



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

PUBLIC SERVICES COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING AT 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC SAFETY COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING AT 5:00 P.M.

PUBLIC HEARING AT 5:25 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 9 - Brian Emison;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and Ann Williams

Absent 3 - Chris Moore;Anthony Coleman and LJ Bryant

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, Council, I think it's very imperative that, again, you brought it to my attention early on. I think we need to have more special presentations in front of City Council, making Council aware of things that we're doing, and also things that you have voted on and supported when it comes to moving forward with the city budget. We've made some really large decisions in the last five years when it comes to health insurance, the rising just cost are becoming prohibitive for so many citizens across our community. And so I want to say, first of all, when we bring it to Council, the engagement piece that you all have is very important. And again, I want you to know what we're doing behind the scenes as well with our department heads. Dewayne, if you want to come forward and you can make an introduction here of the members that are present this evening. I felt tonight, it's very important for you to see the results of your decision and ours that we brought to you, the reflection of what we have done now in over a year being on a self serving program. That was a big step for the City of Jonesboro. And as you know, it's always a priority of this administration to put our employees needs first, and healthcare is one of those. It's very important. A lot of times, we can't provide other needs and services, but with the health insurance participation levels that Council approves every year in our budget that allows us to be competitive for our employees and helps them in the pocketbook and they can get the best healthcare. So in turn, they're able to be at work. So Dewayne, if you would, feel free to go ahead. You have the floor, and I appreciate Council's attention.

Human Resources Director Dewayne Douglas said, yeah, I think you also, and I think it would be very beneficial to everyone to see how the plan has been evolving as we started. I think you are going to be impressed with the numbers and information. And I'm pleased to have the Hatcher Group with me tonight, along with ADP, as well, because now we have the self service on our mobile apps, and things like that for employees. They will talk a little bit about that, but I won't talk anymore, but I'll turn it over to Greg Hatcher and let him explain about the plan.

[COM-26:009](#)

2025 CLAIMS ANALYSIS PRESENTATION BY THE HATCHER AGENCY

Attachments: [City of Jonesboro Council Meeting Claims Analysis 2025.pdf](#)

Greg Hatcher, Hatcher Insurance Group, said, well, I think the first thing I'd like to do is just talk about healthcare costs in general, even before we get into the details, because, you know, as for a person that's not dealing with it every single day, it's like, why are the costs going up and up and up? It's like you're just running against a headwind all the time. So, there's several reasons. One, you know, when we passed healthcare reform in 2008, it took place in 2010. We added no preexisting conditions. We added wellness to the plans that weren't covered before. We added birth control pills. We added psychiatric drug, alcohol recovery with no limit. Okay, it used to be, it used to have all these limits. So anytime you add to a plan more coverage, it's going to cost more money. I always use the example that you can go buy a Camry, just the base Camry, or you can buy one with one leather seats, with a spoiler, with a sunroof, with, you know, cool tires, and it's always going to cost more. So, there's no argument that the additional coverages that we added were really important and certainly take care of Americans better, but I think what Americans weren't ready for is the compounding of that year after year after year. Then you have guys like me, baby boomers, the aging of the population. So today, our society, for every, for every one person that's, you know, retired, we have four working to pay for it. In the next 10 years, it could be, they're showing the ratios could be 2 to 1. Just the population is aging as we age. You know, we use more healthcare. And then I think everybody knows that we have more and more procedures, you know, it used to be when I started in this business, somebody had a heart issue, they had a quadruple bypass. Today, somebody has a heart issue, most of the time, they get a stint. You know, then they're home in a couple days, okay? It used to be the people died from those things. I have personally witnessed a heart attack playing pickleball with a guy that they said 98% chance he shouldn't make it, but he had a doctor doing CPR. We did the work, you know, and I'm eating dinner with him a week later. So, healthcare's very important. There's nothing more important than your health. With that being said, when we're going, we're delivering rate increases, it isn't fun. So, if you look back 15 years ago, how many groups did we have fully insured versus self-funded? It would have been almost all fully insured, except the big boys. Okay, the really big groups today, groups at 100 lives, 150 lives, are going self-funded because they're trying to battle those headwinds. So one of the things that people don't realize is when we passed healthcare reform, we added those coverages, but we did not address prescriptions. It was not part of healthcare reform. They were, it was just completely ignored. So, today, if you're fully insured, every time there's a health, there's a prescription drug claim, there is a drug rebate that goes under the table to the insurance company. And I say under the table, not illegally, but just that you can't see. So the pharmaceutical companies are paying drug rebates to that vendor. That's gotten to be quite substantial. It also puts the vendor in a position that do they really care if we're using high cost drugs because the bigger, the higher cost of the drug, the more the drug rebates. So at some point, prescription drugs will have to be regulated. You know, today, the drug companies give all kinds of free drugs out to the doctors and they even take care of people that are really, really sick at certain income levels. But part of that is, part of that's nice, and part of it helps them with Congress to

not be messed with. So it's really a delicate dance. I don't have a solution. I've been doing this for 44 years and there's no just, hey, this is what you do and it will fix it. So what we do is we do the best that we can each and every year. And when a group goes self-funded, they're taking the first step to do the most that they can possibly do to help. So, if we look at these numbers, on the 1st page, when you guys were fully insured with Blue Cross Blue Shield, your claims totaled \$10 million. Alright, so your claims hit a total of \$10 million and you paid in \$6 million in premium. So I think everybody, whether you've ever dealt with an insurance renewal or not, if you pay in \$6 million and you have \$10 million in claims, you're going to get hammered. And you did, you got hammered with a 50% rate increase. We tried to make, you know, some adjustments, you know, got it down, but the reality is just negotiating is never going to change anything, okay? So, we stayed self-funded with the exact same carrier. I mean, we're still with Blue Cross Blue Shield. It's just a difference in how you pay. I like to use the example of you can build your house on a fixed bid. A builder builds it and if they make a profit, they keep the difference, or you can do it on a cost plus basis. You pay as you go. Well, in the insurance business, it's always better to pay as you go because when you have good year, you didn't spend the money. So I say to people, if your claims are this much, they're going to set the premium here, right? If your claims go to here, they're going to set the premium here, but what happens when you have a good year here? They leave the premium up here. When you are self-funded, you never paid it. So, we decided to make a move based on that. And you have to realize that right now, in Jonesboro, we have a very serious situation at the hospitals not staying with the United Healthcare Network. Okay? So why do you see more battling between hospitals and the insurance carriers on the reimbursement rates? Because it makes a difference. The hospitals are struggling to make it. But when they give a pay raise to a hospital or a doctor, up goes the cost at the same time. And what I want to tell you is that it just keeps getting passed on. So every time a carrier pays more, which may be needed, I've been involved in a bunch of those negotiations, but take Baptist and United, that was the last one. You know, they gave them an increase. When that occurs, then the claims go up, the client gets the increase, and the client has to deal with, do I charge my employees more, or do I raise the deductible or do I shift them to Medicare or do I shift them, you know, to the insurance exchange? So, you know, we are battling those headwinds with your plans.

So, to the numbers, if you go self-funded, you have several advantages that you don't have fully insured. The first is the premium. The first is the premium tax. So there is a 7.5% premium tax in Arkansas. And every fully insured premium dollar paid, some of that goes to the federal government to fund the exchange and some goes to the state insurance department. Some goes to PCORI, which is Patient Centered Outcome Research Institute to solve dreaded diseases. Okay? But when you go self-funded, you do an end around, and you don't have to pay tax anymore on claims administration, or claims, and claims is the biggest part of the equation. You still have to pay the tax on the reinsurance portion, which is if a big claim, you know, say goes over \$100,000, they eat the balance. But if I can reduce the taxes on 80% of your cost, 80% of 7.5 is 6%. So you save the 6%. The next thing is those drug rebates that I said that go under the table to the insurance carrier, when you're self-funded, you are the carrier. You are the provider. Now, those drug rebates go to the city. And when we went self-funded, we got \$671,000 worth of drug rebates that were going to the carrier. Now, make no mistake, Blue Cross still gets to keep some of it, because there, it's still their PBM, but the majority of it, you're getting. Okay? Each year we'll take a look at that. Is it worth switching to another PBM where you can get it all, but then your admin fee with Blue Cross could be higher. It's kind of an offset. There's more benefit flexibility when your self-funded, okay? If you want GLP-1's covered, we could do it. Now, right now, I don't have a single group that has covered GLP-1's. But the point is that any, we can, we can tailor our plan to the way we want it. When you

