same size, but the construction cost is going to be more because we are not going to have just warehouse space. Most of that area is going to be additional office space and then we will hard deck the roof of the first floor and have it where we can go to a second floor as we grow over the next 20-30 years. So, this is the concept and the building we are buying right now or we are looking to buy now already has a second level on the first half of the building. It is already there. We are looking to build up the back.

Now, the question is, I guess from a business aspect, I would look at instead of spending money on rent for three to four years, buy the building. And, something we want to do down the road and move to a compound or a big complex, we can sell the building. I don't think we would take a loss by any means. This is in a great location. I think we are financially, business speaking, the city is better off purchasing the building. And, then 5-6-10 years from now, we do something different. I think we can recoup anything we have invested.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I guess the question I still have Chief, is that I really don't have an issue with anything that you are trying to do because I know we need space. But, I guess if we buy this building, when the new complex that the Mayor's talking about hopefully in a few minutes, will we be able to sell that building and get money back to put into a new total complex? Chief Elliott said, it depends on how big of a complex you are looking at building. As far as selling this building, I don't think we would have a problem selling this building this year, next year, five years from now, whatever. I don't think it is a problem. Again, it goes back to the business aspect of this spending money wisely. Look at what we have already got going into it, look at what we want to put into it, and, for a few hundred thousand more, we can own it. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, back to my original statement, let me say it this way. I don't have any problem with trying to buy this building per say. I just don't want to keep going down a road kicking the can and not have a plan ready to start

building a complex that is going to be large enough to house the whole entire police department. And, even then, if this city grows, I'm not even sure that is going to be an adequate building. Does that make sense?

Chief Elliott said, yes, yes sir, I totally agree. The Mayor and I have had this conversation that yes there is a point in time that we need to look at a new police facility. Now, where that may be and what that looks like is still to be determined, but we are all in agreeance that the buildings down here on Washington have served their purpose. And, one of them is really not structurally where it needs to be. There is a lot of money that needs to be put into them to upgrade them. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, well, I think it is a waste of money on the one on Washington because I will be looking at almost every council meeting for someone to call to say something fell on somebody's head down there. When it rains and the other issues, I think we need to get out of that building as soon as possible. Chief Elliott said, correct. Well, with this building and being able to move forward into it pretty much immediately, it will free up some space out on Washington that I can spread some folks out. I have my Health & Wellness Coordinator, he doesn't even have an office. I mean he has to work off of where he can find a place to sit down since he has been here since January. So, we are packed. We are filled to the brim. I've got federal agencies looking to send me task force officers here in the near future and I have got to have a place to house folks and I am busting at the seams. So, this is more of a folks I need something now and be able to expand now because the current building meets some of those needs, but I need that expansion piece completed so we can move forward. So, that is my take on the project. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you Chief.

Councilmember David McClain, said, talking about putting everything on the same complex or even in the same vicinity, are we thinking maybe out near the property that we have off of Lacy, is that the property that we are thinking about? Or, is that more of an in town thing? Chief Elliott said, I think you would want your police facility in the central part of the city. Councilmember McClain said, that is what I am thinking. Chief Elliott said, you know, the question is at this point, where in the middle of Jonesboro is empty property at this point? Councilmember McClain said, that we own, I guess that makes sense for property that we own. Chief Elliott said, there is not another complex that I am at. Then, I have got two options on both sides of me. And, there is one piece of property on Highland across from the mall that the U.S. government owns. Mayor Copenhagen said, and, again, that is what I want to address with you all later on getting the study and we need an overall view of our facilities update.

Councilmember Moore said, one of the reason I went with the Chief when we went out to look at the property on Dan Avenue was the potential that eventually like Dr. Coleman said, that we may have a large police facility that might incorporate the Chief's needs all around. By constructing a building like we constructed for Ronnie, that exact same building, if the Chief and them later on down the road decide that we have a new police facility that incorporates can easily be used by any of the other departments. It is already on our property. It is a red iron building. It has got three or four offices and it has large work bays. So, if the Chief finds in four or five years that we are building a new facility and we can consolidate all of the police into one, that building, if built within our compound, could expand to the Street Department, the Sanitation, or any of our other uses. Chief Elliott said, those work bays won't be there. I will have one work bay and the rest of that will be office space that if we turn it back over to the city for use out there would have to be gutted out. It is free standing, correct. Councilmember Moore said, a red iron free standing building can be easily converted to any use. Chief Elliott said, absolutely. Councilmember Moore said, that was the other advantage we discussed. Mayor Copenhagen said, well, thank you. Street

