



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING AT 5:00 P.M.

PUBLIC HEARING AT 5:20 P.M.

Mayor Harold Copenhaver asked if anyone in the audience wished to speak for or against the public hearing regarding the abandonment of a drainage easement located on part of Lots 8 and 11, Hill Park Addition, Phase 1 as requested by Crafton Tull on Behalf of Andrea Panneck. No one spoke for or against the issue.

1. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR HAROLD COPENHAVER AT 5:30 P.M.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

3. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

Present 12 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

Proclamation to Sophie Puckett for HOPE – Helping Other People Every Day

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, well, Good evening councilmembers. It is my pleasure to present to you Miss Sophie Puckett. She is one of the Youth Councilmembers. We are very proud of what she has done. She is a sophomore at Valley View Schools and she does a lot of accolades for our community and community involvement, but I want to bring this to your attention. She met with me about a month ago and we talked about offering a "Day of Hope" and it's H O P E, Helping Other People Every day. So we are going to do a proclamation. This was her idea and I want to commend her for that. It is a resolution declaring a day of hope in Jonesboro. Whereas, the City of Jonesboro is blessed with an abundance of volunteers and residents helping and willing to seek others with no recognition for themselves and; Whereas, hope is movement to encourage helping other people every day and; Whereas, a movement to encourage helping other people every day and; Whereas, among the examples of this was March 28, 2020 when an EF3 tornado hit our city during the beginning stages of the COVID-19 pandemic and; Whereas, residents of Jonesboro came together to support the community and provide shelter, clothing, food, and water to those affected by the tornado and; Whereas, the first responders of the Jonesboro Police Department, Firefighters, EMT's, and civilians worked diligently to ensure the safety

and recovery of those affected by the tornado and; Whereas, volunteers came to assist both residents of Jonesboro and first responders by providing cleanups and resources and; Whereas, Jonesboro residents can now provide hope and help to others and communities across Northeast Arkansas and; Whereas, the message of hope has been shared with students across Northeast Arkansas to encourage helping other people every day. Now, therefore, I, Harold Copenhaver, Mayor of the City of Jonesboro, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim today a day of HOPE in the City of Jonesboro, Arkansas. Thank you Sophie.

Proclamation to the Valley View Cheer Team for winning the Class 4-A State Championship

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, this is about youth involvement in our community. That is great leadership that you all showed up this evening and it is very much appreciated by not only the citizens of Jonesboro, but your councilmembers as well. Get involved. This is what it is about in our community. So, I am very proud of you all this evening. This was brought to our attention and we are here to honor you as a proclamation honoring the Valley View High School Cheer Champions. Whereas, the Valley View High School Cheer squad earned the title of Class 4-A Cheer State Champions at a competition recently held in Hot Springs, Arkansas and; Whereas, Coach Jordan Loebach and the Valley View Cheer Team has won four state crowns in the last five years and; Whereas, individual honors went to all state selection Carson Watson, an individual jump champion and tumble champion Paige Whatley and; Whereas, Watson and Whatley have both been named to both the 2021 and 2022 All Star East Cheer Team and; Whereas, Valley View High School's long history of excellence in cheer speaks to the school's greater goal of success in all endeavors and these individuals represent themselves, their city, their school with honor. So, I, now, therefore, Harold Copenhaver, Mayor of the City of Jonesboro, by the virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim today Valley View Cheer Day in the City of Jonesboro. Congratulations to you all.

Beverly Parker spoke about Keep Jonesboro Beautiful.

Beverly Parker, 3803 Sawgrass, said, I am the chairperson for the Keep Jonesboro Beautiful Commission. I am here just to give you all a little update. I think it has been about a year and a half. I know it seems like forever. But, I just want to give you a little update because you really can't support things that you don't know about. And, so, to point out a few things and to let you know that we are certainly not where we want to be, but we are further along than when we started. I'm quite proud of the work that we have been able to do. I want to start out by quickly telling a real story about a place I have gotten to visit last year. So, a small town in the Agri Central Valley area of California and as I went there, we were just staying the night, but I had this vibe and I am thinking well, this is a really neat little town. And, later, when we went to supper, I realized that there was no litter anywhere in this town, not a gum wrapper, not a cigarette butt, not a piece of plastic, there was nothing. It was totally clean. And, this is very much a working Agri town. So, I thought, you know, this is possible. So, I just want to tell you all that is in my vision. I think a lot can be attributed to pride of place and a supportive environment. And, that is really why I think your support of our issues or our initiatives are important. I think that we also have to raise our expectations. We need to reward good behavior and remediate bad behavior. Behavioral change is really what is based on the Keep America Beautiful model. That is not easy and I think that we, because we live in the Delta area, we feel like we are kind of stuck in what we have. Things are not necessarily pretty. We have to realize that is not just a litter