buy fully insured, you have to buy a cookie cutter plan that was filed with the state insurance department. If you want to go up on your deductible 5% from \$1,500 to \$1,650, you could do it self-funded versus you couldn't do it fully insurance because they would, they don't have that deductible filed. So much more flexibility in the benefit design. Okay? The big one is we pay claims as we go, instead of sending that premium to the carrier on January 1st, and they put it in their bank account, and they earn interest. Okay? It sits in our bank account, and we are earn interest. And more importantly, when we have that good year, we get to keep the money because we never sent it out. A lot of people talked about Blue Cross had a tough year last year where they lost money. They did. But, they didn't talk about the investment earnings on the billions of dollars they have sitting there waiting, which counts towards your net income. Here's a big one. Access to your detailed claims data. If I told you to manage the city's expenses, but I wouldn't give you any reports, I wouldn't tell you what you spent your money on, that would be a pretty impossible thing. But when you're fully insured due to HIPAA, but also do the fact that carriers don't always want to give you all that data because you can use that data against them to negotiate or negotiate with other carriers, they won't give you the data that shows you where your large claims are, what drugs everybody's taking, so that you can manage those. When you're self-funded, that is your data. You get a look at it. We can set the drug formularies to be smart. So one of the things we're most happy about with the City of Jonesboro in the first year, is a typical group, a person uses 1.5 prescriptions for every insured member. So you have about 700 members. So you guys use about more than a 1,000 prescriptions a month. When we went from fully insured to self-funded, we now could see those prescriptions, and we could script source them. We could go out of the country. We could go to a better place to buy them. And, out of your 1,000 plus prescriptions, we only looked, there were 36 that were really impactful, and we script sourced 36 prescriptions, only 36 out of 1,000. And we called those members up and said, hey, if you'll do this mail order, if you'll take your prescription this way, we'll make you have no co-pay, no deductible. It's 100% payment because by doing this it saves the plan money. It saved \$1.6 million on those 36 prescriptions. Mayor Copenhaver asked, you want to say that again please? Mr. Hatcher continued, yeah, so those 36 prescriptions, we saved \$1.6 million on just by being able to get them in a different spot. I'll give you an easy example. If you can sing the jingle on TV, it's a really expensive prescription, okay? So, like, Skyrizi's, my favorite, okay? Jardiance is pretty good. But if Skyrizi is \$27,000 a month, and we go fix that and get it for \$6,000 a month with a similar prescription that works, that's \$21,000 a month times 12 is \$250,000. That's how we saved \$1.6 million. But if you're only insured, they don't care. They're getting a rebate. The higher the prescription, the bigger the rebate. And I don't want to, I know I'm in a public forum, but I'll say it to anybody at any carrier, they have no incentive to do that. Okay? So when we're self-funded, we spend a lot of time trying to manage those claims. Okay? And, you know, just for the record, we sell tons of Blue Cross fully insured. Sure, this isn't about Blue Cross. This is all carriers deal with this. Okay? It's just that when you go self-funded, you have more control.

So, when we went from self-funded to fully insured, our claims, I mean from fully insured to self-insured, on our claims went from \$10.1 million to \$8.7 million. Now, that should not happen because anybody that's been reading the newspaper knows the trend in healthcare right now. Last year, it was 12%. That's the highest it's been in I don't know 15-20 years. I don't remember it ever being that high. Why was it so high in the previous year? Because of the Transparency Act. So the transparency act, you know, it's like we have this perfect storm. We had healthcare reform that added all these coverages, okay? That was when Obama was President. President Trump came in and he put in the Transparency Act. Depending on which side you're at, you can blame them both, okay. They weren't meaning to do bad things, but it kind of works out that way sometimes. So the Transparency Act said that the consumers

should be able to see what the doctor/hospital is charging. I have never had a customer call me and say, can you help me get online and see what the doctor's charging for my knee replacement? I want the cheapest one. I want the guy that's got a sale this month on knee replacements. No, they want the best guy. They just want to know who's the best at it. They don't care what the cost is because their cost is deductible, co-insurance, and out-of-pocket. It doesn't matter if they charge \$49,000 or \$25,000. It's going to cost them the same deductible, co-insurance and out-of-pocket. But guess who can see all the prices. All the providers can see the prices. So, if you were a hospital, you didn't know what the other hospital's getting paid for the care, but now you do, and if it's lower than what you're getting paid, and for, what if your hospital is even better, you're going to want more. And even if you're the best hospital in Arkansas you're getting paid the most. Did you know Arkansas reimburses our providers and hospitals? We're 50 out of 50. So they're getting the lowest reimbursement rate. So they have a pretty good argument when they're like, hey, we're not getting paid enough. We're barely making it. Why is somebody in Texas getting paid 50% more? Why? And, in Louisiana they are getting paid. Name your state. They're getting paid more. So when they could now see this because all that was confidential data before, they have an argument. And the thing that I like to tell people to really illustrate it, tomorrow, Mayor, go print the salaries of all the city employees, you know, on, you know, or in your company. Go put it on the front door and see how many problems you have. Okay? Because somebody's going to say, I do a better job than them. If they're getting this, I should get that. That's kind of what the Transparency Act did, and it bumped up trend. Okay? Now, the hospitals, and the doctors, and the insurance companies, and then signing contracts, generally two or three years, so it will slow it down a little bit, but the Transparency Act is here to stay. Okay? It's here to stay and healthcare reform is here to stay. We're not going to go back to no preexisting, okay? So, healthcare is, you know, a crazy time. So desperate times, desperate measures, you're looking at everything. So, but to think that our claims dropped with that trend and all that going on, definitely the management of being able to be self-funded and watching, and we have to even watch it more. We have to watch it even more. At the Hatcher Agency, we're looking for other ways to even get more data to help you. Your drugs dropped from \$3.2 million to \$1.8 million during that year from 2024 to 2025. It should be going up, but it went down because we could source those drugs. Especially drug management's key. You know, I think you'll see a lot more coming on drugs. You know, can we buy our drugs in Canada? Can we buy them in the U.K.? So, nobody ever wants to hear from an insurance agent for very long, okay? But I hate to come here and not tell you the truth and hit your hard right in the nose with why it goes up. It was growing up because we cover more than we used to and everybody can see what the price is. Okay? That, it was designed so you could see the price and negotiate it down, but the only product in the world that nobody cares what the price is healthcare because somebody else is paying for it. And it's the only product in the world, like, we don't have a right to eat steak every night. We don't have the right to drive a Cadillac every day. But we do have the right to the very best healthcare. That's the way we think in America. You know? You don't have the right to the nicest anything, except healthcare. And, frankly, it is the most important thing, because try not having your health and see how important it is. So any questions?

Mayor Copenhaver said, Council, I think, too, I want to remind, and Greg, if I'm not incorrect on this, the year that we had the increase of 25%, Council approved that we assist in that for our city employees because that was a significant rate increase. And it was at 50 at one point, you were able to negotiate that down, and then, in the budget that year, we were able to absorb some of that for our city employees. Mr. Hatcher replied, yeah, and a carrier will not continue to lose money on you. They are going to get that number right. So, it was better to be proactive and take control of it ourselves. I always tell people when I move to self-funded, this is not going to fix

healthcare. There's nothing that fixes healthcare. It's the best option for healthcare. You know, it gives us a 13% advantage every year because we save the 6% in taxes. We saved the 3% average on drug rebates that we were losing. We saved the 3% underwriting gain that an insurance carrier normally gets to keep, and we make 1% on our money. That's 13%, and that's before we start managing the drugs. If we can manage the drugs and manage the claims, like, I'll give you a perfect example, and you tell me when you want me to stop, okay? But let's say you're fully insured, when you're fully insured, you're just driving along, you're asleep at the wheel. You're not paying attention to anything because it's somebody else's money. As soon as you go self-funded, it's our money and it affects us. Let's say an employee, and I just had this happen, a employee gets in a car wreck. It's a terrible car wreck. He's in the hospital for a long time in the group now. They can't pay him anymore. They have to put him on COBRA. Well, you know, normal HR, hey, let's just put him on COBRA. Well if your self-funded, you're like, wait a second. Wait a second, the guy's not working anymore. If I put him on COBRA, it's going to run up the claims on my plan. What about the Insurance Exchange. He's not making money right now. He gets subsidy on the Insurance Exchange. Should we see if we can get him a policy on the exchange, at a cheaper rate than the COBRA rate, which is better for him and better for us? The answer is yes. Okay? So our job and your job is to keep your eyes open. Are there ways to help both sides? And I'll end with this. How do I look? Do I look like I'm a claim waiting to happen next year? If I gave you \$800 a month, make it \$1,000, would you insure me? David, would you take me for \$1,000 a month? Councilmember David McClain said, yeah. Mr. Hatcher said, and that feels good. Most people won't take me. They take one look and be like. Okay. That's what it's like to insure somebody today, no medical questions. You don't get asked. You don't get to know, it's kind of risky. But I'm going to have what I'm going to have this year. I hope hopefully nothing. But we're just fighting over who's going to pay for it. If we put me on Medicare, we shifted to the government. We put me on the Exchange, we shifted to the Exchange. If Blue Cross has to pay more to the provider, they got shifted to Blue Cross and they're going to try to shift it back to you and since you're self-funded, if Blue Cross pays more to the provider, really, you're paying more to the provider. So it's one big battle. If we can, if we can get it, if we can, if we can script source our drugs, we shifted it away from, you know, our care making money. It's one big battle over who's going to pay for it. That's what's going on with healthcare and that's what will always be controversial. But hopefully, I've helped you understand a little bit more about it and how we can better control our plan.