Department Director Steve Tippitt said, I can see where Chris is coming at with having a police presence out there. If you all build another building out there, it is going to put us in a bind. It looks like we have space out there, but, right now, all of my equipment is out on jobs. Where you are talking about putting this building will take up my storage for equipment and it will be real tight on everybody then. We will be getting into who is going to run over who because it is real tight out there now with what we have got. I would like for you all to think about that. Mayor Copenhaver said, okay, thank you Mr. Tippitt. I appreciate that.

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

Aye: 10 - Brian Emison;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Nay: 2 - Chris Moore and Ann Williams

Enactment No: R-EN-183-2023

6. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-23:032](#)

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

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Mitch Johnson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-23:032 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

[ORD-23:033](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM I-1 TO C-3 LUO FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5914 E. JOHNSON AVENUE AS REQUESTED BY HORIZON LAND SURVEYING

Attachments: [Staff Summary - C.C.](#)
[Application](#)
[Certified Mail Receipts](#)
[Plat](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-23:033 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

[ORD-23:034](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE APPROVAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR JONESBORO STUDIO SOCIAL CLUB, DBA JONESBORO CINEMA GRILL

Attachments: [Jonesboro Cinema Grill Application_Redacted](#)
[GREENSBORO VILLAGE THEATRE HOLDINGS LLC-01-144091-00500 - A](#)
[Greensboro Village Theatre Holdings LLC SOS](#)
[Jonesboro Studio Social SOS](#)
[Lease](#)
[Sublease](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-23:034 by title only. All voted aye.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said, Mayor, I have a couple of questions I want to ask and not wait until the second or third reading. I think there are Malco representatives here. Can someone come up here and kind of explain the purchase process for an alcoholic beverage at Malco, and what safeguards are built in?

Jeff Harris, Malco Theatres Representative from the Parker Road location, said, thank you council. We are doing this for the location over by the college. The process for purchasing alcohol, after you came to us the first time, we purchased a machine called "Token Works." It is a scanner. Instead of just relying on physically looking at ID's, we scan the ID through the barcode. It tells us whether you are old enough to buy alcohol. If you ran a business where you can sell cigarettes, it tells you that as well. Our system also has a passback function. We don't sell more than one drink in an hour to the same person. Every time you purchase a drink, you must show your ID. If you and your wife came in to buy two drinks, you must show both ID's, both people must be present. We scan every ID, every sale. And, if I try to scan your ID after your first sell and it has been within an hour, our system will actually give us an error message and say you can't sell this person another drink right now. And, we will tell you that you have got another 20 minutes to wait or 30 minutes to wait or however it works out. Since you all have approved, the last city council had approved us back in 2020 for our license, we have had zero infractions with the ABC Board. We have had zero issues with any guest. With Chief Elliott, we have Jonesboro security on the weekends as our security officers. And, because we have alcohol, we have two on-site at all times if we have security. So, we have had zero issues so far and it has been three years now. Councilmember Hafner said, thank you. I have a question for Chief Elliott if he can come up please. Chief, can you say how many incidents we have had or not had recently related to alcohol. Police Chief Rick Elliott said, I just happen to have that data. Since they have been serving alcohol, we have had zero calls for alcohol related complaints at the cinema. Going back to 2016, there have only been 45 calls out there and none of it is related to the alcohol or inside the theatre itself. So, I think, overall, this has been a relatively very safe place to be at since the data back in 2016. I can go back even further. Overall, alcohol there has not been an issue. The officers that work there confirm that they have not seen the issues or people staggering out intoxicated or anything like that. Again, with the mechanism in place, it has apparently done what it is designed to do. And, so, we just haven't seen a problem with it. Then, the data speaks for itself.