problem or a beautification issue, it is really an economic issue and we have to face it as an economic issue. Quality of Life and bringing people to our town not necessarily just to visit, but to live here. And, as we know, all of the industries are really looking hard and trying different ways to recruit. And, I think as a city, we have got to support that. So, that really is just kind of an overview. So, I just want to mention a few things that we are working on. As all of you know, our first issues was litter removal. We worked hard on that and I know that the Mayor has continued that work. It is important that we show what a clean town looks like. And, I think that is really part of what the Mayor is really striving for. You know that our logo if you will is fight dirty. We want to show greater pride in our city and that is really going to depend upon the citizenry. In the next few weeks, you will see that we are having several, probably nine or ten litter removals and a couple also of the regular clean ups that have been done for years in the neighborhoods. But, citizens will have an opportunity to engage with pop up cleanups and pick up where you are directives. We will also have GreenFest downtown again this year. That will be on the 23rd of April which is the day following Earth Day. That is a collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce. So, I am hoping maybe some of you have seen some yellow buses. Has anyone seen a yellow bus yet? I hear that the buses have been released. We have worked with Keep Arkansas Beautiful to get bus wraps at no charge to the city. We will also most likely have some billboards in the coming months. And, that is simply because of a connection of my showing up in Little Rock to a commission meeting and saying why can't we get what Northwest Arkansas has and what Little Rock has. So, I think there is value in us seeking these types of opportunities. So, I also want to talk a little bit about litter prevention and this is where you can really help. Keep Arkansas Beautiful has a character called Otto the Otter and you are going to see Otto more and more. So, we are working with schools. We are putting booklets in the schools so that the children are learning about litter, why it is important not to litter, what happens to the animals' environments, etc. We also have recruited the Chamber to help start a Jonesboro Beautiful Business program whereby the businesses with the beautifying their business, planting more plants, and offering litter cleanups more often. Also, cigarette butts are the number one cause of litter. And, we had a grant here in the city and we are putting containers up and I think the Parks Department is busy doing that at the present time. So, those will be downtown and also at the entrances to our Parks. One thing that I want to mention that kind of goes along with Code Enforcement, but further, and that has to do with the tarp law. And, you all know that we have a law that says that your trash or what you are hauling has to be tarped. You may have noticed some trailers around town, some other things, those rules are not always being followed. And, I want to mention that this is a safety issue, not just a litter issue. But, it is a safety issue because those things come off the trailers and can harm people and I just feel like it behooves us to look at this just as we look at speeding. We need to be reinforcing our tarp law. There are three things that I think that would really be helpful with our litter problem. Enforcing the tarp law. Dealing with our trashcans that seem to be staying on the streets where they get turned over and spilled out, etc. That is a real opportunity. We need more communication about what the right behavior is and also dumpsters. Dumpsters are a huge issue when it comes to the origination of our litter. So, perhaps we can work on enforcement. So, moving on, I think all of you know about our greening opportunities. I want to thank our Parks Department. Brandon and Danny are great to work with. And you know, we planted the trees down at Washington and Church. We have worked on Evans Park which is a park that didn't have any trees to start with. Brian is working with us on our gateway areas which has kind of been slow to evolve. We learned a lot about ARDOT lately, but we are still working on perhaps some wildflowers and some other things for the bypass. We are working on our Tree City USA designation and the renewal of the Urban Forestry Council. I think it is important to note that our trees are the thing that we have of great beauty. The rolling hills here is what we are known for

and as the Mayor said recently, once it's gone, it's gone and we really need to work on preserving it. Communication and I am going to call myself out on that one has been a huge obstacle. We need to communicate better with the public on what the right thing is to do and then follow up with them if that isn't done. We have built alliances throughout the city with the Chamber, Arkansas State University, the business industry, so we are working hard to fulfill our vision, our mission, and I hope that you will continue to support our work. I feel it is very, very important to the future of Jonesboro that we become the clean town that we can be. Thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you for your update Ms. Parker. We appreciate your efforts. Ms. Parker said, thank you.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Councilmember Chris Gibson motioned, seconded by Councilmember Bobby Long, to adopt the Consent Agenda less RES-22:044. All voted aye.