Mayor Copenhaver said, Greg, first of all, thank you very much. Council, this has been a work in progress for at least like four years. And we've taken steps every year, gentle steps, but we've gotten to this point. Greg, how do we compare what you see other self-funded programs in Arkansas, per se? Mr. Hatcher replied, so, I want to say one thing before that, most of the time, I'm telling my staff, do not sell cities, counties, self-funded plans because there's too many decision makers. There's people everywhere and they may not understand it. It's just easier to stay fully insured. But this situation was a little different, okay? We had a Mayor who understands insurance a little bit. Okay? We had a really good HR team and our CFO's, they got it. So we felt comfortable doing it. You know, a city and a county has a lot of blue collar workers having to work on the streets, you know? It's a pretty good gig, you know, that we tend to keep our people. They don't have high turnover. So sometimes the average age is higher. You also have men. The older a man is, the more claims they have, you know. So, you know, how you compare to the others? Certainly, the way you manage the plan and the way we were able to do the script sourcing, that's better than most. You know, are our rates lower than the market, no, probably about average, okay? But you're not an average group. You're an above average, you know, age and risk type group. So we're managing it. I will say that most groups that go fully insured to self-funded, do not have claims go down in year

one. They're just, they're trying to avoid trend. They're trying to manage it. So I was real pleased with the fact that it actually, you know, went down. That doesn't mean anybody's going to be happy. It doesn't mean we're going to avoid rate increases, but we're going to try. And, the best thing we can do is go hire a bunch of 22 year olds. But, you know, that doesn't always work, right? Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you. Mr. Hatcher said, alright, thank you. Mayor Copenhaver asked, Council are there any questions? Councilmember Janice Porter said, I would just like to make a comment. The insurance plan paid for me to participate in a VIRTAs weight loss program. And after years of failed attempts, I started on this program January 3rd and I've lost 22 pounds. And my blood sugar, blood cholesterol numbers are normal now. And this is something, a plan, that I can go with and stay with and be not miserable. Thank you. Mr. Hatcher said, that's a really good point. You know, the other thing we can do that I don't address is get healthier. Right? Work out more, eat better. Dewayne is always on his what, what wellness plan can we do? So, HR is on that, but yes, we can all do the best with the community. Mr. Douglas said, thanks for sharing that and there's many others in the room that could share the same story. So that was a good add on. I'd like to take a few minutes, just to introduce the team and let them tell them about their role, and I ask them to keep it short, but these are the ones that I work with on a daily basis.

Hey, Council, my name's Jacob Still. I'm one of the healthcare consultants at the Hatcher Agency that works directly with Dewayne and his team pretty much daily, multiple times a day, managing the plan, and also kind of being the point of contact for a lot of employees as they're navigating healthcare, because healthcare is, you know, definitely something that's frustrating. You know, when we're having to handle that, and the employees, you know, it's usually, you know, it's a pretty down day when they're having to go get a procedure done or, you know, trying to understand bills, and, you know, work through that process, but I'll keep this quick. A few years ago, me and Dewayne started talking and he's, you know, him and his team have had a real big push on wellness programs. And when you're fully insured and you're trying to do a wellness program, you know, it's like, you know, playing darts blindfolded, you know, you're just throwing a dart hoping it sticks on the board and hoping that works. You know, it's very hard to pinpoint exactly what you need to do, what you want to do. So this year, we had three goals, you know, increase the amount of people that got their wellness visit which is your preventive visit, which you get for free under the plan. You know, have a cancer program in place for anyone that has a cancer diagnosis, and then something that can control the specialty medication. So, led by Dewayne, this year for the first time, he partnered with NYIT and Arkansas State and did onsite wellness clinics. We had two of them this year, one outside of the city hall, here, in the parking lot, and one outside at Public Works. And because of that, we had more people get their wellness visit this year than ever before which is good because a lot of people were able to get their levels checked, and, you know, see their health risk, and, you know, notice things before they become a serious, chronic condition. You know, and that's part of, you know, containing costs, kind of like what Janice was saying, you know, control what you can control and that was a big part of it. The second thing is, you know, through it, through the program that the city has, we have a cancer program that anyone that's had a cancer diagnosis, and since 2023, we've had over 80 cancer treatment claims hit the plan, which is, you know, obviously, you always hope that, you know, number goes down. But through this cancer program, employees now have access to high oncology networks, you know, nurse care, and basically a patient advocate that walks with them through the entire process, and gives them second opinions on every single thing because when you have cancer, it is a very scary thing. A lot of people don't really like to navigate that by themselves. And, the most important thing about this program, we have a lot of, we have a handful of employees that are utilizing it now, is, you know, there's a series of follow ups with this program that

makes sure that the employees feel secure about any future treatments or anything that, you know, might come up on the horizon. And then the third thing that we've obviously talked about is, you know, managing the specialty medication. The program that we put into place, and Greg kind of talked about it, allowing people that make below a certain amount of income, get directly from the manufacturer, an extreme, discounted price, you know, so these employees weren't having to pay as high out-of-pocket expenses for these specialty medications which would help them as well. And, you know, now that we have the data, in about 12 months, you know, looking forward into, you know, 2026, 2027, and 2028, looking at adding some virtual healthcare, virtual PCP, virtual mental health counseling, and virtual urgent care, where employees will be able to access healthcare if they choose at no out-of-pocket expense virtually, you know, which will be big for, you know, the police and fire department, and really anyone, especially, you know, people with children. So I don't want to bore you to death, but just kind of wanted to give an update on some of the, you know, plans that we have put in place with Dewayne and his team. And that they're gaining a lot of traction. So, thank you for allowing me to be here and I'm going to pass it over to Don Wiener. He's with ADP and he's going to kind of talk about some of the technology the city has put into place. So, we're done talking about insurance now. I hope I didn't bore everyone to death. Mayor Copenhagen said, one statistic, how many football games did you center in a row? Mr. Still replied, well, 53 starts, which is the most ever. You know, I was originally from Germantown, Tennessee, and then I came to Jonesboro in 2016 to play football. I did 6 years. I red shirted and then I had the COVID year. So I had six years before it was really cool. And I played a lot of football. Actually, my quarterback was Lane Hatcher, Greg's son. So we were actually roommates, which was a cool story. And I kind of found my family here in Arkansas. So it's been a blessing. Mayor Copenhagen said, we appreciate you, Jacob. Thank you. Mr. Still replied, thanks.

Good evening, Mayor and Council. My name is Don Wiener. I represent ADP. For those of you all that may not be familiar with ADP, we are a leading provider of payroll and HR technology and services. We pay every payday one in six Americans and probably 80% of the Fortune 500 companies use us in some capacity. We were originally engaged a couple years ago from Dewayne after Council approved the project for a new system because the HR team and Dewayne were struggling with multiple software solutions. As the city had grown in size and in workforce over the last decade, they had multiple software solutions that were managing the workforce and how employees interacted. And because of this, it created a lot of manual processes. As you can imagine, when you have different systems reporting from all these disparate systems, it can be challenging. And, as a matter of fact, anytime the employees would have a question for HR, Dewayne and his team had deployed a ticketing system where the employees would send a general email to an HR inbox and then Dewayne and his staff would respond accordingly. And it had grown to the fact, to the amount, that they were having 100 employee inquiries every week and their current technology had no self service capabilities, no way for employees to either, through their desktop or through their mobile phone, access information, whether it be on their paystubs, or W-2s, or other HR information. So, Dewayne and his team naturally had the vision to, hey, how can we streamline and automate processes? How can we make things more efficient? How can we have better reporting? And so, as you can imagine, there's a three person HR team. Besides Dewayne, there's also Kellye and Chris. And so, for a three person team, they were strained and at capacity and had done the best they could. And I think, Mayor, you had the question for Greg, well, how do we compare to other cities? And we get that question all the time at ADP. What do you recommend ADP in terms of staffing levels and support and infrastructure for an organization like the city that's close to 800 employees? There's a industry benchmark out there that was developed by what they call SHRM. That stands for the Society of Human Resource Managers that

recommends that any organization or company have one HR person for every 100 employees. And your team has three. So you can imagine they were pretty strained. Mayor Copenhaver said, thanks a lot. Thanks a lot. I know where that's going. Mr. Wiener said, yeah, and I'm proud to say that due to ADP's technology and our services, along with a great service and support that Greg and Jacob and the Hatcher team has, we've been not only able to streamline things, but relieve a lot of the administrative burden that Dewayne and his team have had to deal with. I would like to recognize besides Dewayne and Chris and Kellye, also Steve and Christy and Paige. Mayor Copenhaver said, absolutely. Mr. Wiener continued, the Finance Department has done a great job rolling their sleeves up and putting a lot of effort behind it. Mayor Copenhaver said, excellent. Mr. Wiener continued, and, Mayor, again, on behalf of ADP, we're grateful for the relationship we have with the city and we look forward to continue to build upon the success we have had so far. Mayor Copenhaver commented, well, and you mentioned it well. We do a whole lot more with a lot less. And our, the commitment that our city employees do, they love their job, and, Steve, you and your team, again, I'm glad he mentioned it because I was going to. They work well together, HR. Again, I'm very proud of you guys and I appreciate the hard work you've done. And we've got to continue this momentum moving forward and educate our employees. Thank you for your time this evening. Mr. Wiener said, thank you. Mayor Copenhaver replied, you bet.

