



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, July 1, 2025

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

SPECIAL CALLED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BONDS TASK FORCE COMMITTEE MEETING AT 4:00 P.M.

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

Absent 1 - David McClain

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

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

Absent: 1 - David McClain

[MIN-25:052](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON JUNE 17, 2025

Attachments: [CC Minutes 06172025.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-25:070](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH MEADOWS CONTRACTORS, LLC. FOR THE CRAIGHEAD TECHNOLOGY PARK INDUSTRIAL LEAD - DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DRIVE GRADE CROSSING PROJECT (2025:18)

Attachments: [Bid Tab.pdf](#)
 [Contract 2025 18.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-081-2025

RESOLUTIONS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

[RES-25:047](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 1208 N. Floyd St. Jonesboro, AR 72401; Parcel # 01-143124-01600

Attachments: [1208 N Floyd Board & Secure Affidavit.pdf](#)
 [1208 N Floyd Board & Secure Returned Cert Letter.pdf](#)
 [1208 N Floyd Inspection Report.pdf](#)
 [1208 N Floyd Map.png](#)
 [1208 N Floyd Precondemnation Notice Affidavit.pdf](#)
 [1208 N Floyd Precondemnation Notice Return Sig Card.pdf](#)
 [24133102-IMG_3306.jpeg](#)
 [24133105-IMG_3291.jpeg](#)
 [24133107-IMG_3293.jpeg](#)
 [24133109-IMG_3295.jpeg](#)
 [24133111-IMG_3297.jpeg](#)
 [24133113-IMG_3299.jpeg](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - David McClain

Enactment No: R-EN-082-2025

[RES-25:068](#)

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING FREE UTILITY SERVICES FROM CITY WATER AND LIGHT FOR BEACONS, MESSAGE BOARDS AND SENSORS FOR THE TRAINFO SYSTEM

Councilmember John Street asked to be recused from voting and discussion on RES-25:068 due to his membership on the CWL Board of Directors.

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

Aye: 10 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent: 1 - David McClain

Recused: 1 - John Street

Enactment No: R-EN-083-2025

[RES-25:071](#)

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING FREE UTILITY SERVICES FROM CITY WATER AND LIGHT FOR CITY-OWNED PROPERTY

Councilmember John Street asked to be recused from voting and discussion on RES-25:071 due to his membership on the CWL Board of Directors.

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

Aye: 10 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent: 1 - David McClain

Recused: 1 - John Street

Enactment No: R-EN-084-2025

[RES-25:072](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH GARVER TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR MAIN STREET (HWY 141) PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS AND JOHNSON AVENUE (HWY 91) LIGHTING IMPROVEMENTS

Attachments: [Jonesboro SSR4A Agreement.pdf](#)

Councilmember Janice Porter asked to be recused from voting and discussion on RES-25:072 due to a family member working for Garver.

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

Aye: 10 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent: 1 - David McClain

Recused: 1 - Janice Porter

Enactment No: R-EN-085-2025

6. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-25:018](#)

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 Brian Emison to suspend the rules and offer ORD-25:018 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

[ORD-25:023](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM C-4 TO RS-7 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 200 SARTIN LANE AS REQUESTED BY DAT NGUYEN

Attachments: [Application](#)
 [Certified Mail](#)
 [Plat](#)
 [Property Deed](#)
 [Rezoning Information](#)
 [Rezoning Sign](#)
 [Staff Summary](#)
 [MAPC Minutes](#)
 [Publication Receipt](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison to suspend the rules and offer ORD-25:023 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

[ORD-25:024](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM AG-1 TO RS-7 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT KATHLEEN STREET

Attachments: [Application](#)
 [Certified Mail Receipt](#)
 [Cover Letter](#)
 [Property Owner Notification Letter](#)
 [Property Owner Notification](#)
 [Rezoning Plat](#)
 [Rezoning Signs](#)
 [Staff Summary](#)
 [MAPC Minutes](#)
 [Publication Receipt](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison to suspend the rules and offer ORD-25:024 by title only. All voted aye.

Garrett Dunham, 3121 Gallaway Court, I am here with Fisher & Arnold on behalf of the Phillips family. This land was purchased in order to provide a secondary fire egress from the subdivision that we developed to the east. So, we are just rezoning it. It will be phase two of the subdivision that will be developed to the east. Thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, all right, thank you, Mr. Dunham.

