



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Finance & Administration Council Committee

Tuesday, April 10, 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-18:033](#)

Minutes for the Finance Committee meeting on March 27, 2018

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson John Street, seconded by Councilperson David McClain, 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 I'm going to change the agenda around slightly. I'm going to move RES-18:053 up because it's related to ORD-18:022.

ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED

[ORD-18:022](#)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO AMEND THE 2018 BUDGET FOR SIX BLUE AND YOU MINI GRANTS

Councilmember David McClain said so we just had to show that it was an increase. Chairmember Joe Hafner said yes. It's the net increase of zero. We just have to show that the revenue is going up and the expense is going up for the grants.

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

[ORD-18:023](#)

AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO AMEND THE 2018 BUDGET AND PURCHASE PROPERTY LOCATED ADJACENT TO CRAIGHEAD FOREST PARK

Councilmember David McClain asked if this would just change the price. Chairmember Joe Hafner said no. We already approved the resolution to enter into the agreement. This is actually changing the budget so we can buy the property. We had to approve the resolution to allow the city to enter into the contract. This will allow them to close and settle the contract. Chief Financial Officer Bill Reznicek said and to modify the budget. Chairmember Hafner said and to modify the budget to show the expenditure.

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

[ORD-18:025](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 17:079 TO ALLOW FOR THE ADOPTION OF A REGULATED FEE SCHEDULE FOR THE COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT BY RESOLUTION

Councilmember L.J. Bryant asked how this is different from what is being done now. What is the change here? Councilmember David McClain asked Chief Financial Officer Bill Reznicek what is the big difference. Chairmember Joe Hafner said Mr. Reznicek or City Clerk Donna Jackson would have to answer that. Mr. Reznicek said back in the fall when the other fee schedules were changed, there was additional language in there to allow future changes to be passed by resolution. In the privilege license fee schedule, that language was not incorporated. It stood on the requirement of being changed only by ordinance. This really came out of the other issue that we're going to talk about on the residential business rentals. If we proceed with that to have the ability to charge privilege licenses and, for us to modify the privilege license agreement, we want to facilitate that by being able to do it by resolution rather than having to go through the full ordinance process, the three readings and 30-day period.

City Clerk Donna Jackson said it also has to do with the codification of the ordinances. In other words, this is in our codebook and the codification attorneys recommended this because every time you codify, it costs the city a lot of money to redo all the codebooks, put it back online and that kind of thing. With a resolution, we are able to make those amendments, it goes to the committee, it's reviewed there and then approved by council.

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

[ORD-18:026](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 62-40 and 62-41 OF THE JONESBORO CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF MODIFYING THE DEFINITIONS TO INCLUDE AND LEVYING A TAX UPON RESIDENTIAL BUSINESS RENTALS

Attachments: [ORD 18-026 Revision.docx](#)

Chairmember Joe Hafner said obviously, this is something that is getting bigger in Jonesboro, and around the country. One question I had in reading this was about meeting and party room facilities. Several restaurants have rooms they rent out for different meetings, such as lunch meetings or private meetings on an hour-to-hour, day-to-day basis. Will they fall under this new ordinance? Chief Financial Officer Bill Reznicek said to answer your question, yes. The intent of the ordinance is to try to capture everyone. We cast a little wider net than we had originally intended. After discussing with City Attorney Carol Duncan, our original intention was to capture Airbnb, but we found it difficult with the definition that is given in the Arkansas Code to just carve them out or single them out separately from the other definition, and it did include party rooms. So, what you're talking about would be included. Our intent here is to capture the Airbnb type of people. The ones who are doing this on a regular basis with the property being advertised and facilitated by an agent. For the people who are renting a party room or somebody who is periodically doing something that technically would fall within this definition, it's going to be a bit of a self-reporting honor system for them. The idea is not that we're going to be out trying to police everybody who is renting a party room for an hour or two across the city. It's more to capture the segment of the business that is going through an agent. The result of that is going to be that it does single out Airbnb and they are the only ones who are complying with it because it's easier to track them and identify them. To answer your question, yes it would under this definition, include this type of rental.