Councilmember David McClain asked that RES-22:044 be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

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

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

[MIN-22:013](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON FEBRUARY 15, 2022

Attachments: [CC Minutes 02152022](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-22:034](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY ATTORNEY TO CERTIFY FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO FOR THE 2022 ANNUAL FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA) CERTIFICATIONS AND ASSURANCES FOR THE JONESBORO ECONOMICAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM (JET)

Attachments: [Jets FY2022 C&A](#)
[Jets Sign_page_FY2022C&A](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-037-2022

[RES-22:036](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONTRACT WITH FIRST COMMUNITY BANK FOR SPONSORSHIP OF ONE FIELD AT THE JONESBORO SHOOTING SPORTS COMPLEX

Attachments: [First Community Bank_SSC2022](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-038-2022

[RES-22:041](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXECUTION AND MAINTENANCE OF A LETTER OF CREDIT TO BE ISSUED TO THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT, DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (DEQ)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-039-2022

[RES-22:042](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE (BJA), AND ACCEPT THE FY 2021 BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-040-2022

[RES-22:043](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH JAIL FEES BETWEEN THE CITY OF JONESBORO AND CRAIGHEAD COUNTY

Attachments: [INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF JONESB](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-041-2022

RESOLUTIONS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

[RES-22:044](#)

A RESOLUTION TO PARTNER WITH JONESBORO UNLIMITED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATURAL SURFACE MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL PLAN FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO

Attachments: [studioDRIFT_JonesboroMBTrails_FINAL](#)
[Finance Comm Mtg 2-22-22.pptx](#)

Mayor Copenhaver said, I listened to the committee meeting last week. I wanted to kind of give you a step-by-step on this. This is in conjunction with what we already had in the approved budget of \$250,000 for parks at Craighead Forest. This is particularly for the trail upgrades. It is in conjunction with the Jonesboro One Plan. Those are hard surface trails. These are called soft surface trails. So, in that process, then what we have come forward with is a partnership and the group before you, Ms. Wingo's group presented the Chamber of Commerce and my office a presentation on taking this forward in how they could engineer the process, incorporate this plan with the Jonesboro One Plan of soft surface trails. These are trails that we are seeing all across the United States. But, this will add immediate features to Craighead Forest. It can be completed within a timely manner and then in conjunction then we can start. Our engineer Craig Light has been working so diligently on our hard surface trails that take a lot longer to be able to actually come to fruition due to easements and other things. So, that is kind of an update of what this is here when the presentation was made. Jonesboro Unlimited immediately stepped up and said we are willing to pay as it is mentioned here in the drafted document before you, a portion of these to help the

city move this project forward. So, that is where we are at this point.

Lindsey Wingo, Project Manager at Studio DRIFT, said, so, just very quickly, the mission of Studio DRIFT is to create connections in the culturally and ecologically rich, but economically poor regions of Arkansas. So, we are a new non-profit and we basically, in a nutshell, facilitate the relationship between IMBA and our stakeholders like you, the City of Jonesboro, Jonesboro Unlimited. We are very experienced with the trail planning, designing, all of that so we are assisting with that. IMBA is a trail building arm of the International Mountain Biking Association which they are an international leader in developing single track trails with experience in over 500 projects in North America, Europe, and Asia. They are definitely gold standard for planning, designing, and construction trail systems that provide high quality experiences for local riders and destination visitors while minimizing environmental impact. They are one of the primary trail designer and builders of Arkansas' best known and coveted trails in parks throughout Arkansas. So, a lot of the trails and trail designs that you have seen in Northwest Arkansas, IMBA has designed all of that. Some of the main trails that you will see, they have had their hands in that. As far as Studio DRIFT and our side of things, there was our founder definitely had a huge hand in the One Jonesboro planning and process and so we are able to relay all of that information to IMBA and hopefully get some quick results with this. This design will be an overlay to the existing plan with the idea to develop lower infrastructure cost connections so that the public can utilize and we can test the need. All development will stay even if a multi-use trail is added in coming years. Our intent will be to go directly into construction with soft surface trail once the plan is complete with public private partnership and infrastructure cost. The plan for the Craighead Forest portion is to evaluate the existing trail network that we already have here and then keep and improve on as much as possible. They will make improvements to the experience and way-finding, add to existing trails, and provide a trail that follows the existing three mile multi-use loop that we already have at Craighead. The intent is to go directly into trail building and modify the existing trail that we have, once the plan is complete and schedules align for the appropriate trail builder.

When the initial public information gathering tasks were completed for the One Jonesboro plan, that will all be shared with IMBA and all of the public input that we got from everyone in Jonesboro. And, then also Studio DRIFT will facilitate getting the information out there to the public about the planning when all of that takes place. And, then we can also utilize a public survey tool to gather comments during this new process if needed. So, that's a little update of where we are at. If you have any further questions for me, I would be happy to answer. If Danny has anything to add, feel free. Mayor Copenhagen said, Danny, why don't you give us an overview of what you see the vision and the need for this. Obviously the investment of city council approving that earlier in the year, we just want to make sure that, I think everybody wants to feel comfortable with this.