Held at one reading

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[ORD-25:019](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR SHJ HOLDINGS DBA THE

DEN-ZONE OF JONESBORO

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

James Elwyn Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, said, you want to know what advantage of being an elected official instead of just a member of the general public. Most people are expected when you enter into an agreement, you stick with that agreement. If you are an elected official, it means that's the agreement until the next election. Some years, a few years back, I'm sure the Mayor would like point out Harold Perrin was the Mayor back then. There was a, what may have been a mistake made on an ordinance to grant a permit. There was a place, now originally, if I remember correctly, they only said they wanted to use the Convocation Center and the football stadium. But, they were issued a permit which seemingly allowed them to sell alcoholic drinks anywhere on the Arkansas State University campus. There was a big uproar. It was questionable whether it was legal, you know, to have done it without specifying where on the ASU Campus. There was an agreement made, and I remember this because Bobby Hester and I both agreed and we were both here when it was during the time this was done and we kept our mouths shut as we agreed to do. And the one holding the permit agreed to limit it to three places. It was the three main sports venues on the ASU Campus. Bobby and I were told, you know, that person agreed they would surrender that old license and there will not be alcoholic sales anywhere else on the ASU Campus. That was the agreement that was made and we kept our mouths shut. And we had lived up to our part of the agreement on that. We had not objected to selling in those three venues. Yes, I know there are some things that probably if you got picky about tailgating, you know, we all know there are some people, some parties have alcoholic drinks at their tailgating. But, you know, we kind of overlook that. But, anyway, I do feel that the City Council made an agreement that we would hold liquor at ASU to these and these three venues, and I think even though we've had another election and, some of you I know were not on the council back then, I think you ought to say the City Council entered into this election, and as a matter of integrity, we will honor it. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you for your comments.

Held at second reading[ORD-25:020](#)

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

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

Waived Second Reading[ORD-25:022](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, ARTICLE III, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 TO TC-O FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2800 & 2809 GREENSBORO ROAD

Attachments: [Application](#)
 [Certified Mail Receipts](#)
 [Deed](#)
 [Greensboro Road Letter](#)
 [Notification Letter](#)
 [Plat](#)
 [Site Layout](#)
 [Staff Summary](#)
 [Publication Receipt](#)
 [14106-SDP - UM-R3.pdf](#)
 [24155-CSDP-1U.pdf](#)

Held at second reading

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-25:012](#)

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

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

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

Absent: 1 - David McClain

Enactment No: O-EN-020-2025

[ORD-25:015](#)

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

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

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

Absent: 1 - David McClain

Enactment No: O-EN-021-2025

[ORD-25:017](#)

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

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

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

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

Absent: 1 - David McClain

Enactment No: O-EN-022-2025

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported on the following:

I'll begin tonight by making the same comments I stated earlier in a 4:00 p.m. meeting with the subcommittee that's been compiled to look at the best location for the 911 facility. As many of you know and aware, the Justice building on Washington is currently closed. So, estimates are being compiled this week to add support for that compromised rafter. Immediate bracing is underway. So, the more thorough examination of the structure now can be completed. It is possible the cause of the rafter damage is larger and would greatly impact repair costs or make repair impractical. It was during a routine annual inspection that we had Friday of last week that the damage was discovered. The building has a history of maintenance issues. Many of you have been on here long enough to have dealt with that many times, and we already have begun the planning process of leaving that facility with the funding of the new 911 Center. Obviously, this is a very fluid situation with safety being the priority. And, some immediate response and reorganization was necessary. We have temporarily placed all city employees that were in that building. And, I'm working with Judge Marvin Day, and District Court Judges Boling and Fowler on accommodations for District Court. Judge Day has been very helpful and understanding of these unique circumstances. So, as I told him earlier, I do appreciate his efforts. We've asked for an Insurance Investigator to come to inspect the damage and determine that it is possibly a result of weather related event. I will keep council informed on the matter. As a matter of fact, I just learned after our 4:00 p.m. meeting that they will be in town tomorrow to address it. So, hopefully we'll have that to you very quickly.