Mr. Mayor, Council, how's everyone? I'm Scott Allison. About five months ago, the city implemented a program called Benefits Me for it's employees. It gives those employees the opportunity to go to an online purchasing store and to purchase 70,000 different products. What's unique about that? Well, so, 62% of Americans today are living paycheck to paycheck. Many of them are struggling with their credit. This program gives them that opportunity to go purchase the products that they need. The city payroll deducts the cost of the items for them. And, it means that employee can go and take care of their family with the products that they need. Now, I said, we've been doing this now for about five months. We have 27% of the employees that are signed up and using this program. It doesn't mean that they're all purchasing through the program. It simply means they're viewing the program on a monthly basis. Well, what's this program really do, Scott? It's from a company, the company's perspective or from the city's perspective, it's strengthening their benefits package. It's giving them something unique that no one else can offer. It's also improves the employer retention. When I have an opportunity to go to, like, to take care of my family with a program where if I've lost all my credit, God forbid, so many people have out there today and they can go to an online purchasing store. They can purchase up to 70,000 different products with Best Buy, Ashley Furniture, Ace Hardware, the products that we purchase on a day in and day out basis. Is that good for them? Well, sure it is. It's giving them the same opportunity that people that basically have lost their credit will never have. So, again, we're increasing the employee's morale. We now have 25% of the people that are signed up. We just started a few months ago. That number will increase. And then, reducing the employees' financial stress, because believe you me, we have lots of employees that are working more than one job. They're coming to work tired. If we can take the burden of financial stress off of them with a program like this, we think that's very beneficial. What's it doing? What does it do for the employee? Well, with this program, there is no interest. There's no hidden fees. The city is payroll deducting the cost of those items from the employees paychecks. They know exactly what's going to come out. If they need a laptop computer for their children, if they need a washer/dryer, it's very simple. When they open, when they go into the store, they have a credit limit in the store. It's all limited what they can spend. They basically purchase that item and it is sent directly to their front door step and it allows them to take care of their family. So, you have instant access to thousands of products. You have no credit check whatsoever. Your job is your credit. And this program is being very successful right now. Mayor Copenhaver

said, thank you, Scott. Mr. Allison replied, sure. Mayor Copenhagen said, I appreciate it. Dewayne, do you have any closing comments? Mr. Douglas said, I just want to thank y'all for taking the time to listen to kind of what we're doing on the healthcare side, and I think we're making positive moves, and I appreciate the team that supports us, and they have a lot to offer the employers. So I appreciate it. Thank you. And, I appreciate y'all coming. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you. Be careful.

Filed

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Chris Gibson said, I move to adopt unless there are any changes to be noted. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, second. Councilmember Kevin Miller said, Mayor, I request that item RES-25:168 be removed. Mayor Copenhagen replied, okay, would you like to amend that motion? Councilmember Gibson said, its already been removed. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, it's already been removed. Mayor Copenhagen replied, alright, RES-25:168. Are there any others? City Attorney Carol Duncan said, it's already off, RES-25:168. Mayor Copenhagen said, oh, it is, okay. Councilmember David McClain stated, one more, RES-26:010. Mayor Copenhagen said, alright. Councilmember Gibson said, I'll amend my motion to reflect RES-26:010. Councilmember McClain added, and RES-26:011, I'm sorry. Councilmember Gibson continued, and RES-26:011. Councilmember Brian Emison said, second. All voted aye.

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

Aye: 9 - Brian Emison;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and Ann Williams

Absent: 3 - Chris Moore;Anthony Coleman and LJ Bryant

[MIN-26:012](#) MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON FEBRUARY 3, 2026

Attachments: [CC Minutes 02032026.pdf](#)

THIS ITEM WAS PASSED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA.

[RES-25:219](#) A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE FOR RIGHT-OF-WAY AND A TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT AT 2400 E. JOHNSON AVENUE FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

Attachments: [DRAFT Offer and Acceptance - Ruth A Steinsiek Trust - 012326.docx.pdf](#)

THIS ITEM WAS PASSED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA.

Enactment No: R-EN-027-2026

[RES-26:009](#) A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE BID AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF THREE BUSES FOR THE TRANSIT DEPARTMENT (JET)

Attachments: [City of Jonesboro ARBOC SOF quote 011526.pdf](#)

THIS ITEM WAS PASSED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA.

Enactment No: R-EN-028-2026

[RES-26:013](#)

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE FY2026 BETTER UTILIZING INVESTMENTS TO LEVERAGE DEVELOPMENT (BUILD) GRANT

Attachments: [BUILD_Map.pdf](#)

THIS ITEM WAS PASSED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA.

Enactment No: R-EN-029-2026

[RES-26:015](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2404 BRAZOS, PARCEL 01-144281-29400, OWNED BY KINGDOM ASSETS, LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

Attachments: [01. 2404 Brazos St Notice of Violation.pdf](#)
[02. 2404 Brazos Billing Request.pdf](#)
[03. 2404 BRAZOS Mowing Invoice.pdf](#)
[04. 2404 Brazos Council Notice.pdf](#)

THIS ITEM WAS PASSED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA.

Enactment No: R-EN-030-2026

RESOLUTIONS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

[RES-26:010](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ACCEPT A PERMANENT RIGHT-OF-WAY AT 3505 STELLA DRIVE FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Attachments: [Permanent ROW Easement - 3505 Stella Drive.pdf](#)

Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road, said, yes, I just noticed on this, you guys, that it is a right-of-way purchase and there is no draft order form on this showing the price that it was given by the city on this. I looked back at the Public Works meeting and there's no amount that is shown for how much we're purchasing this right-of-way. So I'm just kind of concerned why it wasn't because the one right above it on Johnson, there's one, and that's for \$39,000. So I don't know why unless I missed it, but I do not see a purchase price on that. So I was just wondering if we can find that out. Mayor Copenhagen said, okay, thank you very much. Mr. Light, if you do have an answer to that question. If not, we can get back. Engineering Director Craig Light said, this is right-of-way we obtained from Arkansas State University. There was no cost. Mayor Copenhagen replied, okay, thank you very much.

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

Aye: 9 - Brian Emison;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and Ann Williams

Absent: 3 - Chris Moore;Anthony Coleman and LJ Bryant

Enactment No: R-EN-031-2026

[RES-26:011](#)

A RESOLUTION TO WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF STREET LIGHTS

Attachments: [COJStreetLight-60.pdf](#)

Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road said, yeah, first, thanks, Craig for explaining the one previous. On this one right here is that I noticed that there was no competitive bidding on this, but also, too, is that where are these, like, it says, the streets, where are these 60 lights going to be going, and is who is going to be installing these because they look, like, pretty nice lights. Mayor Copenhagen said, okay. Craig, thank you. Engineering Director Craig Light said, the first 27 of the lights are going to be going on Huntington Avenue. They will be going from Union Street west to Flint. There will be 27 lights there. The remaining lights, we've got a few other projects that are still in development. We are getting a better price to buy them in bulk than we do just buying 27 at a time. So we're going to do this project. We're probably going to do Monroe Street with the similar lighting pattern. And, so that's what the other lights are for. Once those projects are developed, we'll have those fixtures ready to go. So we don't have to go through another waive competitive bidding process to get them purchased. Mayor Copenhagen said, and the purchasing in bulk was a little bit better pricing as well. Mr. Light continued, it was money that was in the budget this year to do these lighting projects as part of the street funds. Mayor Copenhagen replied, thank you. Mr. Light said, oh, and who's got the bids for installation opens on March 5th, I believe. March 4th or 5th is when the bids will open. I don't know who will be the contractor yet at this point. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you.

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: 9 - Brian Emison;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and Ann Williams

Absent: 3 - Chris Moore;Anthony Coleman and LJ Bryant

Enactment No: R-EN-032-2026

RESOLUTIONS NOT ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

[RES-25:168](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 3806 School Street, Jonesboro, AR 72401; Parcel # 01-144272-16500

Attachments: [3806 School Boarding and Securing Affidavit.pdf](#)
[3806 School Boarding and Securing Returned Cert Letter.pdf](#)
[3806 School Inspection Report.pdf](#)
[3806 School Map.png](#)
[3806 School Precondemnation Notice Affidavit.pdf](#)
[3806 School Precondemnation Notice Returned Cert Letter.pdf](#)
[28432748-IMG_4434.jpeg](#)
[28432751-IMG_4437.jpeg](#)
[28432752-IMG_4438.jpeg](#)
[28432755-IMG_4441.jpeg](#)
[28432756-IMG_4442.jpeg](#)
[28432757-IMG_4443.jpeg](#)
[28432764-IMG_4448.jpeg](#)
[28432766-IMG_4450.jpeg](#)
[28432771-IMG_4454.jpeg](#)
[28432774-IMG_4457.jpeg](#)
[28432776-IMG_4459.jpeg](#)
[28432777-IMG_4460.jpeg](#)

Councilmember Kevin Miller said, Mayor, my understanding from the Code Enforcement is this property has recently sold and they requested that it be tabled. Mayor Copenhaver asked, is that correct, Mr. Roper? (Mr. Roper said yes off camera.) Okay, tabled indefinitely? Councilmember Miller replied, yes, tabled indefinitely.

