



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Finance & Administration Council Committee

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

4:00 PM

Municipal Center

1. Call To Order

2. Roll Call by City Clerk Donna Jackson

Present 5 - Ann Williams; John Street; David McClain; LJ Bryant and Joe Hafner

Absent 1 - Charles Coleman

3. Approval of minutes

[MIN-18:021](#)

Minutes for the Finance Committee Meeting on February 27, 2018

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

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

Aye: 4 - Ann Williams; John Street; David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Charles Coleman

4. New Business

Chairmember Joe Hafner said in the interest of time, I'm not going to go exactly in the order that things are on the agenda, but we will get everything covered, so don't worry. I'm going to move to RES-18:030 first.

ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED

[ORD-18:019](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE 2018 BUDGET AND MOVE \$2,000,000 FROM THE GENERAL FUND RESERVES TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR STIP PROJECT

Attachments: [P Lack email Harrisburg Road.pdf](#)

Chairmember Joe Hafner said I know this is something Mayor Harold Perrin mentioned at the end of the last council meeting that he had probably coming up. I think at the time Mayor Perrin mentioned it, it might be closer to \$1 million and he would try to get it on the Public Works agenda, but it looks like the numbers changed and it was sent to Finance. I know there are people in the audience, but if Mayor Perrin or Engineering

Director Craig Light would like to speak on it first. Mr. Light said the design engineers have estimated about \$1.2 million for the project. The Arkansas Highway Transportation Department (AHTD) came back with a \$2 million estimate for the same work, so we wrapped the ordinance around the \$2 million. The funds will be earmarked specifically for this project, so if it came in at \$1.5 million there would be \$500,000 that would be released, at some point, back to the general fund. It wouldn't be used for other projects. It would be earmarked for this specific Harrisburg Road widening project. We felt like it was best to go ahead and transfer the \$2 million so we wouldn't have to come back at some other point asking for \$100,000, or whatever it might be on the exact cost. We won't know that exact cost until the design is complete and the project goes out to bid, and we get a contractor lined up to do the project.

Councilmember L.J. Bryant asked Mr. Light what the intended design was from Forest Hill Road to the fire station. Mr. Light said the traffic study that was done and the report indicates we need a five-lane cross section up to the driveway entrance into Central Baptist Church, and then it would transition from a three lane back down to a two lane by the time you get to the fire station driveway. That is what the engineering study that has been done and has been approved by the AHTD shows. The problem, right now, is that we are only funded to Forest Hill Road. If we stop there, we are, essentially, just moving a problem at Parker Road and Harrisburg Road down to Harrisburg Road and Forest Hill Road, with no plan to remedy that in the current STIP, which would put it out to 2023 or 2024 before it could be funded for construction. We think it needs to be funded now so we don't just move that problem and we address all the issues all at once as one project.

Councilmember David McClain said I guess the big question I have is that we had an idea that something like this was going to happen, as far as cost, but we didn't think it was going to be this much. Mr. Light said we had an estimate at \$1.2 million. The AHTD just used their standard cost per mile and they came up with \$2 million. They didn't do any sort of itemized estimate, whereas we did. We think \$2 million is probably more than what it's going to cost, but we are really not going to know until we get 100% design plans complete and then take it out to bid. We won't know until that point, which will be another eight months.

Chairmember Hafner asked if the main driver in extending Harrisburg Road was the Central Baptist Church traffic. Mr. Light said it's not the Central Baptist Church traffic. It's the traffic coming over Harrisburg Road when you're trying to transition from a five-lane section down to a two-lane section, and that takes space to do that. They were planning on going to a five lane all the way to Forest Hill Road, but we can't transition at Forest Hill Road from a five lane to a two lane without causing some traffic woes in the short term. We can't sit back and wait three or four years to fix that problem. We need to fix it now while we're doing the construction.

Chairmember Joe Hafner asked if traffic had increased that much out there since the STIP was funded. Mr. Light said no, it was a problem when the STIP was funded and we were aware of that. The AHTD did not fund the entire project because they didn't have the funds to do so. That is the reason why they are telling us if we want the project then we are going to have to pay for it. Councilmember McClain asked so should we do it now or should we wait? Mr. Light said we should do it now. We actually executed the contract with the designers to design the whole thing, and we're having problems with the AHTD reviewing the plans because we're submitting the whole project and they're telling us there's no money for the other part, and we have to go back and redesign what we've already done to cut it in half. We would rather go ahead and get the whole thing designed and built, now. It's really holding us up getting the

plans moving forward having this stopping point in the middle of the project, where we already have a design contract with somebody to design the entire thing, a contract that this Council had approved.