Chairmember Hafner said you say it's self-reporting, but I could see several different businesses across the city having an issue with that. I don't want to pick on anybody, but a business like Hijinx that does birthday parties all the time, is that the intent of this? I have had a few phone calls from residents expressing concern about these Airbnb type things being in their neighborhood. I know Councilmember Gene Vance has shared an e-mail with Ms. Duncan and Chief Operating Officer Roy Ockert regarding some of his concerns about if we just do the tax by itself, right now, are we limiting ourselves on other enforcement actions we might be able to take, down the road. I don't know what those would be because you have residential renters where people have parties. His concern was duck hunters late at night having fun and then they are up at 3 o'clock in the morning getting ready to go and disturbing the neighbors. I guess in reading this my main concern, besides the neighborhood, would be casting too wide of a net and just creating a headache for restaurants. I don't think this was the intent.

Mr. Reznicek said I appreciate your comment and concern. Frankly, when we approached this originally, we took the same position. Finance Manager Trevor Harvey and I met with Ms. Duncan and we spent some time going through the best way to draft this and incorporate these type of rentals. Without putting words in her mouth, basically, what I understood her saying was it is better for us to follow the definition that is already in the Arkansas Code. That is more likely to keep us out of trouble, than not. So, we adopted the same language that the state uses, although we augmented it to include the people we defined as residential business rentals and we added the language of further identifying them as those who would require a commercial insurance policy or file a Schedule E on their tax return. I appreciate what you're saying and the intent of this is not to be out chasing down Hijinx or whoever is having a birthday party. That is not the spirit of the intent. Councilmember Hafner said but if it's in there, it's always something that would hanging over their heads or our heads as far as enforcing. Mr. Reznicek said and in the case of Hijinx, they are already in compliance with the privilege license so it doesn't present that issue. For other people, it might be more of a double-edged sword because they might be having birthday parties or have a party room, and they're doing it twice a year and they're not

getting a privilege license. Now, under the ordinance we are proposing, they not only will pay the A&P tax, but they will also have to get a privilege license. So, it does expand the definition and the people who were under the letter of the law that we are trying to capture. We recognize that some of this is going to be self-reporting and the honor system type of reporting because we don't have the wherewithal to go out and chase down everybody who is having a birthday party and might have a room they use a couple times a year and rent out to people who are having birthday parties. How we delineate between the people in Airbnb and those types of rentals is difficult because we want to retain the laws that are currently written.

Chairmember Hafner said could we not just put something in there such as if someone spends the night. You don't have people at Hijinx spending the night. They rent out their party rooms, but they're not spending the night. Mr. Reznicek said and that makes sense. We could amend it to say something like if it includes overnight stays by guests. We even talked about having a de minimis threshold of if somebody rents their home out for one weekend for the year, should they comply with this. That is where we added in the definition of the commercial insurance policy, as well as the Schedule E, because individuals can rent their homes out for several days a year without actually having to file a Schedule E. We thought we would narrow the scope by further providing that definition and weed out some of the people we're really not trying to capture because they're kind of the one-off situation. We're not trying to be punitive to the extent that we're just casting such a wide net and we're looking in every nook and cranny for anybody who is renting out a room or has a bed in their house that occasionally somebody stays and pays them a boarding fee. That's not necessarily the intent here.

Councilmember David McClain said if we look at places that throw parties, weddings, etc. I know for a fact, on the Arkansas State University campus, it happens quite often. I know it happens at other places. Just thinking from my point of view, I can think of three or four places on campus. Do we change it to where it's an overnight stay included, where there's not a tax on those parties, weddings or things of that nature? Mr. Reznicek said if you choose to amend it and we further define it to say party rentals that are part of overnight guest stays or as part of the lodging accommodation overnight stay is incorporated in the event, then I think that would be a reasonable and logical expansion of this amendment to what we are trying to accomplish. Chairmember Hafner, you also mentioned the concern of the people disrupting the neighborhood. I had some conversations today with people, locally, who had concern about that very thing. They had anecdotal stories of situations that had happened, probably a similar situation with duck hunters came up as one of the examples.