A motion was made by Councilperson Kevin Miller, seconded by Councilperson Chris Gibson, that this matter be Postponed Indefinitely. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 9 - Brian Emison;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and Ann Williams

Absent: 3 - Chris Moore;Anthony Coleman and LJ Bryant

[RES-25:169](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 2410 W. Matthews Ave. Jonesboro, AR 72401; Parcel # 01-143143-01900

Attachments: [2410 W Matthews B&S Returned Certified Letter.pdf](#)
[2410 W Matthews B&s Returned Standard Letter.pdf](#)
[2410 W Matthews Board and Secure Affidavit.pdf](#)
[2410 W Matthews Inspection Report.pdf](#)
[2410 W Matthews Map.png](#)
[2410 W Matthews Pre-Condemnation Affidavit.pdf](#)
[2410 W Matthews Pre-Condemnation Returned Certified Letter.pdf](#)
[27984832-IMG_4244.jpeg](#)
[27984840-IMG_4251.jpeg](#)
[27984844-IMG_4255.jpeg](#)
[27984845-IMG_4256.jpeg](#)
[27984847-IMG_4257.jpeg](#)
[27984853-IMG_4263.jpeg](#)
[27984855-IMG_4265.jpeg](#)
[27984856-IMG_4266.jpeg](#)
[27984860-IMG_4270.jpeg](#)

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

Aye: 9 - Brian Emison;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and Ann Williams

Absent: 3 - Chris Moore;Anthony Coleman and LJ Bryant

Enactment No: R-EN-033-2026

[RES-25:216](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 120 W. Woodrow Street, Jonesboro, AR 72401

Attachments: [120 W Woodrow Board and Secure Affidavit.pdf](#)
[120 W Woodrow Inspection Report.pdf](#)
[120 W Woodrow Map.png](#)
[120 W Woodrow Pre-Condemnation Affidavit.pdf](#)
[120 W Woodrow Pre-Condemnation Returned Sig Card.pdf](#)
[28690505-IMG_4602.jpeg](#)
[28690510-IMG_4606.jpeg](#)
[28690516-IMG_4611.jpeg](#)
[28690518-IMG_4612.jpeg](#)
[28690519-IMG_4613.jpeg](#)
[28690520-IMG_4614.jpeg](#)
[28690522-IMG_4616.jpeg](#)
[28690525-IMG_4619.jpeg](#)
[28690529-IMG_4623.jpeg](#)

Mayor Copenhaver asked, Scott, if you would, please come forward. Code Enforcement Director Scott Roper said, Mayor, it should be noted that they did apply for a permit today. But we are going to go ahead and go through the process if, in fact, they do take it down within the time limit, we will just not follow through with the lien. Mayor Copenhaver said, Council, did y'all hear that? Okay. All right. Thank you

Scott for the update.

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: 9 - Brian Emison;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and Ann Williams

Absent: 3 - Chris Moore;Anthony Coleman and LJ Bryant

Enactment No: R-EN-034-2026

[RES-26:006](#)

RESOLUTION REQUESTING FREE UTILITY SERVICES FROM CITY WATER AND LIGHT FOR A TRAFFIC SIGNAL

Councilmember John Street asked, Mayor, I'd ask to be recused because my membership on the Board of Directors of CWL. Mayor Copenhaver replied, noted.

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: 8 - Brian Emison;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Janice Porter;Charles Coleman and Ann Williams

Absent: 3 - Chris Moore;Anthony Coleman and LJ Bryant

Recused: 1 - John Street

Enactment No: R-EN-035-2026

[RES-26:012](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL RIGHT-OF-WAY ON S CARAWAY ROAD FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

Attachments: [Offer and Acceptance - BC Express LLC.pdf](#)

Councilmember David McClain said, Mayor, I got one change I need to make on this. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, amend. Councilmember McClain replied, yes, motion to amend. So on the last whereas, I'd like that to be changed to the funding shall come from the capital improvement revenue bond budget instead of just the capital improvement budget. Mayor Copenhaver asked, so your motion is to amend that to revenue bond budget? Councilmember McClain replied, yes. Mayor Copenhaver said, okay. Ms. Duncan said, we need a second. Mayor Copenhaver repeated, we need a second. Do we have a second? Councilmember Brian Emison replies, second. Mayor Copenhaver acknowledged by saying okay. All right. Councilmember Joe Hafner asked, so, is there...can we get an opinion? Is there any benefit to having it come from the revenue fund versus the capital improvement fund? I know it can come from either. I just want to know if there's... Chief Administration Officer Brian Richardson said, so, and, I apologize, I sent out an email kind of late to Council about this, but the capital improvement fund actually houses the revenue bond funds because those are all capital improvements that are approved by the revenue bonds. So while it says capital improvement fund, it's actually still, it's always been revenue bond funded. I got that clarity after the last meeting. So, you know, it doesn't really on the, on the amendment, I mean it's fine, but the revenue bonds are paying for this project, and that's housed under the capital improvement portion of the budget, so... But, yeah, the clarity on that is there's no problem with that. I just want to clarify that though from the get go. Mayor Copenhaver said, so, Steve, it could be documented either way, correct? (Mr. Purtee said correct off camera.) All right. So,

initially, it was fine as well. Councilmember Hafner asked, so do we need the amendment? Ms. Duncan said, we have a motion and a second on the floor. You can keep discussing, but then it's...we need a vote. (Councilmember David McClain motioned to amend RES-26:012, seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison. All voice voted aye to the amendment.)

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

Aye: 9 - Brian Emison;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and Ann Williams

Absent: 3 - Chris Moore;Anthony Coleman and LJ Bryant

Enactment No: R-EN-036-2026

6. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-26:005](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE AND ABANDON A DRAINAGE EASEMENT LOCATED IN LOT 5R OF THE SECOND ADDITION OF BLOCK C, SOUTHERN HILLS, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS:

Attachments: [Drainage Abandonment Exhibit](#)
[Approval Letters](#)
[Petition](#)
[Receipt](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Joe Hafner, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-26:005 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

[ORD-26:007](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 TO RS-6 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 900 N. CARAWAY ROAD AS REQUESTED BY KLAUS PROPERTY MANAGEMENT LLC

Attachments: [Application](#)
[Notifications](#)
[Plat](#)
[Staff Summary RZ_26-03](#)
[MAPC Minutes 02.10.26](#)
[Publication Receipt](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Joe Hafner, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-26:007 by title only. All voted aye.

Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road, said, this was at the MAPC meeting last week and I have to tell you guys, I have been to a lot of MAPC meetings, and I've looked at a lot of them. The applicant did not even show up to the meeting to present. He didn't even show up. And what usually happens is when someone doesn't show up, you know, either Lonnie or Derrel would say they're running late, they're going to stay around. Well, there was only one agenda on the item. They went ahead and passed

it. You guys, this is not fair. This is establishing, you know, what was the point? This person did not have enough common courtesy, and it wasn't important enough for him to show up to present it to all the MAPC. So I decided that I was going to do a FOIA to find out if he even showed up to the pre-meeting on Monday at 3 o'clock, and I did that. I have not gotten that, and then also, too, I requested to get a copy of the tape. What they do is that they put their phone down in the middle of the table. So I don't even know if they showed up there. But I'm asking you guys, is that out of common courtesy to the city, to, you know, all of us, this applicant did not take the time to show up, to present what he wanted, but they went ahead and passed it. So, I'm just asking you guys, this should really, you know, table this again until the MAPC, he goes to the MAPC, and says what he wants, because usually, at the pre-meeting, there's probably two or three of the MAPC commissioners there. The rest of them just showed up, and there was no discussion, none at all. And they passed it. It's not the right way that we need to start doing things. So I asked you guys, if you can table this, and then have the applicant come back to the MAPC meeting next week, and then go ahead and present it, and then have it come back with three meetings. I think that's only fair to us. Thank you. Mayor Copenhaver replied, thank you.

Nicklaus Aumann, 2420 Judes Way, said, I'm the president of Klaus Property Management. I want to apologize to Ms. Lack. I do work a full-time job as an electrician. Some days I do have to work late. I've spoken with Mr. Anik very closely on this project and he knows my intentions are very good on the rezoning for this property. Mayor Copenhaver replied, okay, thank you very much.

Held at one reading

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[ORD-26:004](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 TO RS-7 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1306 CHARLES DR. AS REQUESTED BY WESTON WAGNER

Attachments:

[App 1306CharlesDr](#)

[Staff Report- RZ-26-01](#)

[MailReceipts_1306CharlesDr](#)

[Rezoning MAPC 1.13.26](#)

[Receipt](#)

Held at second reading

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-26:001](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, ARTICLE III, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, PROVIDING FOR A CHANGE IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 SINGLE FAMILY MEDIUM DENSITY DISTRICT TO C-3 LUO GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2620 ALEXANDER, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, AS REQUESTED BY PAULA THOMPSON

Attachments: [App_2620Alexander](#)
[MailReceipts_2620Alexander](#)
[Staff Summary RZ_26-02](#)
[Rezoning MAPC 1.13.26](#)
[Receipt](#)
[ordinance.pdf](#)
[22173-001-R1.pdf](#)

Councilmember Joe Hafner asked, is this the one that needs an amendment? Mayor Copenhaver replied, yeah, we are going to go forward with that, yeah, okay.