Mayor Harold Perrin said odds are you're probably not gonna spend any of this money this year. It will probably be expensed out in 2019. Maybe not even all of it in 2019, depending on how fast the project goes, but you need to encumber this so it will match. What Mr. Light is saying is that the plans show it five lanes up to the driveway at Central Baptist Church and then three lanes all the way down to the fire station, because you have all those apartments up there and you have that curve coming around there at the same time. To go from five lanes to two lanes will be almost impossible. I don't see how you can do it. Councilmember John Street said it's hard enough to get out at Forest Hill Road now. It's almost impossible during morning traffic or evening traffic. Mayor Perrin said this would give you another lane to do that. We met with AHTD Chief Operating Officer Lorie Tudor probably almost a month ago and they're waiting on this. Once we get this approved, we'll send this down to them and they can go ahead and get all this changed. All we are asking you to do is pull down \$2 million and encumber that so we will have the money, as we need it, to pay for the contract as it goes forward. We can pick up some of this in the 2019 budget, as well.

Ms. Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road, said I know you aren't surprised to see me here. First, I want to say to you that last night I saw this on the news and I had no idea, and I got all these phone calls from the people. I'm still learning how this city operates and I didn't know with the Finance committee that you meet and you approve and everything. To make a note, I think this is a really important meeting and there are not very many people here. It needs to be in the paper what your agenda is the same way that the City Council and the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission (MAPC) meeting is because this is really important. All these things come before the City Council, but it's really important, I think, that people see what's on the agenda. I know a lot of people read what's on the MAPC meeting today and what's on the City Council. I know it comes out on Thursday and you can look at it, but not everybody does. I just want to make that point to you that I think it's really important.

The second thing I want to tell you is that at the last council meeting, and this really stuck out to me, there was an ordinance that is in Councilmember Mitch Johnson's neighborhood and he requested it be tabled to one reading. His comment was I need to table this because it's in my neighborhood and it's important. I think that's the reason I come up here all the time, whether it's the apartments or the road, because this is my neighborhood and a lot of the people are behind me because it's in their neighborhood, too. People don't like to come up here to the podium and speak so I get to be the spokesperson for my neighborhood. I just want to let you know that Mr. Johnson's comment really stuck out with me and I hope you take that to heart of the reason I'm up here all the time. I know you're tired of me. I'm kind of tired of coming here. I'd rather be in my yard playing. I just wanted to share that with you.

Let me give you just a quick rundown. When all this came up about the five lanes on Harrisburg Road, I talked to Mr. Light in his office and a lot of you about this highway. I thought I just need a little more information. On February 2nd, I went up and talked to AHTD District Engineer Brad Smithee and AHTD District Construction Engineer Alan Walter, and I met with them for almost two hours and we talked about what was going to go on in this area. Mr. Smithee told me, about a month and a half ago, that the project was about 30% to 35% complete, but he also told me there was going to be one more public meeting that was going to be in early spring. He proceeded to talk a little bit more. Mr. Smithee said there hasn't been a lot of people opposed to it or for it

and we haven't heard from a lot of people.

I know there was a meeting here and I was kind of discouraged by the amount of people who came out to give ideas. It is kind of disappointing, but once again, people like to complain about it, but to actually come in and voice is difficult. I think all of you know that. When Mr. Smithee told me there wasn't a lot of people for it or against it, I thought that might be a good reason to set up a petition to find out how many people are against it. That's why I started the petition in our area. I have a written petition going and there are about 30 people who have that petition. I also have an online petition. I put a deadline date of March 22nd on it and I thought that's early spring and we'll get it done before March 26th. Everybody said why not put a traffic light at Forest Hill Road because the traffic is tough in the morning time at that place. The key point to the petition I think that people see is because I was told they couldn't justify a traffic signal there because the traffic is not consistent on Forest Hill Road. I understand that because you get the morning traffic and the afternoon traffic, but I have to tell you that the traffic on Harrisburg Road is not consistent either, so I don't know how we can really justify five lanes there. On March 3rd, I saw the article in the paper about how Mayor Perrin would like to seek more money, the \$2 million, to extend the road from Forest Hill Road to past the fire station. From Parker Road to Forest Hill Road it is a little over .20 miles. So, when they said they would like to extend it past Forest Hill Road, Mr. Light said this would help the traffic problem if you extend it more. Mayor Perrin would like to have the road extended, but also, I think, our wishes have to be explained, too. That is why I set up that meeting on March 26th, because I felt like that meeting we had here, at the Municipal Center, there wasn't enough people to voice their opinion.