Councilmember LJ Bryant said, I was just curious. The Malco wrote an editorial saying that people were opposed to it last time were biased and prejudiced. So, I was just curious if the Malco still held that position about the people in Jonesboro. Larry Etter, Senior Vice President for Malco, said, I will answer that. We are based in Memphis. We are an Arkansas based company and I wrote the editorial. So, I do not think, in that particular case, that line that was quoted was in general for all Arkansas or Jonesboro, for that matter. What we have is sometimes a contingency that picks out one or two pieces and then tries to make a panoramic view of what the cinema industry

looks like. And, the entire response, the editorial was a response to some criticism in the newspaper. And, what we know in the theatre industry, is that people like to sneak food in and smuggling. And, I would consider that a little bit dishonest, it would be cheating a proprietor such as us. But, we have never complained about that. We know the existence of what people do. But, in this particular case, it was in response to other individuals that were trying to tear down the reputation of Malco Theatres. And, they were talking in one particular tone about one particular situation. And, my response was, can you play both sides. Can you be critical and say certain ugly things about Malco Theatres and then call yourself a Christian. And, that was kind of the response. So, do I think the people of Jonesboro are respectable? If you read the entire article, the very first thing I said was the people of Jonesboro are great people. They are responsible. They are Christians. And, we like being in Jonesboro. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you sir. I appreciate your comments. Mr. Etter said, hopefully, that answers your questions.

James Elwin Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, said, a few years back, the City Council made a very big mistake. It was such a big mistake that Harold Perrin, who was Mayor then, later said, that was probably a mistake. We have a chance to not make basically the same mistake. Now, the Alcohol Control Board, whenever this went before them, the number of people from Jonesboro was tremendous for a meeting that far away. And, there was very little support. In fact, I think everybody who supported it is in this room right now. The Alcohol Control Board said, basically, we don't have any choice but to approve this because the City Council approved it. And, incidentally, their recommendation was that we might want to consider getting the City Council, and I am just saying what the Alcohol Control Board, that was more responsive to the desires of the people of Jonesboro. Now, this is a good time to correct this mistake because I know some of you feel, you know, there is a problem when we start denying anybody because we have approved somebody else. They are going to ask what happened, you know, why did you deny mine and approve his. This time it is the same person that we made the mistake for so really they couldn't say that it is discrimination. I am not going to go there, I have very little respect for a certain person. But, here is a chance to stop it. If you don't stop it now, you are going to be back at the same time. Everybody who comes in, say well we approved this guy, we gave him two and we are going to deny giving this one over here even one. So, now is the time to stop this. Even Mayor Perrin said that it was probably a mistake. Please don't make the mistake again.

Jeff Harris said, I just want to make a statement to what was just said about the ABC meeting because I was in the ABC meeting three years ago. I was the one that was there with Mr. Etter right there beside us. The comment that was made about the ABC, about maybe the City Council needs to change what they did next time, was after they pretty much approved us with our vote there at the City Council or at the ABC Council in Little Rock. Some of the people that were here from Jonesboro got riled up and they got upset at the ABC Board. And, the ABC Board put their hand down and said if you don't like the answer, maybe you need to do something different. It wasn't because we got licensed. It was because they didn't want to be ridiculed by the people that were there. I just want to make that point known. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you very much.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I tried to keep out of this conversation, but this is just, this has gotten a little much for me. Every time we, it is not against this gentleman or whatever, but, you know, the state put us in a position that we don't particularly like individually, but as a Council, I mean, we have to deal with the law as far as I am concerned. So, I think, sometimes I think what happens in here needs to get publicized a little bit more that how we were put in a position a long time ago

because it used to didn't be that way that we had to make that decision. And, I don't think the citizens really know that and they need to know that sometimes those types of positions that what transgressed in Little Rock transfers to here. So, whether you like it or not, personally, I don't like it, being a Christian has nothing to do with it. Being a Minister, I don't like it, but at the same time, we also have laws that we have to deal with too. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Councilman.

Held at one reading

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[ORD-23:030](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL AND REPLACE SECTION 117-329 - FENCES OF THE JONESBORO CODE OF ORDINANCES IN THE CITY OF JONESBORO

Attachments: [Original - Sec 117-329 Fences](#)
 [Exhibit A - Sec 117-329 Fences V3 080123](#)

Held at second reading

[ORD-23:031](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORD-19:025, THE GUIDELINES FOR THE SELECTION OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AND AWARDED OF CONTRACTS FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO

Attachments: [Other prof. services 7](#)
 [Professional Construction Services 7](#)

Held at second reading

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported on the following:

I've got a few comments to make this evening and I would appreciate you listening very intently.