The following passage of the truck ordinance at our last meeting to reroute big rigs from downtown, we now have permission from ARDOT to post the route signage on Johnson Avenue at the intersection of Southwest Drive and Highland. This will make

an ordinance enforceable 30 days after passage, which is July 17th.

Another date of interest is July 22nd, that's the day of our bond professionals are finalizing agreements, and the paperwork needed to close on the revenue bond issuance.

Our neighborhood cleanups are usually scheduled for the first week of the month, but the fourth being the holiday weekend, beginning Friday, the neighborhood cleanup will be on Saturday, the 12th of July, and it's going to be located on Rains and Highland. It should be a big one. And, we will give you updates as well on our trash tonnage at that point. It's almost doubled to what it was last year. It's pretty incredible.

We will also by the end of this week, hopefully have a sign off on all the lighting on Creath. So, we'll make you all aware on council when all of Creath will be lit up. You'll probably be able to see it to Memphis from here. But, anyway, it's quite a sight, so we're looking forward to that.

On June 20th, I had the honor of participating in the National EMS Memorial Service Moving Honors Procession, which is a ceremony that Emerson Ambulance Service put on. Paramedic Mark Gibson was one of 29 EMS professionals in the country who lost their lives in the line of service last year. Mark was 56 when he died on August 9th in a vehicular accident. He was a paramedic for over 40 years, and he made a wonderful impact in our community and touched many thousands of people. The procession travels across the country and culminates on the Weekend of Honor, which is held July 18th through the 20th in Virginia Arlington Cemetery in Virginia, and it makes stops in 19 states. Mark was a part of our community in so many ways, and I think that we all need to look around to see how many he touched. We recognize the commitment of our first responders in all aspects. But more importantly, our first responders are the crux and the basis of our community, especially in this day and time. And, I would like to say as well, we need to always keep our first responders of all assets that we have in our community in our prayers, as we saw some firefighters that lost their lives going to help and assist in just a fire, a common everyday fire that they had done a thousand times, and they lost their lives in doing so. So, we want to keep our men and women here in our community in our prayers as they do their daily job. This is a good time to remember everybody that's in that line of business. I want you to know that we have your back. We appreciate what y'all do. And, thank you for everything. And, both Chiefs, we appreciate that. 911 Ronnie and of course, we have firefighters in the meeting as well.

Jonesboro celebrated June 19th, Thursday at University Lions Northside Park, hosted by KLEK 102 FM. This event honors June 19th, 1865, the last day of enslaved African Americans were informed of their freedom. More than two years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. I was privileged to open the evening by reading the city's official Juneteenth Proclamation, reaffirming our commitment to recognizing and remembering this pivotal moment in our nation's history. The celebration featured a little powerful live vocal performance and concluded with vibrant fireworks on display.

And you'll have more chances to see fireworks in a few days. On July 3rd, it will be a Joe Mack Campbell Park, and then also at Nettleton that evening. And, then on the 4th of July, at Southside softball complex on Stadium Boulevard.

Under the category of just in, Main Street from Washington to Huntington will be closed from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. tomorrow due to an air conditioner to be installed on top of a downtown building, if I'm correct, somewhere like that. So, we will have all the resources out to redirect our community.

[COM-25:021](#) MAY 2025 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

Filed

[COM-25:022](#) City Stars Audit

Attachments: [City Stars Audit.pdf](#)

Filed

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Ann Williams said, I just wanted to mention that tomorrow night at 6:30 p.m., Garrett Barnes and I are hosting a Town Hall Meeting at Native Brews Works on Gee Street to discuss cooperation between city and county on mutual, beneficial projects. And, I invite everyone to attend. Mayor Copenhaver asked, what time is that? Councilmember Williams replied, 6:30 p.m. Mayor Copenhaver said, okay, thank you Councilman.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said, yes, just one thing real quick. Mayor, now that we're halfway through the year, do you think we could get an update on the projects that are on our Capital Improvement schedule? Just to kind of see where we are on each of them, at one of the next council meetings. Mayor Copenhaver replied, sure. Councilmember Hafner said, thank you.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Absent: 1 - David McClain

_____ Date: _____

Harold Copenhaver, Mayor

Attest:

_____ Date: _____

April Leggett, City Clerk