In the article, it says there are 3,000 to 4,000 cars at the church. I agree with you because I know exactly when church gets out because they're coming down Forest Hill Road because they are taking different alternate routes, or they're going through Rossland Hills to cut through. They're finding different ways. So, I agree with you. I see the church on Sundays and Wednesdays like an Arkansas State University football game. The traffic is really bad those two times of the week. You avoid it. I avoid ASU when they're having a football game, but once the game is over and once the church is out, all of a sudden the traffic goes back to almost nothing and it's very light. I don't know if you've been out there during that time. I know Mr. Light said that we want to get it right the first time, and so do I. So, I sent my two representatives an e-mail and told them I saw an article in the paper and I need to talk a little about the \$2 million we want to take out of our reserve to extend a road that, probably, is not really necessary. I'll get to that point in a second. They both talked to me and I appreciate you both for doing that. Then, I wrote all the City Council members a letter and I asked all of them and Mayor Perrin to postpone any decision at this time to put more funds into this project until we have the special meeting. I have the meeting scheduled for Monday, March 26th, at First Security Bank. Mr. Smithee will be coming to the meeting, as well as Mayor Perrin and Mr. Light. Then, I invited Councilmember L.J. Bryant and Councilmember Joe Hafner. I got to thinking and I thought I needed to invite the whole City Council because all 12 of you have a voice in this too, because you represent our city. So, all of you I invited last Friday to the meeting.

On my amendment, I didn't have time. I wish I had time and wish I knew how to do the PowerPoint. My daughter is my assistant and she had other obligations last night. We're not saying we don't want the five lanes. We just want to amend it. I think if you look at that area, we have five lanes going down to Gladiolus Drive, with a right turn lane. You think how are people going to focus in there. Well, that's a lot of traffic coming in there and you could actually put those big speed bumps to direct traffic not

to go over to the next lane, so we actually could get trained to be in that lane to go to Gladiolus Drive. From that point on, we'd like to see two lanes and a center lane because what happens with the traffic and the reason it starts blocking up is because people are turning left into Dollar General, left into Exxon or left into Gladiolus Drive and when they stop, then all the traffic stops. But, if you had a turn lane right there, they could pull in there and the traffic could flow easily. Granted, there is a lot of traffic at certain times of the day, in the morning time and at night time, but if you went out there right now it's very light. Also, we want to amend by putting a right turn lane at the entrance of the church and take the money they have funded and extend it a little bit longer and farther down so you have a turn lane there. Even if you have two lanes going this way, a center turn lane and you have two lanes going that way, it doesn't mean anyone on Forest Hill Road is going to get out any easier because you still have traffic coming this way. So, whether there's an additional lane on both sides, I don't see where it's going to be a lot of benefit.

The facts about Harrisburg Road are that if you look at it there are only five businesses from Parker Road to Forest Hill Road, and that's within a .20 mile radius of Parker Road to the Exxon station. The unique thing, I think, about Harrisburg Road is that it's really a residential area. If we want commercial, there's some really nice property between Wal-Mart and Home Depot. There's some really nice property. It's for sale. In fact, a dentist office is going up there. That's where I would love to see that expand if we're thinking about commercial, because when you think of a five-lane road I think of commercial. I think of expansion, and, bottom line, I see more apartments coming into our area. It's kind of like a circle that I see. I want the traffic to be better, but I'm looking at kind of the long-term effect of what this is going to bring to our area and we just can't handle that anymore. Also, too, if you look at Harrisburg Road up towards Burger King, if you go past that light, there's only two lanes there. So, now you're gonna put more people on Harrisburg Road, but when they funnel up there, they have a right turn lane and then it's only two lanes. I know that's due for expansion too, but I don't know if that's gonna be done in our lifetime or not. I don't know what the project is for that.