Mr. Reznicek said I did reach out to some people around the state and talked about what their experience has been with this both from a revenue and administrative standpoint, as well as from a zoning and control standpoint. I talked to people in North Little Rock and a couple of people in Hot Springs. I talked to Finance Director Rick Bright in Eureka Springs. I did try to reach out to Finance Director Paul Becker in Fayetteville. He was busy most of the day. I am going to follow up with him certainly before council and get some feedback from him, as well. There weren't any reports of incidents that anybody said yes. We had these types of issues. They had the concern. They all shared the concern that yes, we do realize that these things can be abused. I did talk with the collector in Hot Springs. She said the city looked at this situation from a zoning standpoint, and if people were going to do this and, in essence, say I have lodging in my home available or be an overnight rental location, that they did have to approach the city about modifying the zoning for their particular residence. If they weren't in an area of a city where they couldn't fall under a multi-family zoning or

lodging type of arrangement, then they were told they were prohibited from doing it. Now, whether or not that individual went on and did it anyway, that would be another story. Certainly, someone could circumvent the regulation as it were. From an administrative and tax standpoint, primarily the feedback I got was that people in other cities were seeing a little bit of privilege license sales from this. It wasn't a dramatic amount. Theirs was somewhat self-reporting. When I talked to Mr. Bright he mentioned that the A&P type of revenue for them was about \$2,000 per month. We had estimated at one time around \$15,000 a year for us, give or take. That would probably make sense. We're obviously larger, but Eureka Springs is more of a tourist destination so they have more tourism type of rentals, where ours would probably be more for game weekends and things like that. Councilmember McClain said you anticipate \$15,000 a year. Mr. Reznicek said it's really hard to say. We took a couple of Airbnb listing examples on the internet extrapolated out. At a 50% occupancy rate at an average of \$140 per night over a year, the A&P Commission at 3% might get \$15,000 per year. Fifteen thousand per year could promote three different organizations because a lot of their funding is \$5,000 to \$10,000 at a time. So, that could translate into some tourism for the city. That was why we continued to pursue it. Also, given the fact that we know intuitively that these type of situations are continuing to grow. People are using these as alternatives to traditional hotel/motel stays. In all likelihood, it's going to continue to grow at some rate.

Councilmember Hafner said there is no doubt that this is needed to include Airbnb, etc. My personal preference would be to get the language cleaned up to where we're not including things in there that we're just going to turn a blind eye to. I'd rather have something that is going to be followed by the letter of the law instead of saying we're not gonna apply this to you even though you fall underneath it. I think that kind of compromises the ordinance some. Councilmember John Street said I think the overnight lodging would probably catch it. If they're renting a room to the Kiwanis for their monthly meeting or somebody else, that wouldn't be applicable. Chairmember Hafner said as it's written right now, it would be. Councilmember Street said but if they amended it by putting the lodging requirement, I think it would take care of most of it. Mr. Reznicek said basically, if it incorporated overnight lodging as part of the rental package. Councilmember Street said and as far as the rental part goes, and noise, they are still subject to the law. It would be disturbing the peace. You would see an officer at the door just like you would if you were throwing a party at 3 o'clock in the morning and you're too loud, and you're neighbor calls. That shouldn't be a problem. They still have to abide by the law.

Mr. Reznicek said I did reach out to Planning Director Derrel Smith. I asked him about the zoning issue. He was going to check into it and talk with some of his peers around the state and see what they have done or ran into. When he and I discussed it, the obvious example that came up is that we allow other people to have home-based businesses. Now, we are going to have to discriminate between the types of business, whether it be having an accounting office in your home versus having an Airbnb rental. How are we going to discriminate one against the other? If we did, it would seem that there was some type of zoning that would be based upon multi-family use of that home or multi-occupancy of the home. Chairmember Hafner said people rent to college students all the time. College students can throw a party. Why put the person who is just doing it overnight or just two or three days under a lot more stringent guidelines than someone who does it year round?

Councilmember L.J. Bryant said if I'm understanding this right, Expedia doesn't collect our full 3% and I guess it's up to the hotel, that may not get all of the money, so we basically get cheated out of some of that. Is there anything we can do about that? Mr.