First, I would like to say that National Night Out is October 3, 2023. And, so, as we always do is as a community, we go out and support that and I appreciate those that are involved and we will give you more information as that time approaches.

This week I was in communication with our Legislative Auditor last week. And, I asked him for an update. He is finalizing the 2022 audit. We are pleased that this audit will contain no reportable findings. In other words, a perfectly clean audit which is an achievement in a city of this size. And, I also commend all departments, not the least, but most importantly, our Finance Department on this success. You will recall that in the 2021 audit, I believe each of you received a personal copy of this in 2022. It included a disclosure that showed that the city is not immune to computer fraud. I hate to say that we have been fortunate compared to many cities and many entities around the country because we were the victim of a scam that cost less than \$1,500. An email appeared from an employee instructing a change to their payroll settlement option. Once discovering the scam, our bankers assisted and immediately reversed the settlement ACH. Obviously, the city did not get its money back, but we made the

payment to the employee. Our staff did immediately report the incident to legislative audit at a time which a state law had just been enacted requiring this reporting. This occurrence was more than a year and a half ago and I am pleased to report that new security measures implemented at that time have prevented similar scam artist's attempts since then. Unfortunately, as we can all attest, in both our personal and professional dealings, criminals never relax. But, our strength in internal controls are working and my compliments again to our staff and their due diligence in preventing this from occurring again.

We opened today, the Youth Center. I was pleased to see Councilman Hafner there. The old family YMCA adjoined to the city pool on Nettleton. It is a great facility and every bit worth the \$3 million investment. It includes a great basketball court as well as an indoor soccer field that I think the kids will love. They are already utilizing it. This is the success of not only of this administration, but the previous one and the City Council. They had the foresight to purchase the pool and former YMCA facility through the city, but lacked the funds to make use of it. We saw it and found the means to create something nice for our youth. We will formally call it the "Y" as a nod to those who remember the days of the YMCA.

We have another neighborhood cleanup this weekend at the very site, the "Y." Take everything you want to get rid of and you cannot dump. Bring everything that you cannot dump to 1421 West Nettleton Avenue, 8:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday.

So, Council, as I have mentioned several times that we have chosen a financial advisor to assist us with necessary steps to pledge the city's current franchise fees toward a revenue bond to be presented to Council for consideration. I want to emphasize that a bond is not a tax. It is simply pledging 75% of our future franchise fees for funded now to jumpstart and complete capital improvement projects. For two plus years, we have been aggressive funding street overlays, sidewalks, park projects, public safety projects, and flood mitigation. We have also selectively funded studies and internal research in areas that demanded investment. I want to continue to reflect those priorities in the large capital outlay composed of a revenue bond, allocation of ARPA funds, future planning for multiple budget cycles, and the allotment of some of our excessive reserves. I anticipate that this combination of funding sources to provide about \$40 million of planned projects. This will allow us to create impactful projects while maintaining capital improvement funds for various new projects as identified during our normal budgeting cycle. Currently, we have three pots, so to speak, that is \$40 million will go toward. One is safety. As you know, we are growing our real time crime center. Right now, we have the technology, but no home for that or staffing to run it 24/7. We anticipate grants help here and we have put skin in the game with millions of dollars in cameras, police raises, and another \$750,000 for 911. We want to build a state-of-the-art facility to take advantage of the investments we have already made to best serve our residents. Another piece is Parks and Recreation. I propose to complete the Joe Mack Campbell Connection Trail and the Shooting Sports Complex which have a combined price tag of at least \$5 million. Our Master Parks Study said the fastest way to improve our Parks is to make access to them easier. So, that is our first priority with trails. We are also building pools and dog parks. We are opening one this year and I plan to have more next year. So, we will devote more funding to our parks in coming budgets. And, I hope to provide more details this month. My third bucket is infrastructure. As you can see, our investment has continued to grow and studies show that we need to be investing more in our roads and streets, but I also want to continue to elevate investments in streets, sidewalks, and transportation. And, I am willing to spend \$10 million or more over the next three years to do it. These goals are attainable because my administration and this Council shared conservative