I can let you have my phone and look at the videos that I've done. Talking about consistent traffic, we agree it needs to be lighter, but if you look at 11 a.m. or 1 p.m., I can go out there and, even on weekends, there is very little traffic out there, and I just look out there and think I'm gonna see five empty lanes and that's just so not necessary for that area.

I know we're supposed to expand Caraway Road. I almost guarantee you that if you start to expand Caraway Road, and I believe the telephone poles are already moved to start working on that road, it's going to take a lot of traffic off Harrisburg Road. We have watched that traffic and when people drop off their kids they cut through Medallion Drive, or they cut through one of those other streets right there. They cut through because that's the easiest way. If you expand Caraway Road sooner versus later, you're going to pull a lot of traffic off Harrisburg Road there. We have video, and if you come to the meeting on March 26th, you can watch it or you can watch it on my phone. One of us took Caraway Road last week and one of us took Stadium Blvd. I just went on Stadium today. On Stadium, if you count from Parker Road to Fox Meadow Lane, which is 1.1 miles, there are 42 businesses on that road, with extra businesses down in between there. Stadium is only three lanes. We have five businesses on Harrisburg Road and you want to put a five-lane road on us. That just doesn't make a lot of sense. In my video, I went on Stadium around 7:30 a.m. or 7:40 a.m. Granted, I stopped at Southside Softball Complex. The traffic was moving slow, but it was moving. The light let people out at Fox Meadow Lane and then it continued, but it flowed. Also, Stadium

flows into Red Wolf Blvd., which is another five-lane road, so it's a continuous flow. Harrisburg Road has that right at Burger King, so that's going to be a problem. The thing with that is that Stadium only has three lanes and has that many more businesses, and we only have five at the very beginning, and I don't know how to justify the five lanes.

What I'm asking is that you consider the things I said. I know there are several people here who would like to say a couple things to you, too. I hope that we can work with what is amended right now, work on Caraway Road and get that to a five lane. If we find that it's not, but I think you'll find a big, big difference that even if you did what we propose as a two lane with a turn lane, that's going to alleviate a lot of the traffic and have it flow. I made a chart, but, once again, I don't have it up on a PowerPoint. I hope you will say no, right now, to this \$2 million because this is not an emergency. We can work with what we have, but, also, I'd like to get it right the first time as Mr. Light said. I would like to get it right the first time, but I also want the people, Mayor Perrin and those from the AHTD to come and talk on March 26th, because I don't think it was represented very well when we had the meeting at the Municipal Center. I hope you consider all that. I know there are a couple people who would like to talk. Thank you very much.

Chairmember Hafner said as far as the notice being in the paper, that is up to the Jonesboro Sun. I don't know if there's something we can do. City Clerk Donna Jackson said these are regularly scheduled meetings and they are published on Legistar where you can pull all the agenda items up. My office is more than willing to help you with that. These are regularly scheduled and we could put you on the list if it's a special called meeting, but this is a regular meeting. An individual responded to Ms. Jackson, but did not approach the microphone so her comments were unable to be recorded. Ms. Jackson said the Jonesboro Sun decides what is newsworthy. I know they used to come to all the committee meetings and that isn't happening anymore. You might want to call Mr. Keith Inman. Chairmember Hafner said unfortunately, we can't control what they put in. Councilmember Street said these meetings are on Channel 24 and you can watch them. If they miss it or can't come to this, they can watch them on Channel 24. They show them over and over again. Unfortunately, we'd love for the Jonesboro Sun to publish a lot of things, but we can't make them do that. They're not even here today.

Ms. Anna Williams, 604 Mardis Drive, said the only thing I would like to say is that I would like for each one of you to seriously think about the precedent you may be setting by taking \$2 million out of city funds for a project. Then the next person comes along thinks why won't you do it for them, this neighborhood or that. I think that is a very dangerous precedent to take \$2 million out of the general fund to move it. I'm totally against it and I don't think it's a good idea at all.