Parks Director Danny Kapales said, so yes, looking at Craighead Forest Park, you know, we have a wonderful park at Craighead and we have 17 miles of trails, but those trails were built by volunteers that have done a wonderful job. They helped maintain it, but they are not professional trails. They are not designed trails and that is what you are seeing across Arkansas and other locations that folks are looking for. And, that is what people are traveling to in order to enjoy and so if we want to utilize what we have which is you know 770 acre park that has a trail system and we want folks to visit Jonesboro. We have to get those trails right. And, I think this is an opportunity by having IMBA which is as she said, it is the gold standard of trails. And, the folks that came in two weeks ago, they spent the week at Craighead Forest and in Jonesboro

riding the trails. They didn't just go out there and look at the park. They brought their bikes out and they rode the trails and they touched every part of that park to make sure that they knew what was going on and they will continue to do that as they move forward as far as this project goes and make sure that we have a system in place that anybody that wants to ride mountain bikes will come to Jonesboro and say, hey, Jonesboro has the right trails. They have the trails that you want to visit. They have the trails that you can spend a week on and actually enjoy mountain biking. And, then from there, how do we get soft surface trails to connect other main features in Jonesboro? We have talked about that with the hard surface trails. Soft surface trails are much quicker to develop, easier to develop, and there is a lot of folks that are looking for soft surface trails to be able to commute. It also gives us an opportunity to show those connectivity's early where people want to travel, how they want to get from place to place. We can come in right alongside the soft trails later and create the hard surface trails right beside us. So, now, you have those options. You have the folks that want to jog the hard surface trail or ride a road bike on a hard surface trail. Then, you have the person who wants to be on a mountain bike or actually wants to job on a soft surface. They will have that option. And, I think that just makes Jonesboro much more versatile at that point.

Councilmember Chris Gibson said, I just have a comment, just real quick. I think this resolution is a perfect example of the gray area between the Public Services and Finance because Public Services was not brought in on this conversation at all which I am not hurt over by any means, but I just think this is a great example of what we have been discussing, just for transparency.

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: 12 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Enactment No: R-EN-042-2022

6. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-22:011](#)

ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 07:072, PROVIDING FOR A POLICE OFFICERS BILL OF RIGHTS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Attachments: [315-04 Promotional Process JPD Officers Bill of Rights](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-22:011 by title only. All voted aye.

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore, to amend ORD-22:011 to reflect Section 315.03 be changed to 315.04. All voted aye.

Councilmember LJ Bryant motioned, seconded by Councilmember Charles Frierson, to amend the attachment for 315.03 Promotional Process on page two, Item B, Number 6, to change it from "his designee" to "his or her designee." All voted aye.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said, I have had a few officers reach out to me with some

concern over this. I don't know if Chief wants to come up. Obviously, when we are talking about changing the Officers Bill of Rights, I guess that gets quite a bit of attention. The concern is if the promotion procedure/policy is taken out of the Bill of Rights, that it will lose some visibility and transparency when it wants to be changed and that it can be changed outside of the view of the council and public. So, I guess I would like some clarity on that. I know that it says that it is the desire of the city council to take it out or to amend, but I'd like to know what the purpose is of taking it out of the Bill of Rights. Police Chief Rick Elliott said, its there in that promotion process in that ordinance. The section actually that was stricken was also attached to the ordinance and then 04 is the new language without the stricken language. The Bill of Rights is still in place, enacted by the State of Arkansas. The language taken out of the promotion process is covered in policy that the council votes on. So, we are not losing any transparency. You approve the policy of the department and I bring our policy before this council every two to three years for you to approve any updates we have made from the last time that we approved this. So, it is being brought before the council and if there are any questions that come up, it is still approved by the council. As a point of clarity, the letter 03, that's the revisions of that document since it was created. So, since this language was stricken, the document's new number, last two numbers are 04. So, basically, without changing the number on that ordinance, you are adopting the document that we just took out so it defeats the purpose. There was an error in that 03 being put in instead of 04. So, it is just cleaning it up. It took out language such as involving the Assistant Chief and the process, but the promotion process has stream in the department policy. So, nobody has lost any rights and we discussed this with our supervisors and we've been on this project for months. I, personally, have not had any other concerns. So, again, the Police Officers Bill of Rights is adopted by the state of Arkansas. We were one of the first agencies in the state that ever adopted this years ago. So, we understand the concept, but again, the whole state adopted the Police Officers Bill of Rights. But, this was over-defined in that, but like I said, it is covered in the other. It is covered. We just cleaned up the language. Councilmember Hafner said, okay.