Jim Gramling with Gramling Law Firm-2500 Alexander Drive, said, I'm here on behalf of the applicant. I sent an email to everybody, but there are a couple of revisions to this ordinance that I sent circulated yesterday. One of them is simply correction at the MAPC, they, part of their approval was that the 25 foot buffer between the property and any residential property remain untouched and that didn't make its way into the ordinance, so I added that. We also met with the neighbors, Ms. Rogers and her husband are here, about their concerns. They had a list of several limited use overlay exclusions, and I spoke with my clients, and they agreed to seven of those. So that's included in the revision. And finally, we agreed to dedicate a portion of the property in the southeast quadrant or part of the property to green space except for the possible ingress/egress. So that keeps a lot of green space there between any possible future development and the neighbors. And I believe Ms. Rogers can correct me if I'm wrong, but I think everybody's on board. As I said in my email to you all, I think that my folks have gone out of their way, and I think they have done a good job trying to meet with the neighbors and get this squared away. They would really like to not have additional delay because of that. I think the council has the power to move to suspend the rules and go ahead and vote on this tonight, but...That's, that's what I would request. It's up to y'all though. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

Mayor Copenhaver said, alright, thank you Mr. Gramling. Carol, do we have a significant... City Attorney Carol Duncan said, well, I mean, going from a rezoning to a rezoning with no L.U.O. is not always a significant change. I think this is definitely more restrictive than what was approved by MAPC. My biggest concern, Jim, is when I got a chance to read your ordinances, I don't know how a councilmember's going to make a motion to make all of these changes from what the first ordinance is. It's significantly different. I'm not saying that... it's not different in what it does. It's different in how it reads because you added all the property descriptions that were not in the original ordinance you submitted, and then you added all of the, because you submitted the original ordinance, right? Mr. Gramling said, I did not. Ms. Duncan asked, where did it come from? Mr. Gramling said, I'm not sure. That's before I was retained. Ms. Duncan continued, well, I think that typically, the city doesn't draft those. So it had to be submitted by the applicant, right? So that's my only concern is I'm, I don't know what the motion will be other than to remove the ordinance that, as it exists in Legistar and replace it with this ordinance. City Clerk April Leggett said, and there would be an additional cost for publication because it's much, much longer. Ms. Duncan said, like this ordinance has not been published. Mr. Gramling replied, well, the, I mean...Ms. Duncan said, I understand the amendment for the L.U.O. Mr. Gramling replied, sure, I would just add that the only thing that put in a legal description isn't a substantial change, that just makes it more clear. This is just saying, this is what the property...every ordinance that I've submitted in all my rezoning says, included legal description. Ms. Duncan replied, correct. Mr. Gramling continued, it just so happens that this one is leaps and bounds, and not lot 3, block 4. Ms. Duncan said, right. But it also adds a whole section 3 that was not published. Mr. Gramling said, sure. No, absolutely, and that's why I'm saying I think the Council, if

they are so inclined, has the power to suspend the rules and vote on it. Ms. Duncan agreed, and they do. I'm just saying that the motion may not be to amend. The motion may have to be to replace. Because this is, I mean, I guess, if one of you is talented enough to make a motion to go section by section, to remove what's here and replace it with what's here, you could do that. Do you see what I'm saying? It's just a lot. The cleaner motion might be to remove the ordinance that's pending and replace it with this and keep the same ordinance number. And then we discuss whether it has to, how you move forward today, but the first motion needs to be to get this version of the ordinance on the record as what your voting on. Does that make sense? Ms. Leggett stated, and everyone should have a copy of what he sent. If you'll look down at your screen, you'll see what the original was. Ms. Duncan continued, and I'm certainly not blaming Jim. I'm saying because he didn't submit the first one, but it did get submitted by the applicant.

Councilmember Hafner asked, so if a motion is made this evening to replace the ordinance, would it be on third reading at the next...can we make it be on third reading at the next meeting? Ms. Duncan said, I mean, he's correct. You have the authority to suspend those rules and do and vote on it tonight, should you choose to. I mean, you always have the ability to suspend the rules and vote. My recommendation is probably that you keep it on third reading, but you have the authority to do whatever y'all decide as a Council. And, I know they are making the request. Councilmember Street said, Mayor, I'll move to withdraw my motion to adopt. Mayor Copenhagen replied, okay. Councilmember Hafner said, I'll make the motion to replace the revised ordinance, have that revised ordinance replace the current ordinance. Councilmember Brian Emison said, I will second that. Ms. Duncan said, vote on that first. Mayor Copenhagen said, alright, Council, do we understand? Okay. All right. If you would, please, I don't think we're going to cast just voice vote. (Councilmember Joe Hafner motioned, seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison to replace the entire ordinance with the new version of the ordinance provided by the applicant's legal counsel. All voice voted aye.) (Councilmember Joe Hafner motioned, seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison, to adopt ORD-26:001. All voted aye.) Ms. Duncan said before the Council electronically voted, to clarify, you're voting on it tonight and not holding it. Okay. Mayor Copenhagen said, that is correct. Councilmember Kevin Miller asked, this is with the new change? Mayor Copenhagen replied with, that's with the new changes. Okay. All right. Mr. Gramling said, thank you. Mayor Copenhagen replied, thank you, Jim.

A motion was made by Councilperson Joe Hafner, seconded by Councilperson Brian Emison, that this matter be Passed as Amended. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 9 - Brian Emison;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and Ann Williams

Absent: 3 - Chris Moore;Anthony Coleman and LJ Bryant

Enactment No: O-EN-008-2026

[ORD-26:002](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE APPROVAL OF A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR MONARCA'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT, LLC

Attachments: [Application Redacted](#)
[Lease Agreement](#)
[Receipt](#)

Scott Hunter, Hunter Law Firm - 514 West Washington Avenue, said, I'm here representing Monarca's. It's a Mexican restaurant in Elk Park that's currently in business and we're here to ask for a private club permit. And I'm just hear to answer

any questions/concerns that any of you all might have. Mayor Copenhaver said, questions? Alright, thank you, Mr. Hunter. Appreciate it.

Bob Hester, 7096 CR 333, Jonesboro, said, Mayor, Councilmembers, it's been awhile since I've been here. I'm asking you to not grant the two alcohol permits. Can I address both of these at the same time? Is that okay to do? Mayor Copenhaver replied, no sir, we'll stay with this one. Mr. Hester continued, so, this will be Monarca's that I will be addressing? Okay, not to grant the...I'm asking not to grant this permit to Monarca's Mexican Restaurant. Now I'm not asking you to deny it. I'm asking you not to grant it. If no councilmember makes a motion to approve this permit, the applications cannot proceed. There's no state law that compels a local official to sponsor or move an ordinance they do not support. An action is generally not a deniable act in a way that triggers civil rights litigation as long as the Council is not violating the civic constitutional protections such as denying one applicant based on race while granting another. If no councilmember makes a motion to grant a permit, then the request dies on the spot. This is referred to as procedural death. Therefore, regardless of what you have been led to believe by attorneys representing permit applicants in the past, they cannot be sued. The City Council cannot be sued for not granting a permit, not denying it, but not granting it. One criteria the ABC Board uses when deciding a permit application is whether an area is adequately served with alcohol outlets. With the 70-80 places to drink alcohol in Jonesboro, there's no way on earth that this area's not adequately served. The ABC Board never grants or denies a permit, never, without having to give the reason for their decision. This is called findings of fact. If at the state level regulatory body is required to provide findings of fact for their decisions, a local Council, which is directly elected by the people, should be held to an even higher standard of transparency. Therefore, I formally request that any motion made on this permit, as well as any other future permits, include a mandatory statement of fact. This means if a councilmember makes a motion to grant, they must, they must explain why they believe the economic or social benefits of these permits. That way, specific, dry, designation voted on by the citizens. This practice insures accountability, but as for appellate review and provides a clear official record of the proceedings. Specific findings ensure the decision maker actually considered the evidence rather than acting in an arbitrary or capricious manner. Mayor Copenhaver, as a presiding officer in this council, I believe it is your responsibility to ensure, that this is what I think, I may be wrong, but I believe it's your responsibility to assure that the councilmember, who makes a motion, whether it is to deny or grant a permit gives their findings of facts for the motion. Apparently, this responsibility has been neglected or ignored in past Council meetings. Now, I've got some other things here, but I'm going to skip it. I'm not sure how my time's running, but to reflect the will of the people, this Council does not need to grant this alcohol permit. Don't deny it. Just don't grant it. This is your right. This is also a matter of responsibility. Where does your responsibility lie? Is it to the people who you represent as elected officials or to someone wanting to make money from selling a poison? And the W.H.O. and these organizations consider it a poison. It's not me saying it's a poison, it's these organizations. So, by someone wanting to make money from selling poison. Again, don't deny, just don't grant. Thank you. Any questions? Mayor Copenhaver said, okay, thank you for your comments. Anyone else in the audience? Yes, sir, if you would, please come forward, state your name and address, and please don't be redundant.