Joe Brown, 3604 Harrisburg Road, said Mayor Harold Perrin, one of your squad cars is sitting in my driveway right now. A woman pulled in there a while ago. I have a circle driveway with Mr. Ishmael and the people just literally use it for a Daytona 500. I tried to stop the woman and tell her this is not a turnaround and it's not the highway, and she went crazy and tried to run me down. While I'm calling 911, she's blowing the horn and trying to run over me. The road is a crazy, crazy road. These pictures here, if you'd like to look at them, are of the AHTD where they're laying the asphalt, now. There's also an AHTD truck sitting in my driveway. There's so much gravel in my yard that there's no way I'm gonna be able to mow it. People that come and make that circle that I'm telling you about spin it all out. When I come home in the afternoon, it's all in my front yard. It's in my carport all the way up to my house. If they widen this road over further,

people are going to run right through my front door. The gravel will knock my \$2,500 worth of windows that I put in out to try to stop some of the sound from the road that is 90-feet away from my front porch now. If there's any way to stop it, I don't want five lanes of traffic against my front door. I would like for everyone to look at those pictures. That man, basically told me, after I asked if they were going to pick up the rocks, we're standing on the highway right-of-way. I said, you mean you're not gonna pick up the rocks that are in my yard. He said we're standing on the highway right-of-way. Too bad. We gotta mow it, or somebody has to mow it.

Councilmember L.J. Bryant said I have a question for Mr. Light after we make sure the audience doesn't have anything. I know this is a tough apples and oranges question, but how would you compare this \$2 million to putting \$2 million on South Caraway Road? Mr. Light said Caraway Road needs to be widened. We're currently soliciting proposals from design firms to begin that. The City Council budgeted \$500,000 this year to start that process, so Caraway Road is an important project that needs to be done, and I hope that in 2019 we're budgeting funds to do that project, but there's enough traffic on Harrisburg Road, now, to warrant a five-lane cross section. There's more than enough traffic on Red Wolf to warrant a five-lane cross section and it is one of the asking projects on the future STIP to be funded to be five lane all the way down to Lawson Road. Red Wolf actually meets the warrants to be seven lanes. We have a lot of traffic and we're behind the curve on moving this traffic safely through Jonesboro. Some of the problems that they're experiencing in the Harrisburg Road area is because of the congestion that occurs at 5 p.m. when you come across the interstate. You get stopped at Parker Road, sometimes all the way up to Windover Road by Burger King. The problem is we have a bottleneck on the south side of the interstate and we're proposing to widen that road, open it up so we no longer have that bottleneck so people can move safely through. That is a five-day a week occurrence. I'm sure it happens on Sundays, as well. It's not just an every once in a while problem. We have a lot of traffic that comes across the interstate on Harrisburg Road trying to go southbound. The problem is the transition from a five-lane section across the interstate quickly to a two-lane section is causing that bottleneck. We're trying to open it up so we can get the traffic moving South in a safe and efficient manner.

Chairmember Hafner asked how does the traffic needed to require a traffic light correlate with traffic needed to turn something into five lanes. Mr. Light said the traffic on the side street on Forest Hill Road is not high enough to meet eight hours' worth of warrants. I don't know if it even meets an hours' worth of warrants. I'm not sure. I would have to look back at the traffic study. Right now, the traffic on Forest Hill Road is not large enough to stop the traffic on Harrisburg Road to create a gap. If we do a five-lane section on Harrisburg Road, there will be plenty of gaps in the traffic for Forest Hill Road to enter safely on to the five-lane section. Councilmember Street asked what is the daily traffic count there where it turns to two lanes. Do you have that? Mr. Light said not right off the top of my head. It is part of the traffic study for that project. We can make that available to council to look at and even at the council meeting when it comes up, or we can attach it to this Legistar item. There's no problem doing that. The report was prepared by a traffic engineer, reviewed by the city's traffic engineer and approved by the AHTD's traffic engineers, and it meets the warrants for the traffic to be widened to five lanes. It does not meet the warrant at this time for a traffic signal at Forest Hill Road. At some point, if the traffic volume increases on Forest Hill Road then it may meet the warrants at some point in the future, but it just doesn't meet it right now.