Councilmember Bobby Long said, so just to make it clear, the concern about any changes in promotion processes or anything like that is covered in policy. Chief Elliott said, nothing has changed. It is covered in policy, yes that you have adopted. So, this is a redundancy. Councilmember Long asked, so it is in two different places? Chief Elliott said, that's right. Councilmember Hafner said, just to clarify it. Chief Elliott said this is the promotional process. We just took some of the language on the Bill of Rights out of it because it is already covered in the Bill of Rights. Councilmember Hafner said, okay, but, so let me ask this question. So, originally when the Jonesboro Bill of Rights was adopted, was there a policy covering the promotional process? Chief Elliott said, there's always been a promotional process. Basically, that process has not changed since I've been here other than who proctor's the test, some of the ways you do the testing. That is what has changed and now we are taking out the fact that the Assistant Chief proctored the test and I'm putting it over to Human Resources as I think it should be because the situation now, my Assistant Chief, her husband also works for the department and this is the first time we have encountered this and it would not seem fair to the department that she's involved in the testing process and the interview process when her husband is eligible for a promotion. So, we want to eliminate that not only for now, but for down the road. We are setting the department up for the future, in case there is a problem like this again. Councilmember Hafner said, alright. And, so the policy, the 315.04 could not be changed unless we approve the change? Chief Elliott said, any policy in that book, I can change anytime. Again, I'll bring those changes back to you in two to three years. So, a policy book is a living document and we make changes accordingly as need be. Now, if there is something

major that would adversely affect the department, then if everybody felt that we need to bring it back before the council to get it approved, then it is not a problem. I'm not going to just adversely jump up and change the promotional process. It's the same process. Again, you have a written exam. You have an interview board. And, then there are certain criteria that adds up points for the selection process. And, at the end of the day, when the eligibility list is established, the Chief of Police has the option of choosing any candidate that's the top, out of the top five candidates for any position to be promoted. It does not necessarily have to be the number one person on the list. I have the discretion to choose which candidate I think is best. That has not changed over the years and has not changed now. Councilmember Hafner said, okay, alright, thank you. Chief Elliott said, the stricken language is in that ordinance that is available for anybody to look at. And, then the new attachment will also be attached in Legistar. Ms. Leggett has that attachment also. So, we are just asking to read it tonight and forward it to the second reading. If anybody has any questions between this time and the next meeting, then we will certainly answer those. Councilmember Hafner said, alright, thanks Chief. Chief Elliott said, yes sir.

Mayor Copenhaver said, I just want to reflect on that too. We have been looking at this for a long period of time. Chief brought this to our attention and we wanted to move forward very cautiously and judiciously with this process. That is a good question and thank you Chief for your response. Chief Elliott said, yes sir, thank you.

Held at one reading

[ORD-22:013](#)

A ORDINANCE TO VACATE AND ABANDON A DRAINAGE EASEMENT LOCATED ON PART OF LOTS 8 AND 11, HILL PARK ADDITION, PHASE 1 AS REQUESTED BY CRAFTON TULL ON BEHALF OF ANDREA PANNECK

Attachments:

[Crafton Tull](#)

[Hill Park 1770 Mayfield Drainage Easement Abandonment Plat](#)

[Hill Park 1770 Mayfield Drainage Easement Abandonment](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-22:013 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[ORD-22:004](#)

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

Held at second reading

[ORD-22:006](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH FIRST STEP PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT TO DEVELOP AN INVENTORY OF HARD-SURFACED ROADWAYS MAINTAINED BY THE CITY OF JONESBORO

Attachments: [Statement of Proprietary Technology\(2022.01\)](#)
[Jonesboro, Arkansas 2022 Street Conditions \(49.5\)](#)

Waived Second Reading

[ORD-22:010](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR XET CONCEPTS, INC., DBA UNWIND CAFE LOCATED AT 2816 CREEK DRIVE

Attachments: [Private Club Permit Application_USE_Redacted](#)