budgeting approach which has grown reserves in the last two years by \$8 million. This, by no means, is a complete list and please make note of that. We are aware of certain projects that will be needed in the future, but are not quite ready for allocations. And, I am a firm advocate for planning research for these projects now even if they don't need to be in the next few years. As a part of that due diligence, I authorized our Engineering Department to source a new facilities plan for city buildings. So, our steps down the road can be planned now. I appreciate each councilmember who has taken time to visit with me about their priorities and this administration will give consideration to any and all projects to lead to a better Jonesboro. To help layout the specifics of a revenue bond, Mr. Paul Phillips of Crews & Associates will attend the next City Council meeting to explain the process and answer your questions. I look forward to moving this plan along in a deliberate manner because we all know the planning process can be tedious and the construction delays continue to create challenges. Thank you Council and let's work together to get this going.

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, thank you Mayor for mentioning October 3rd. I would like to when we get a chance to vote on moving the council date because we do have the National Night Out that we are having globally. I will invite administration to the fish plate dinner giveaway. Thank you. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you Mr. Councilman.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, I just want to thank the Mayor for the renovation of the "Y." It is a great asset in that neighborhood. I don't want to tip our hand, but I fully expect our church, which adjoins that property, will be coming forward either to the Council or the Mayor to work on projects in combination for that neighborhood. It will benefit all of those kids over there. Mr. Mayor, you didn't mention it, but would you mention our event coming up this weekend downtown, don't we? Mayor Copenhagen said, I did forget that. Would you like to go ahead while you are there? Councilmember Moore said, well, I just wanted to mention that we have the downtown celebration coming up and it will be quite the event and it looks like the weather is going to break. I didn't mean to jump you thunder there or anything there. Mayor Copenhagen said, oh no, that's fine. And, of a matter of fact, I did forget to include that. We also have an Arkansas State University game on hand. And, if you are there really early and you like to hear a men's trio sing the National Anthem, you might be surprised by who is doing it. So, anyway, but do please attend the downtown event. This is a wonderful weekend for it. I think the weather will hold up. Councilmember Moore said, it will. What is the street closure plan for that? I noticed that some of the signs are already out on the corner. Mayor Copenhagen said, we can put that out. Chief, do you remember what that was? The street closure project on that, Washington to...? Police Chief Rick Elliott said, yes sir, we will probably shut down Main Street Friday evening at 6:00 p.m. or so. Trying to get the evening traffic through and buses and all of that. So, somewhere between 6:00-9:00 p.m., we will get Main Street shut down. And, the next morning, Union. So, that is kind of our typical plan for this and the BBQ Fest. We have kind of standardized our closures for events as we start to move forward. Mayor Copenhagen said, we have a big month in September for events. Chief Elliott said, we do and that is why we felt it was more important that whatever we do, we do consistently. That way, the people who live downtown and visit downtown will understand that hey, this is coming up and prepare accordingly. Councilmember Moore said, I looked at the weather today. It looked like the temperature was supposed to break on Thursday so Friday, Saturday, and Sunday are going to be great. And, the new pavilion looked great over on Monroe. The whole grass area, the whole area around Union Street. So, downtown looks nice. Chief Elliott said, it looks fantastic and we have added several

cameras to the downtown area so that people who come in partake in downtown events, we have got you covered. So, we want to provide a safe atmosphere and encourage folks to come to Jonesboro. It is going to be a great weekend. Councilmember Moore said, it is not the eclipse, but it will be close. It will be dark. Mayor Copenhaver said, as a matter of fact, this afternoon, KATV came up to do a short story on the City of Jonesboro and so I was very honored to be a part of that and hopefully that will be on statewide news, as well, showing off our community. Thank you.