Chairmember Hafner asked Mr. Light if he was planning to attend the meeting on March 26th. Mr. Light said yes I am. Chairmember Hafner said I am, too. I'm just

wondering, and I'm not saying this will happen today, but if a decision was not made today and we went to this meeting and then made a decision after that, does that mess timelines up? Mr. Light said that right now, we're at a standstill on that project until a decision is made to either fund the project or cut the limits off at Forest Hill Road. We will not do any improvements south of Forest Hill Road. AHTD's limits are Parker Road and Forest Hill Road. We can do nothing south of Forest Hill Road. There will be no turn lane into the church. There will be no center turn lane into the developments. The project will stop at Forest Hill Road, unless we agree to pay for whatever improvements occur south of Forest Hill Road. Mayor Perrin said you're just approving this to go to council. The meeting Ms. Lack is talking about, and I think she sent me an e-mail, is on March 26th. You have to read this on the council. You can either read it three times or whatever it is, but you have plenty of time. Chairmember Hafner if there are enough questions and it wouldn't, necessarily, hurt anything by waiting until March 26th and hearing what they have to say and having a collaborative effort or discussion between the AHTD, the people here today and ourselves, that I don't see how that hurts anything. I mean I don't have a vote unless there's a tie today. If we don't do anything today, then I guess this could go to Public Works the first meeting in April, and if Public Works passes it on, it could still be on the first meeting of the City Council if they walk it on or it could be on the second meeting. I know it's at a standstill, but I'm sure other stuff is being worked on.

Mayor Perrin said it doesn't have to go to Public Works. Chairmember Hafner said at the last meeting you mentioned you might send it to Public Works if you had it ready in time. Mayor Perrin said or Finance, and that's why we chose to put it on Finance, because what Mr. Light is telling you is that we are about a month or two months behind on this right now, on getting these plans done. AHTD designed it up to a point and we designed it for the whole thing, so now you have to do environmental and all that. The sooner you make a decision on this, on the council floor, not here, then we need to get it to the AHTD and they're gonna have to start getting those plans done. Chairmember Hafner said I'm just asking questions because this has just come up in the last couple of weeks. What's the purpose of the last public meeting that was scheduled for spring? Mr. Light said I'm not aware there is a public meeting. We've had two public meetings on this project already, and the first that I've heard there was going to be another one was Ms. Lack's e-mail that said there was going to be another one. The AHTD has not made that known to us that there would be another meeting on the project, but if they do, so be it, we'll attend, but right now, there has not been one scheduled.

Councilmember L.J. Bryant said we meet the Tuesday after the 26th meeting. Is that right? Chairmember Hafner said yes. Mayor Perrin said yes, you will meet. Chairmember Hafner said we would meet March 27th. So, if we meet March 27th after the meeting on March 26th, we will have more information then it could be on the April 3rd council meeting, instead of the March 20th council meeting. Councilmember Ann Williams said you're suggesting it go to Public Works? Chairmember Hafner said no. Councilmember Williams said okay. Chairmember Hafner said I wasn't suggesting that. I was just saying if we didn't do anything today, but Councilmember Bryant brought up a great point that we have another meeting right after the March 26th meeting. Councilmember Bryant said with the Finance meeting being the day after the meeting on March 26th, I move we table this to the next Finance meeting on March 27th.

Ms. Lack said that Mr. Smithee did tell me that there was going to be another public meeting and that is the reason why I thought of the petition because he had told me that if he sees enough people opposed to it or for it, and that he didn't have very many

either way. He just looked at me and said you're probably the first one to come and talk to me. But, he told me that if there were enough people who opposed it, then there would have to be changes made. That was the whole reason behind the petitions, and just to get people more knowledgeable of what is going to happen to our neighborhood. That's the reason I started the petitions and when he said early spring, I was thinking more of like April and early May that he said there was going to be one more meeting.

I'm just saying to you is that if you all need to you can look at my phone for the video, and I know there is a lot of traffic. You can either table it or vote no for this, but I want you to go out to Harrisburg Road at 9 a.m. and you can almost go from Parker Road to Harrisburg Road to Rossland Hills and you will not see one car. How do you justify five lanes? If you go out at school time, but also school only goes nine months out of the year, so the traffic is so much lighter during those summer months, and you're also taking the traffic off that. The church also has a lot of summer programs and I know because my traffic is much lighter on Forest Hill Road. The traffic isn't as bad during the summertime. I hope that you table it and at least give us time, and I can send you all these videos, but that's what we were going to do at the March 26th meeting because you will be amazed that, yes, there is traffic at high times, but after that, it's not bad at all. I'm just saying is put in two lanes with a turn lane in so you don't stop the flow of traffic and work on Caraway Road. Think of that if you're at Steak Escape and you want to turn left on Highland. How long do you wait to turn left and how many times do you punch the gas because you're tired of waiting and you just go? I've seen a lot of accidents right there and not even that, any time you turn on a five-lane road. I just see five lanes as being more commercial, and our area is not commercial. I don't want it to be. We have an area for commercial. I'm just saying that I want to make the traffic flow easier, but taking \$2 million out of our reserve to pay for this road to make it easier for the peak times. What happens when there's a real emergency, and we need to use the funds and the funds aren't there?