Bob Hester, 7096 CR 333, said, I was not planning to speak tonight, but I was told that I should. I wasn't even planning on speaking the last time, but I was asked to. Not that I am not opposed to these because naturally I am, but for obvious reasons. On page 10 of that blue booklet that I gave you, it states that 1 in 8 Americans are estimated to be alcoholics. Now, I didn't believe that statement. I don't know whether it is true or not, but I didn't believe it. That seems far out. I thought that can't be right and then I began thinking about the alcoholics I knew and then I'm afraid that I believe it now. I came up with almost 50 alcoholics that I knew, present, former, whatever, just in a short time. My brother and I were walking yesterday and I remembered another one. We were talking and today I remembered two more. So, right there, that number would probably be more if I thought about it long enough. Does anyone know what causes alcoholism or what product is primarily used by alcoholics? Well, I am not sure, but I think it is alcohol. Now, some want to call alcoholism a disease. It is the only disease that I know that I am aware of that is promoted and encouraged by promoting and proliferating the product. One of the main problems with granting all of these alcohol permits is that it creates a climate of alcohol use. And, since alcohol is the number one gateway drug, it promotes a climate of drugs. It is so insidious and gradual that it is not noticeable until maybe several years later. And, that is where our society is at this point. We know that. Where there are more alcoholics and drug addicts is that what we really want? Houston, we have a problem. Council we have a problem. When we would go before the ABC Board in Little Rock, they would emphasize that we could not moralize or talk about the problems caused by alcohol. Can you believe that? We can't talk about the problems of the product resulting from the use of the product that we were down there trying to stop. That was the rule. That's what they always say. The reason, they already knew the problems, but didn't care. People stopped going to the ABC hearings, not because they were no longer opposed to alcohol outlets, but because they knew it was a done deal before they even got there. Then, because nobody showed up at the hearings anymore, it appeared that there was no longer any opposition. This is the reason we might as well stop coming here. Not because we are no longer opposed to alcohol being proliferated in our dry county and towns, but because we know it's a done deal. Nevertheless, I ask you futilely I am sure to vote to deny these and all future alcohol permits in Jonesboro and I thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you for your comments Mr. Hester.

Held at second reading

[ORD-22:012](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR SUNFLOWER SOCIAL CLUB, INC., D/B/A POPPY'S BEACH GRILL & EVENT CENTER TO BE LOCATED AT 2915 KAZI JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

Attachments: [Poppys_USE_Redacted](#)

James Elywin Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, said, folks, there are way too many clubs already. You know, people say well, we've got a right to drink. There's plenty of options already. We need to look at some of these areas that we are totally filling up with pubs, let's call them what they are. We need to have something, some kind of plan

instead of just anybody who wants to apply for a liquor license, we will rubber stamp that application. That's the wrong way to go. That's not what the people of Jonesboro and Craighead County have voted for and we need to curtail it. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you for your comments Mr. Hinds.

Held at second reading

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-22:002](#)

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTED PURSUANT TO ACT 1112 OF 2017, AND APPLICABLE ABC REGULATIONS APPROVING THE RESTAURANT PRIVATE CLUB APPLICATION OF UMAI SUSHI & GRILL IN JONESBORO, INC. AT 1841 E. HIGHLAND, SUITE B, JONESBORO, CRAIGHEAD COUNTY, ARKANSAS.

Attachments: [Umai Sushi and Grill Private Club Permit Application Redacted](#)

James Elwyin Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, said, once again I want to point out the location of this is at one of the busiest traffic areas in the City of Jonesboro. That is entirely a bad place to introduce alcohol. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you for your comments.

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: 12 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Enactment No: O-EN-011-2022

[ORD-22:005](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, FROM I-1, LIMITED INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT, TO C-3 GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5712 C.W. POST RD. AS REQUESTED BY CALIARKA PETRO, LLC, OWNER

Attachments: [5712 C.W. Post Road - Staff Summary - City Council Staff Summary survey\(8.3.21\) Application Design Concept Photos of Signs Returned Notification Letters Rezoning Plat](#)

Scott Troutt, Troutt Law Firm, 247 South Main Street, said I am an attorney here in Jonesboro. I've already kind of gone over what Caliarka is requesting in this rezoning. I am largely just here to address any questions. I will reserve the rest of my time in the event that there are other comments. Thank you. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you.

Rajeev Kumar, 3323 Flemon Road, said, I have lived I Jonesboro since 2009. I only mentioned in my last two meetings over here. I just only have two questions. There was an answer that came from Mr. Troutt about the traffic study. The traffic study cannot be accepted I think because it's not going to be fair unless or until it is done by the city or the state. Just like for example, the bank, I cannot just give them my appraisal

report. The bank won't take an appraisal report from me. They will do their own. So, to have a fair traffic study should be accepted by only when the city or state will do it. I also have a question for Mr. Derrel Smith if he would like to answer. If he had a choice to put a truck stop, where would he put it? Would it be put right in the middle of the street or right of the exit on the interstate which is also preferred by all of the TA Express. Recently, I went to a trade show and I met a TA Express official to see what they really require. Their requirement is the location which is right of the interstate or any major highway, not in the middle of any big bypass. I really appreciate you guys to give me the opportunity to speak again here today. Thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you for your comments sir.