Councilmember David McClain said, real quick, do we have an update on trail coordinator, that position, if it has been filled? Mayor Copenhaver said, it has been filled. About five weeks ago I would say and he has been working with the Engineering Department. So, he has been getting up to speed with everything. He has been attending planning and parks. He is going to all of those meetings. So, we will bring him to the committee here in a couple of weeks. Councilmember McClain said, okay, thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, you bet.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said, Mr. McClain brought up the same thing I was going to. I was going to say on behalf of the trail coordinators on board, hopefully he is getting up to speed and sort of focused on what he was hired for. I think it makes it even more necessary to get the steering committee back. I know you said you had a couple of people you are waiting to hear back from them. So, hopefully, you have heard back from them and that is about full and getting closer to a meeting. Mayor Copenhaver said, we will be making that announcement shortly. Councilmember Hafner said, good deal. I haven't heard this mentioned, maybe I overlooked it, but with the ASU-Memphis game, is there going to be the shuttle from downtown to the game? Mayor Copenhaver said, yes, there will. Councilmember Hafner said, you may have said that and I missed it. Obviously, I am happy to see the YMCA open again. Thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you.

Councilmember LJ Bryant said, yeah, Mayor, you said the most important thing and I thought that the Master Parks folks said that the best money we can spend is to connect people to the parks that we already have so that was dead on. So, I really appreciate your commitment there. And, thanks for taking time to visit with us. Visiting with 12 people and I know that is not the easiest thing to do in a short period of time. And, I will say too, hopefully, they have all been in touch, because we have been talking about road closures and stuff. Hopefully, the Heart and Sole folks are working with the city to make sure we have good races in late September because I know it is a big month for events as the weather is good.

Councilmember John Street said, Mayor, I appreciate you advocating for more funds for parks in coming budget. I hope you will not forget to look at a small investment on a gate at the entrance to Craighead Forest Park that will secure it. We have made millions of dollars in investments in that park. That would be a very inexpensive way to protect those investments, to make sure that when people leave there, you can still get out at 10:00 p.m. just like you can set your times. It will open up at 6:00 a.m. and people can get in. At night, it closes. There can be a way for the RV folks to be able to get in and out. But, I just think that makes sense because as I have worked patrol, we run them out of there 24/7. Larry Jackson can attest to that and so can Danny. But the vandalism and stuff that we have out there, it just makes sense for the investment. We have a great place, but that would be a very inexpensive way to protect that investment. I would love to see that in our budget. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you sir.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Courtney Tatum, 1512 Wofford, said, you, talking about infrastructure, maybe you need to give some money to CWL. For the last 3-4 years, my power has been blinking. They said they are looking at it, but nothing has happened. It happened this Saturday morning at 6:47 a.m. I went to their engineer. Their engineer came out. It is to the point now when I walk into CWL, the lady looks at me and says I'll go get the engineer. I have been there so many times. It's not only me. It's only three houses. It's on two poles on two transformers. They still can't figure it out. So, maybe you can give them some money for infrastructure so they can learn how to do it. Because, apparently, from what I was told, you all have no control over CWL. Is this true? (Mayor Copenhagen shook his head yes.) That is sad. That is just like Suddenlink and Ritter. I know with Suddenlink, you all have contracts. Mayor Copenhagen said, we do have conversations. Mr. Tatum said, yeah, but it is just the idea. I have already lost a microwave and an expensive coffee pot. They've been there a couple of times. They put up a recorder on my meter, but of course, nothing happens in between that time. But, it happened again at 6:47 this Saturday and it has been going on for years. So, I told them, why can't you replace between those two poles, everything between those two poles, connection, whatever. That's not feasible. We don't know what is going to happen. Well, you don't know if it's going to fix it. You can see the Board of Directors on their website. You can't talk to nobody. It's like going to a wall. So, I'm always dealing with one engineer and I always get the same response, we are working on it. Mayor Copenhagen said, all right, well, we will pass your concerns on sir. Mr. Tatum said, it is just an idea. Nothing is going to happen unless the house catches on fire. It's just like everything else. Councilmember John Street said, I will talk to you. Mr. Tatum said, well, I've emailed you all so many times and not got a response, so that is why I just came here. I mean they might be trying, but they also said they have what they call blinks throughout the city. I don't know if you all are having blinks, but I've been getting them for the last, I think, for years. I've been here for about 12 years now and nothing has solved my problem yet. So, I just thought I would let you all know so you all will be aware. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you very much sir, I appreciate it.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

_____ Date: _____

Harold Copenhaver, Mayor

Attest:

_____ Date: _____

April Leggett, City Clerk