Chairmember Hafner said that right now there's a motion to table it and a second until the next Finance meeting. Ms. Lack said I appreciate it and I hope you all come to the meeting on March 26th, and my assistant will have great slides for you. I appreciate it. Thank you. Councilmember Williams said so the motion is to table it until March 27th.

A motion was made by Councilperson LJ Bryant, seconded by Councilperson David McClain, that this matter be Tabled. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 4 - Ann Williams; John Street; David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Charles Coleman

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

[RES-18:030](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH CRAIGHEAD COUNTY TO LEASE SPACE IN THE JUSTICE COMPLEX BUILDING

Attachments: [Justice Complex Floorplan.pdf](#)
 [Justice Complex Lease Agreement.pdf](#)

Councilmember John Street said we have been leasing them space so this is just a renewal. Chairmember Joe Hafner said yes, this is just a renewal. Councilmember Street said it's a contract for a three-year period. Chairmember Hafner said it's

\$28,022.43 per year. Councilmember Street said that's a good deal for them, too. Councilmember LJ Bryant asked Chief Financial Officer Bill Reznicek if there was any change on that. Did the lease go up from prior years? Mr. Reznicek said there was a slight increase over prior years of about \$2,000. They had some additional space that they are leasing in that building, so we revised it, but it's based on the same per square footage dollars they were leasing at before.

A motion was made by Councilperson John Street, seconded by Councilperson LJ Bryant, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 4 - Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Charles Coleman

[RES-18:036](#)

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH REBECCA WILSON FOR SPONSORSHIP OF ONE OUTFIELD SIGN AT THE MIRACLE LEAGUE COMPLEX

Attachments: [Rebecca Wilson ML](#)

The next five items are all under the same thing. They are signs for sponsorship out at Miracle League Complex. They are each \$300 per year for three years for a total of \$900. So, if there's no objection from the committee or anybody else, I'm just going to read these by title only. This has been out on Legistar since Thursday so, hopefully, everybody has had a chance to review the contracts. Hearing no objection, I'm just going to read them by title only.

A motion was made by Councilperson John Street, seconded by Councilperson LJ Bryant, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 4 - Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Charles Coleman

[RES-18:037](#)

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH VANCE CONSTRUCTION FOR SPONSORSHIP OF ONE OUTFIELD SIGN AT THE MIRACLE LEAGUE PARK

Attachments: [VANCE CONSTRUCTION](#)

Chairmember Joe Hafner said one thing I would like to comment on this, and Councilmember John Street might want to change his motion. This is one of Councilmember Gene Vance's businesses and he's the one who signed the contract. I would ask that this not be placed on the consent agenda because I don't want him to inadvertently vote on it. Councilmember Street said I'm sure he would recuse himself from that. Chairmember Hafner said he would have to ask to have it removed from the consent agent. Can we go ahead and request that it not be on the consent agenda? City Clerk Donna Jackson said correct. Councilmember Street said I will amend my motion to recommend to council without it being on the consent agenda. Councilmember David McClain said he has the next one, too.

A motion was made by Councilperson John Street, seconded by Councilperson Ann Williams, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 4 - Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Charles Coleman

[RES-18:038](#) A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH JONESBORO OVERHEAD DOOR FOR SPONSORSHIP OF ONE OUTFIELD SIGN AT THE MIRACLE LEAGUE PARK

Attachments: [JONESBORO OVERHEAD DOOR](#)

Chairmember Joe Hafner said like Councilmember David McClain said this is also one of Councilmember Gene Vance's businesses. Councilmember John Street made a motion to recommend to council and have the item removed from the consent agenda.