Reznicek said I saw an article on that recently. In fact, the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) was looking into that because it's happening on the sales tax side, as well. The rates they're advertising online and what is being collected at the hotel are two different rates. With Expedia with their givebacks and commission, they're remitting a lesser amount of sales tax than the actual transaction that is occurring at the place of lodging. So, there is some noise about that in Little Rock, and I will follow up on that and see. I think if they can resolve that on a state level on sales tax, then certainly we should be able to resolve that from an A&P Commission, as well. We should be able to get maybe on the coat tails of what they're doing and the reporting that they're getting to flush that out and be able to do the same type of thing.

Mr. Kent Gibson, 908 Somerset, said I have an Airbnb across the street from me. That is the reason I am here today. They mentioned the difference between someone having an office in their home as opposed to renting. There again, you have overnight lodging. If someone is running a business out of their home, they own that home, they live in that home and they're not renting or deriving income from an overnight stay. So, it seems like that would be an easy catch to make. This initially happened across the street. I have had the duck hunters. I had the disk frisbee people over there this past weekend who decided that since they were renting the house across the street that allowed them to go across our yard to get to a disk frisbee place behind our house. So, trespassing across our yard was disruptive. We've had eight cars in the cul de sac over an entire weekend and this cul de sac is eight houses. The driveway accommodates four and four cars in the cul de sac all weekend long. These things are disruptive. Whenever you start saying we're gonna have a privilege tax to allow this to happen then that constitutes a business and that constitutes a business in a residential area that has bills of assurance and coding regulations. If you're gonna do that, it seems to me that the people who want to run these Airbnb's need to have a variance for land use that the neighboring people should have an input on whether or not that variance is approved or not. Councilmember McClain said I think you do have that input going through that process, if I'm not mistaken, any time you go for a variance. Mr. Gibson said they told me that since people could rent their property, they could rent it however they want to, but now you all are proposing this and to me that opens the door back up for a discussion about having to have a variance for land use in residential areas and communities that have bills of assurance.

Councilmember Bryant said I'm not deflecting this at all. I'm just thinking. What if a homeowner's association amended their by-laws? I don't know what the rules are about them going backwards. I'm not trying to deflect us. Mr. Gibson said most of the time that is done by a vote of people who fall underneath that particular bill of assurance. In fact, they're very difficult to enforce. It's a Gentlemen's Agreement on these bills of assurance. The bills of assurance are, basically, Gentlemen's Agreements. It's very difficult to get them enforced and in court with a lawyer and getting judgments that way. If those are amended, then the people who fall under the jurisdiction of that bill of assurance can all vote and change it and do whatever they want. In this case, to me, the people who are falling within this area should be able to have a say on whether or not that variance should be heard or allowed. Like I say, we have kind of run the full gamut. This house is very popular. It's rented sometimes four nights out of the week, almost every weekend. It's a nuisance.

Councilmember Street said again, they don't get an exception to the law. They have to comply with the same laws that you do or anybody else in your subdivision. If it's an external nuisance, the law applies to them. If they're illegally parking in the street, that's something we can enforce. If they're disturbing the peace, that's something we can enforce. If they're trespassing on you, it's your responsibility, but you can call

and they will address the trespassing issue, but that's something the owner of the Airbnb can set out in their guidelines. Most of them have pretty strict guidelines, but it doesn't mean that somebody's not going to follow it, but it does not give them an exception to the law. Mr. Gibson said I was not aware of a different type of insurance needing to be purchased on the property. A homeowner's policy wouldn't cover this type of entity. Councilmember Street said it would have to be a renter's policy. Mr. Gibson said thank you.

Mr. Reznicek said, in response, I just want to clarify that we're not encouraging, we're not condoning and we're not adopting people's ability to do this. What we are identifying is that people today are doing this. This practice is going on and we're simply trying to, to some extent, not necessarily regulate it, but trying to capture some of the revenue that we feel like has been peeled off from our traditional hotel/motel stays and capture it back for the A&P Commission. But, I think at the same time, if we can identify these properties and the one the gentleman was talking about, the reoccurring ones, it actually gives us more visibility into some of these, and gives us, not necessarily control, but we can kind of identify them on the map, and we know where they are at. Today, we really have no idea. There is absolutely no control. I just want to make it clear that what we are trying to do here is not adopting people's ability to rent these properties. It's simply stating that this type of practice exists, and that based upon that, we should have the ability to collect an A&P tax just like we would on any bed and breakfast, cabin in the woods, hotel/motel, etc. You can go through the state definition that lists all the various types of rental agreements. So, at the end of the day, we're simply trying to say, okay, if that's the case then this is the tax structure you need to comply with and these are the privilege licenses laws that apply to you.