Judy Casteel, 1902 Independence Cove, said, first of all greetings. It is so nice to see all of you. This is like old home week. I appreciate the opportunity to speak and I am going to be brief. I just come to you because this has been on my mind since this was in front of MAPC. I can't say that I have any issue with this truck stop gas station being put in this location. My issue is more as a person who served on the landscape committee, the sidewalk committee, the MLK committee, and currently with Keep Jonesboro Beautiful. I just want to drive home the fact that please, let's make sure that this is done well. This is a gateway to the city area. We want to make sure that it is a positive step forward. To Mr. Troutt, whom I have known for a very long time, I would just ask that you would visit with your client and ask that they keep in mind that this is a very big, important area for our city. We are excited about the development. The MLK Committee was really excited about having this as the eastern bypass and we want to make everybody proud. And, that is really the only thing I have. I have seen truck stops in my travels over the years that some are deplorable and others that have been absolutely fantastic and we just really want to have fantastic. So, that's pretty much all I have got to say about it. I did have a question for Derrel. I tried to connect with you earlier today to find out if planning does a follow up on this sort of thing because I'm not really clear on that after the project is done. I know you guys can't be everywhere. That's not my point. I'm not picking on you I swear. Mayor Copenhaver said, Ms. Casteel, go ahead and ask your question and I will have him approach and answer. That will be fine. Ms. Casteel said, okay, so that was my question. Again, I think you guys for your time, it's great to see all of these smiling faces again and I appreciate it. Thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, good to see you out. Good to see you Ms. Casteel. Derrel, if you would, come forward and if you don't mind just answer briefly her question please sir. Planning Director Derrel Smith said, yes sir, we will look at, I mean before the plans will be submitted. We will review them and make sure they meet all current codes before we will issue a certificate of occupancy. We will go out there and make sure everything is installed correctly before we will even let it open. Mayor Copenhaver said, but her question was actually is a follow-up to that and so if we do not have that in the ordinance, in other words, it has to be kept up to code. Mr. Smith said, yes. I mean that it is in our code that it has to be kept up. Mayor Copenhaver said, it is in our codes. Okay. Thank you.

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: 12 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Enactment No: O-EN-012-2022

[ORD-22:007](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 117, ARTICLE III, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, PROVIDING FOR

CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, FROM C-4, NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL DISTRICT, TO PD-RS, RESIDENTIAL PLANNED DEVELOPMENT FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1510 AND 1604 WOODSPRINGS ROAD AS REQUESTED BY JOHN EASLEY OF ASSOCIATED ENGINEERING ON BEHALF OF MIKE CAMERON

Attachments: [1510 and 1604 Woodsprings Road - Staff Summary - City Council Staff Summary](#)
[Plat](#)
[Application](#)
[Proposed Site Plan](#)
[Financial Docs](#)
[Property Notification - Rezoning](#)
[Certified Mail](#)
[Sign Relocation](#)
[Rezoning Plat](#)

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: 12 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Enactment No: O-EN-013-2022

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported on the following:

First of all, I would like to say, I'm sorry council, I've got a little jet lag today. I took the inaugural flight of Air Choice One from the City of Jonesboro with Judge Day and we went to Nashville and back. It took us approximately about 1 hour and 20 minutes. The flight was very comfortable. It was an hour and twenty minutes either way, but more importantly, they already have 127 seats sold. So, the round trip, let me give you the definition of what they are doing is. So, they will leave Jonesboro and fly to St. Louis and back to Jonesboro and leave Jonesboro and go back to Nashville and back to Jonesboro and go back to St. Louis and back to Jonesboro in a day. So, that is the normal flight schedule for that. That will be achieved five days per week. So, we will have 12 flights to St. Louis and 6 flights to Nashville. I'm here to tell you that the people in Nashville, there are a lot of people there at the airport that knew Jonesboro and were aware of Jonesboro. This opens up another gateway for our community. Also, we had business members that have industry here and also Nashville who will be taking their employees on this flight which is a much more effective way financially for them than flying a personal plane or jet out of the airport. So, we are always looking for that and I commend the commission for the work that they have done and look forward to working on some other things as well.

I will say that this past weekend, Councilmember Chris Gibson participated in a bowling competition. We stepped up to the plate. An organization had a fundraiser this weekend and all lanes were full. The city was represented by myself and two other members from Finance and our councilmember as well. So, it was a good weekend had by all when it came to bowling. We are all in a little bit of pain, but we are making

our way out of that.

With the Grants Director, Regina Burkett and MPO Director, Alan Pillow, I attended the Mid-South Mayor's Council last month. This is a tri-state collective Mayor's Council and we are creating what is to be called a Regions Smart Tri-State Compact Initiative. Those are fancy words for regional teamwork and we can lobby and acquire grant funding for mutual critical projects. This will include state and federal elected officials as well. And, to give you an example of what this group wants to accomplish, the first concept proposed is a third Memphis area bridge over the Mississippi River. We hope that would be north of the city to better serve the residents of Jonesboro.