A motion was made by Councilperson John Street, seconded by Councilperson Ann Williams, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 4 - Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Charles Coleman

[RES-18:040](#) A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH THE LEARNING CENTER OF NORTHEAST ARKANSAS FOR SPONSORSHIP OF ONE OUTFIELD SIGN AT THE MIRACLE LEAGUE PARK

Attachments: [Northeast Arkansas Learning Center](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson John Street, seconded by Councilperson Ann Williams, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 4 - Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Charles Coleman

[RES-18:042](#) A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH JONESBORO PROSTHETIC & ORTHOTIC FOR SPONSORSHIP OF ONE OUTFIELD SIGN AT THE MIRACLE LEAGUE PARK

Attachments: [Jonesboro PROSTHETIC AND ORTHOTIC](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson John Street, seconded by Councilperson Ann Williams, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 4 - Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Charles Coleman

5. Pending Items

6. Other Business

Chairmember Joe Hafner said we had an Advertising & Promotions Commission (A&P) meeting today and one of the items brought up in the A&P meeting is the hotel or occupancy tax on transient rentals. So, that's something that is going to be coming across the Finance Committee agenda probably pretty soon, maybe even on March 27th. Councilmember David McClain said when you say transient rentals, what do you mean? Chairmember Hafner said like Airbnb. McClain said okay. Chairmember Hafner said so I think the first step would probably be looking at Airbnb, something that's

concrete that we can get our hands on so we don't waste all our time out searching for every mom and pop, but just a heads up that that can be out there. Chief Financial Officer Bill Reznicek may be able to distribute the draft with Airbnb that City Attorney Carol Duncan came up with.

Mayor Harold Perrin said two issues you have to do. One, council will have to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the city and Airbnb, and the second thing is that we will have to change the ordinance we have on there now to add that to it. I was watching the A&P Commission meeting when I was working at my desk. Did you say 17 or so that we know of on Airbnb now, Mr. Reznicek? Councilmember McClain asked does it need to have language because you have more than just Airbnb. You have VRBO. Mr. Reznicek said well, the example I gave this afternoon at the commission meeting was that currently there are approximately 18 people who have active listings on Airbnb that potentially could be running those and we could be collecting occupancy tax on. We call the broad group as transient rentals, but depending on how wide we want to cast that net the place to start is Airbnb because they're, essentially, an agent for the people who are renting, and they can collect and remit the tax without us having to track down each individual renter. Chairmember Hafner said tracking down those individual renters would be a lot more than what you're actually getting out of them. So, that could be a place to start. I have had a couple phone calls from residents concerned about someone having an Airbnb or house in their neighborhood for duck hunters, which if my family is over there are 20 cars in the street. There's always gonna be times when there are cars in the street, but we want to make sure that these people are accountable and they're paying their fair share. Mayor Perrin said I think what you're gonna see is that you're gonna see this grow, and what's happening is some of these apartments that have been built here in town, they can't rent them so they are putting them on Airbnb and they are renting those apartments by the day. They are collecting about \$135 to \$145 a day on these apartments. Airbnb collects the sales tax of 8.5%, but they don't collect the A&P tax on that. You're gonna see a lot more of that grow. We pulled it up on the screen, but you have nice homes of 4,000 sq. ft. in Sage Meadows that are being rented by the day. I would hate to be living next to a house that is rented by the day and I don't know who is gonna be coming in every day or every night. I'm just saying we're gonna have to get a hold of it.

Councilmember L.J. Bryant asked Mr. Reznicek if they have to buy a privilege license too. Mr. Reznicek said we are still looking at that and that does create some other issues. If Airbnb is the agent for those people, then it would facilitate us getting a privilege license from those individuals. To expand it beyond that and cast a wider net does become problematic so we're not really sure. We are still evaluating the effectiveness of that and what benefit we would derive based upon the effort it would take. Chairmember Hafner said I don't think you want to get too bureaucratic. Councilmember Bryant said I would just say this that I have a house on the lake in Cherokee Village, and I rent it out on Airbnb and VRBO and I do have to have a permit or city license from Cherokee Village. Mayor Perrin said you would have to have a license through this, too. Again, this is only those that are listed on Airbnb. You have a lot more homes and apartments in this town. In 2017, last time we looked, there was about 40 that were being rented out by the night. Mr. Reznicek said and that encompasses the ones on Craigslist and in the newspaper. Mayor Perrin said that's something we have to look at because your A&P tax is flat over last year. Chairmember Hafner said it's down a little bit. Mayor Perrin said in fact, it's down a little bit from last year.

7. Public Comments

8. Adjournment

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

Aye: 4 - Ann Williams; John Street; David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Charles Coleman