James Elywn Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, said, and he's already said it so we'll just say, Amen then and move on. You all do know that the Alcohol Beverage Control Board cannot grant a permit unless you have granted, voted to grant it. A lot of times, we people want to pass the responsibility for a bad thing onto somebody else. If this was something you were really proud of, you'd be saying, yes, we're the ones that do this because you are the ones that do it. Please vote against this.

Councilmember David McClain said, there wasn't a motion. Mayor Copenhagen said, there wasn't a motion? Councilmember Joe Hafner stated, I already made the motion. Mayor Copenhagen said, yeah, he made the motion. Councilmember McClain said, oh, okay, sorry. Mayor Copenhagen continued, yeah, because we already had the council discussion.

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

Aye: 9 - Brian Emison;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and Ann Williams

Absent: 3 - Chris Moore;Anthony Coleman and LJ Bryant

Enactment No: O-EN-009-2026

[ORD-26:003](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE APPROVAL OF A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR WALK-ON'S SPORTS BISTREAUX

Attachments: [Application Redacted](#)
 [Lease Agreement](#)

Scott Hunter, Hunter Law Firm - 514 West Washington Avenue, said, once again, to answer any of y'all's questions or concerns. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you, Mr. Hunter.

Bob Hester, 7096 CR 333, said, I just oppose this for the exact same reasons that I gave you awhile ago. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you Bob.

James Elwyn Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, said, I assume everybody in here knows what Alexander Drive is, that it is the service road for, pretty much for I-555. Folks, that thing is a mess already. And it's near what State Farm a few years back determined was the worst, most dangerous intersection outside in Arkansas, outside of the City of Little Rock. We don't need to make the things there any worse. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you for your comments.

Scott Hunter, Hunter Law Firm – 514 West Washington Avenue, said, just a correction, the address is actually 2809 East Highland Drive. It's not on Alexander. It's where Bayird Auto Group used to be. Just a clarification. Mayor Copenhagen asked, what was that again, Scotty? Mr. Hunter said, 2809 East Highland Drive. Joe Hafner stated, that's what the ordinance says. Mayor Copenhagen replied, yep. Yeah, the ordinance is correct.

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

Aye: 9 - Brian Emison;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and Ann Williams

Absent: 3 - Chris Moore;Anthony Coleman and LJ Bryant

Enactment No: O-EN-010-2026

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Copenhagen reported on the following:

Council, bear with me. It's been a long evening already, but that's all right.

As this year State of the City approaches, I know many remember last year's destination 100,000 theme. The idea isn't to purposely grow Jonesboro to 100K. Jonesboro is growing. In 10 and 11 years or 12 years, Jonesboro will be a population of 100K. This is the reality we're facing. And we're working to prepare our city for that increased growth. As a part of the planning for Jonesboro's expected population of 100K, we're building the blueprints. Plan Jonesboro kicked off on Thursday, February 12th, at Earl Bell Community Center, with over 120 participants from the Jonesboro community. It was a well attended event, had great conversations, and input received through interactive boosts. Thanks to JPD, DARE, and Centennial Bank for providing and cooking burgers, chips, drinks, and desserts for attendees. And the Planning and the Communications Departments for their work and effort and hosting the event in conjunction with DPZ and Crafton-Tull, as well as providing giveaways for attendees. Keep your eyes peeled for upcoming meetings around the community coming soon. And in the meantime, if you couldn't participate in the kickoff event, please visit the website. It went live the evening of the event and will remain open for community members to visit. Take the survey and map your ideas on an interactive map. Make your voice heard in a constructive way that keeps Jonesboro moving forward. Now, for those, I saw many city council, I would hope others would participate as this process continues to move forward. We're going to be having many of the meetings in houses of worship so we can get a lot of other individuals involved in the process.

We continue moving forward with the new JET bus shelters. You may have seen the progress updates shared February 4th as 24 of the new 45 bus shelters have been installed through the Federal Transit Administration awarded the FY21 buses and facilities grant 2021. We accepted it in 2024. Funding takes time, but the installation of the upgraded bus shelters is being executed quickly. Of course, the project was impacted by the snow and ice we received, but progress is picking right up, right now. The installation of the shelters is just the start of keeping an eye on the upgrades coming. The JET Department has been working hard for the new, improved services.

Hats off to our parks department. Did you see the video, Jim, with the update on the Ice Breaker Volleyball Tournament during the February 7th weekend? With Spring around the corner, youth sports are kicking off with everything from cheer, football, soccer, and rugby. Not only that, but progress also continues to be made at the new park on the east side of town. We hope to have some updated renderings to share with you all very soon.

Another update to mention, many of you know, is the city's incinerator has been down for some time. We think that we may have found a company who may be qualified to fix it. As spring cleaning and yard work will pick up, the weather gets warmer, we want to encourage you to use paper bags for yard waste. Due to ADEQ requirements, yard waste cannot go to the landfill. Which is why we must have separate pickups for yard waste versus regular trash. Obviously, we cannot burn plastic bags, so please take advantage of the free paper bags handed out at the neighborhood cleanups by Keep Jonesboro Beautiful.

After evaluating the neighborhood cleanup events last year, we modified this year's calendar in 2026 with a blend of six neighborhood cleanups, our most utilized locations and days. And we're offering five community cleanups at the city's Lacy Park location on the alternative months. A calendar for 2026 cleanups available is already circulating with a plan very much this year. On Saturday, February 7th, we had a community cleanup at the Lacy location Park. We collected 2.78 tons of junk with an additional 22 tons of trash collected through the bulky junk drop off that we currently have.

In other news, E-911 is in the process of evaluating or reevaluating our tornado siren locations to best serve our residents. With consideration of Jonesboro's population growth and new developments within the community, we're working to move tornado sirens to different locations to best service all areas with minimal cost.

Some of you may have seen JPD's 2025 Crime Stats Report. Good job, Chief. Thank you. Despite our population growth, crime numbers for 2025 have decreased. Congrats to JPD, and thank you, Council, for providing necessary tools to keep Jonesboro safe and we continue every day to make that a priority.

There are a lot of upcoming events within the city. And I want to remind everyone that the kickoff of the Citizens Police Academy, a 14-week learning experience for citizens to learn about JPD's policies, services, and the real world operations is coming up on February 26th. And I think you just have a few spots left. Is that correct? Police Chief Rick Elliott said, that's correct. Mayor Copenhaver continued, okay. Also, sign up for the Citizens Fire Academy. It's open March 6th, beginning March 16th through May 11th. This program is Monday evenings from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the JFD training site. Learn firsthand how firefighters train, respond, and serve our community. How's that, Chief? He's over in the corner. I can't see him. Fire Chief Marty Hamrick said, awesome. Mayor Copenhaver continued, awesome. Okay, please sign up.

The FOA Prince of Egypt production from February 20th through the 23rd. Grab your tickets on the family friendly event. But if you also don't want to miss the extreme karaoke battle on February 28th, this year, a City of Jonesboro representative will be Cliff Nash, our Traffic Operations Manager. So join in the free event to help Cliff and cheer him on and support raising funds for the FOA.

Now, Council, in every organizational enterprise and endeavor, teamwork and attitude are determining factors of success. That's true of our city government as well. We serve the people of Jonesboro as a whole and they expect that we serve them together as a team working together, the Mayor and City Council. I've listened to criticism and I've channeled that into constructive, positive actions to improve my administration's communication process and priorities. In the letter I sent to you on Friday, I outlined those initiatives. Listen, there's a lot to run in the City of Jonesboro, the physical size and population of Jonesboro. You heard this evening, we have 600 employees plus over \$80 million to serve the citizens. These priorities for the Council and Mayor are important. Things like public safety, infrastructure, transportation, business attraction, and retention. Citizens expect us to spend our time on these priorities. And they expect to see our progress and the results.

Into closing, I have two more notes to add. Congratulations are in order for the city February Employee of the Month, Christy Wall. Many of you know her. She's one of a kind, the Finance Manager for the Finance Department. She even braved the snow and ice storm while offices were closed to ensure payroll went out right on time. That's the dedication we see daily. We're grateful for First Security Bank for sponsoring the salute to the city award each month.

On behalf of the City of Jonesboro, I want to congratulate Donna Malone, our Communications Director, as she prepares for her retirement. Her last day will be March 4th. It doesn't seem possible that those years have passed. But I want to personally thank Donna for her commitment. This is going to be her second retirement. So congratulations to her. And I appreciate her dedication and service to the city and we wish her the very best in her well earned retirement.

So, as we say, Jonesboro is always moving and that's the fact. We are on the move.

And I'm proud that all of our city employees for what they do and how they serve our community. Let us continue to work together moving in the same direction to benefit residents of our community. Thank you for allowing me that time.

[COM-26:008](#)

JONESBORO AIRPORT COMMISSION FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE MONTHS OF APRIL 2025 THROUGH DECEMBER 2025

Attachments: [JAC Jonesboro Airport Financials 04 25.pdf](#)
[JAC Jonesboro Airport Financials 05 25.pdf](#)
[JAC Jonesboro Airport Financials 06 25.pdf](#)
[JAC Jonesboro Airport Financials 07 25.pdf](#)
[JAC Jonesboro Airport Financials 08 25.pdf](#)
[JAC Jonesboro Airport Financials 09 25.pdf](#)
[JAC Jonesboro Airport Financials 10 25.pdf](#)
[JAC Jonesboro Airport Financials 11-25.pdf](#)
[JAC Jonesboro Airport Financials 12 25.pdf](#)

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9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Brian Emison said, the only thing that I have is that early voting open today. So I encourage everybody to get out and vote. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you.