Ms. Gayle Taylor who is a part-time worker for the Human Resources Department is the employee of the month. If you don't know her, you need to meet her. Gayle is the gatekeeper of the HR Department and has managed the first floor reception desk for quite some time. She has grace and professionalism that is unparalleled. She's a mentor to young people and new employees and Ms. Taylor always represents the City of Jonesboro with pride and honor. So, we congratulate Ms. Taylor as Employee of the Month, but more than that, we appreciate her service to our community. And, that is also sponsored by First Security Bank every month.

You received news earlier this week about a release on search options for a broadband partner. And, what that means is options. Options for internet, TV, and modern media for all and I repeat for all of Jonesboro. This is critical for our future, our homes, our schools, and medical care. I look forward to keeping the council updated as this process unfolds. This process has been going on informational wise for almost a year now.

I want to show you some upgrades. On the screen you will see a before picture of our E-911 Center. Brandon Carter has been taking daily updates as we move forward with this progress and our 911 Coordinator is in the room, Ronnie Sturch. Sir, I appreciate your leadership through this and the transformation. They have been working around the clock. Days off last Monday, IS Director Jason Ratliff and quite a few employees were assisting in this process. They are about a week into it and it will be about another two weeks for completion. It will be somewhere around that point. Communications Director Bill Campbell states, you can see them as they are having to work while the 911 workers are having to work as these people are putting new computers in. So, it is an upgrade. Mayor Copenhaver said, as you can see, the upgrades are much needed and those desks are actually mobile where they can go up and down so the individual will be able to stand up and sit which is better for their health. And, as well, as in future dates, we can move all of this equipment. So, it is totally mobile as well. So, this is a part of the \$2 million investment that you city council approved late last year. And, obviously, our goal is to keep Jonesboro as one of the safest communities in the country.

I also want to commend and I think that it is important that we always do so. We received quite a few phone calls the early part of this week and in late last week on the work that our Street Department did in the community during the snow and ice that we had. They were not only able to clear many thoroughfares, but they clear many neighborhoods. We received many phone calls on that. I also want to commend our other departments from police and fire, but our code enforcement. We had compliments where they helped people who had car trouble or assistance with their vehicles throughout the city. This is the type of individuals and are the type of individuals that we have working for the city and I want to commend them in that. So, we appreciate your around the clock care during the frigid nights to keep our streets clear and our community safe.

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember John Street said, Mayor, I would just echo what you said. I told them I would pass it along, I received a great compliment on the work that the city street crew did clearing ice on this last one and said they were very impressed overall with the one before that even. So, good job. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you. Councilmember Street said, our Street Department always does a great job, so does Sanitation and all of our departments. But, I told them I would pass that along. Mayor Copenhagen said, that is good to hear, always. Thank you.

Councilmember Mitch Johnson said, I just wanted to take a second to be very appreciative and thank Ms. Parker for her dedication and drive to the commitment she has made for our Keep Jonesboro Beautiful program. She seems just like a diehard and keeps going at it. I'm just amazed at every time that she gets up and speaks about the progress that they are making. And, I know that several others, Dr. Coleman and Ms. Casteel, they work hard in their areas. I don't know about you all, but I spend about every weekend picking up litter in my neighborhood. If not, it is every other weekend. And, it is a challenge overall. I have a dog that likes to dabble in cigarette butts every now and then so I try to get those up as well that way I don't have to pick them out of his mouth when he decides on it. But, Ms. Parker, thank you so much for everything that you do. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you for your comments.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, I would just like to mention the fact that Patti Lack has not been here in the last couple of meetings. She had a leg injury and she is recovering from it. I talked to her today and it is my understanding that she will be back at the next meeting. We wish Ms. Lack return to health. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you for your comments.

Councilmember Brian Emison said, I just wanted to echo what everybody had to say in regards to the Street Department and also Ms. Parker's dedication to keeping Jonesboro a great place to live and also a great place to visit and look forward to seeing more stuff come out of her committee. I just wanted to bring some attention to the Jonesboro Police Department and a recent arrest that they made. I think it was announced yesterday in regards to an individual that was going around stealing mail out of mailboxes and thanks to some of the upgrades we have recently done with the traffic camera system and everything else that individual was able to be tracked down, able to be arrested, and a lot of sensitive information taken out of hands that it was not supposed to be in. So, thank you to the Jonesboro Police Department, to the Chief, also to the council and the administration. Once again, the investments that we are making are making the city a safer place to live. So, thank you. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilperson Bobby Long, seconded by Councilperson Joe Hafner, that this meeting be Adjourned. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

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

_____ Date: _____

Harold Copenhaver, Mayor

Attest:

_____ Date: _____

April Leggett, City Clerk