Councilmember David McClain said, just real quick, Mayor, I appreciate you touching on the email you sent out just talking about the relationship with Council and you, your administration. But also, you know, I have several questions regarding some of the stuff that's going on I emailed you about. And I think, as you said, our citizens do expect us to work together, but they also expect us to have some transparency, accountability. And part of that, you know, some of the questions that have been raised for me or to me and even that I have, I would love an answer. You know, because as a councilmember and as a Council, I believe we should know if there are any other allegations of department heads maybe taking money or have been paid in cash. And also, what have we done with that information? I also would like to know when we visited with, I know, legislative audit was mentioned. When we visited with them, what do we find out? Did they tell us they could do anything or not? But I would like some answers to some of these questions that, you know, I think, I feel like will help us. Again, have an open relationship, but then at the same time, restore the trust that the public will have in us. Mayor Copenhagen said, we'll work on that. Thank you. You got my answers to that? Councilmember McClain said, no. Mayor Copenhagen replied, it was on the email. I attached them. Councilmember McClain said, I didn't see them. It was one, it was one? Mayor Copenhagen said, yeah, I attached them. Councilmember McClain said, okay, it was one. Well, you said you were going to get the answers. That was the only thing I got. I hadn't got anything else. Mayor Copenhagen replied, okay, yeah, I did attach. So that's my...I'll, look and send that again to you. So I have answered those questions. Councilmember McClain said, okay. Mayor Copenhagen continued, I sent it to the email that I sent out on Friday. So if that attachment is in there, councilman, let me know. Obviously, you didn't get it, so I'll send it to you. I've got the answers. Councilmember McClain said, yep, thank you, okay, thank you. Mayor Copenhagen replied, thank you.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said, yes, I just want to clear up something that was in the...there was a letter to the editor on February 4th. It mentioned that the Jonesboro

A&P Commission financials weren't audited, and I just wanted to clear up that they are audited. The A&P financials that are considered a special revenue source of the city, and they're included in the city's Legislative Audit every year. And then, furthermore, with the recent coordination of financing, arranged by for the Ridge Athletic Center, separate audits were authorized by the A&P Commission for calendar years 2023 and 2024. These audit reports, including the related notes to the financial statements, are filed on the city's website. You can go to the departments, under finance, and you'll see, on the left side of the screen, where it says financials, audits, budgets, et cetera. So, I just wanted to clear up that the A&P Commission financials are audited every year. That's all I've got. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you, Mr. Hafner. Councilmember Hafner replied, thank you.

Councilmember John Street said, I just want to comment on Make-a-Wish. It was a wonderful success this year, this last Friday. Hundreds and hundreds of volunteers raising well over \$500,000, and it just shows what a big heart Jonesboro and Northeast Arkansas has and the wonderful people who go above and beyond to make life, the quality of life here fantastic. That's all I got Mayor.

Mayor Copenhaver said, Brian, do you want to make a comment as well? Chief Administrative Officer Brian Richardson said, sure, I almost said this during the resolution regarding the street lights that we purchased for were downtown. You know, when we are gathering our CDBG information, there are surveys that go out every year. And, this is kind of a testament to why public input is important. I think it was two years ago, we did that same survey, and 81% of people in Jonesboro said that they felt like there needed to be more street lighting. You know, I think that the West End neighborhood kind of led the way on that, as far as showing how important it is to light up your neighborhoods. And, so that's what we strive to do. And I say all that because giving public input is important. We had the Plan Jonesboro meeting the other day. We're lucky that, like, you know, 125-130 people showed up. We're going to have more of those events, and I just can't stress to the public how important it is to come to those events. Give your opinions because that shapes how we recommend dollars be spent and how you approve dollars be spent. I think there was a CDBG meeting last week. Chris, how many people showed up? Grants Director Chris Richey asked, last week? Mr. Richardson said, yes. Mr. Richey replied, zero. Mr. Richardson repeated, zero. So, zero people showed up to a public event that helps direct us in how we appropriate city dollars to the city in the future. And, you know, luckily, we have some older survey information to help kind of direct what we wanted to do, but it's just, it's absolutely critical that we have a once in a lifetime or for once in a half lifetime opportunities, we're going through this Master Growth Plan, to really shape what the city looks like over the next 10 to 20 to 30 years. And I've heard, you know, some comments that we need to fix our problems today. Well, you've got to address problems today and down the road, or you're never going to get there. And so, one way we do that is, everybody get involved, come to these public meetings, give your opportunity, you're input, and, you know, help be a part of a better Jonesboro, you know, tomorrow, and in the future. So that's all I got it.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

James Elywn Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, said, and maybe this would have been better at the Public Service meeting at 4:30 p.m., but I didn't know that's was going to happen. It's not on the agenda, so we'll address it now. There is something the City of Jonesboro really needs. All of you know what an energy audit is, right? You know, where they come out to your house, and if you're losing energy, they can tell you how, whether it's going out your windows or whatever. I have had a big talk to both City Water & Light and Summit, which most people heat with, get their heating from. And apparently, that's just not available in Jonesboro. Summit says they, in the

Jonesboro area, they partner with Entergy. The problem is, the only people that received, can receive those services are Entergy. And this is one of the few times, I hate to say, I'm on the City Water & Light, and usually, I'm very happy about that. But we need somebody, and I've had some people say, here's a list of things that you can do to make your house more energy efficient. But if you don't know which ones they are, it might be cheaper, just to tear your house down and build a whole new house because they can run into lots of thousands of dollars, and we need to have somebody to do that. And I'm not saying necessarily totally free, but at a reasonable price that people who have houses can get it done and see what they need to do, and that helps a lot of ways, you know, we won't be wasting as much energy. We'll have our poor people, in fact, all of us will have cheaper energy bills. So we need to look at seeing to get somebody to do that. Mayor Copenhaver replied, thank you for your comments.

Parks & Recreation Director Jim Stearns, 1317 Bennett Drive, said, yeah, I don't know if I'm a citizen or employee right now. I just want to give you a quick update of some park stuff. I feel like you guys need to hear this on a regular basis. So, first thing, I have some great news. I've got to recognize my pool manager, Darrin Wyndam. We recently had our health inspection for the youth center pool, and I spoke with the health inspector, and he made a comment that this was in the best shape the youth center has been in the five years, the last five years that he's actually come out and inspected for us. I just want to publicly recognize Darrin for doing such a great job. We're trying to attract great leaders to Parks that can own their spots, and do a good job, and Darrin's a great example of that. Secondly, I got to recognize Billy Steve Cliff out at Southside Softball. Recently, Terry Dancer sent us a letter stating that they do over 100 senior games during the morning during the softball season, and he complimented Billy Steve for the great work that he does out at Southside and having those facilities ready to play on a regular basis. So I wanted to definitely shout out and recognize those two employees for doing an exemplary job in Parks for us. Real quick, the Disciple Drive project is coming along. We're about at the 60% mark now. I just want to let y'all know in the Master Park Plan that we're approaching some success and seeing some progress in that park. The Shared Use Connectivity Trails, we're close to having a shared use trail from Arkansas State all the way to Gee Street. There's just a few little items to have that completed. So we're making really good progress in the Master Park Plan. And as you guys know, we're about to be, we're about to be busy in sports, and I'll be real quick with this. We have over 2,000 kids signed up right now for youth sports. We have 875 starting, signing up for basketball. Games begin this Saturday, February 21st. Junior High Softball League and a Junior High Soccer League, both of those have 28 teams and 32 teams respectively, and they started playing and practicing this week. Field, weather permitting, softball, first tournament is February 28th. That's a tournament that we host. Soccer games begin in April. Rugby begins in April. Football has 120 signed up right now. They begin in April. And volleyball begins April 27th with 111 signed up right now, with a month left. So the state of youth sports, just to rest your minds at ease about that, we're taking care of the kids in Jonesboro. And I just want a quick correction. The video was for the We Care Volleyball Tournament, not the Icebreaker Tournament. I just wanted to make sure I let you know that. I apologize in that info I got to you. So other than that, I really appreciate your support and we're looking forward to completing some more Master Park Plans here in the near future. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you, Jim, for your comments, and Council, before we leave, and I make the motion for adjournment, I do want to bring you up to date a little bit. We've been provided an initial proposal, and I'll get that to you on the possibility of the First United Methodist Church facility. Maybe it could be used possibly for a potential police station in the City of Jonesboro. But I wanted to make you all aware of that. I'll be getting you the draft of that document, so you'll have time to look over it. That way it'll provide you the questions, and you can have questions as we move

through that process. Again, it's just the beginning phase. I want to make Council aware, so everybody can have the same input on this, and it might be an opportunity for us to really look at, but that's going to be your decision.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 9 - Brian Emison;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and Ann Williams

Absent: 3 - Chris Moore;Anthony Coleman and LJ Bryant

_____ **Date:** _____

Harold Copenhaver, Mayor

Attest:

_____ **Date:** _____

April Leggett, City Clerk