Chairmember Hafner said it sounds like, besides us wanting the language cleaned up some, that there are a few different issues that need to be looked into as far as bills of assurance and that kind of thing. Councilmember Street said do you want to postpone it and let them bring it up next time. Chairmember Hafner said I think it needs to be looked at a little more. I think there was a lot of good discussion brought up today. I think there is no doubt it's needed, but it needs to be tweaked some to see if we can cover a few more bases. Councilmember Street said I will withdraw my motion to forward it to council until we can look at it and address the lodging issues and some of those and bring it back next month. Councilmember Ann Williams said I will withdraw my second.

Postponed Temporarily

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

[RES-18:046](#)

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING GUIDELINES FOR THE GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CREATING EFFICIENCY AND CLARITY FOR THE JONESBORO CITY COUNCIL AS WELL AS THE CITIZENS OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

Chairmember Joe Hafner said at one time, we talked about having a spreadsheet that showed all this information. Community Development Director Tiffny Calloway asked Chairmember Hafner what spreadsheet he was referring to. Chairmember Hafner said I talked about it one time in a finance meeting about the grants we have out there right now, when they start, when they end, and how much they were for. Ms. Calloway said that was the purpose of the presentation at the last council meeting, and that spreadsheet or PowerPoint is available on Legistar, I do believe. That was the purpose of it. Chairmember Hafner said but that's not really my question. Ms. Calloway said I'm

waiting for your question. Chairmember Hafner said I think sometimes we get lost in the local match or no local match because some of the grants we get for staffing, or whatever, may not have a local match, but they still require the city to meet certain conditions after the grant ends or we have to pay the money back. Ms. Calloway said exactly. So, what this does, and I want to thank City Clerk Donna Jackson for putting this together, this clarifies that process. So, if a grant does not require any match, no local match whatsoever, then we can go ahead and make application for it because of time constraints. There are a couple that are coming up right now that we have to put on the agenda, but even if we receive that grant, you all will still have to approve it before we are allowed to accept it. For example, the Blue and You grants, those were no local match, but we still have to come to council to do a resolution of acceptance and, also, do an ordinance to amend the budget to accept that funding. There are going to be some grants tonight that require a local match, such as the staffing grants. On those particular grants, before you accept it, you will know what the federal match is, what the local match is, how long the grant period is, and what our obligation is after the grant ends. All of that will be provided to you. It's all in the grant application. Chairmember Hafner said so, on staffing it will say we must keep them employed for so many years after the end of the grant or we have to pay the money back. That will be spelled out in the resolution. Ms. Calloway said that will be spelled out in the resolution of acceptance, not in the application.

Ms. Jackson said some of the grants require Ms. Calloway to have approval ahead of time before she can even apply, but there are some that there is no match. I was asked to look at this and what I tried to do is have the process whereby certain criteria has to be in that resolution that gives you full knowledge and disclosure before you vote on it, and that's not been happening, at times. Also, they shouldn't have their hands tied whenever it's no match at all and it's a time constraint. They should be able to apply for that and once it's accepted, bring it to you all for approval. Chairmember Hafner said I am good with that. My main concern was disclosing the other requirements after the grant ends, so I appreciate that.

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-18:048](#)

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH DELTA DENTAL FOR SPONSORSHIP OF ONE OUTFIELD SIGN AT THE JOE MACK CAMPBELL SPORTING COMPLEX

Attachments: [JMC DELTA DENTAL](#)

Chairmember Joe Hafner said I will say that this is \$2,500 a year for five years for a total of \$12,500.

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-18:049](#)

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH CENTENNIAL BANK FOR SPONSORSHIP OF ONE OUTFIELD SIGN AT THE SOUTHSIDE SOFTBALL COMPLEX

Attachments: [CENTINNAL BANK](#)

Councilmember David McClain said we are only charging \$300 for Southside Softball Complex, but charging \$2,500 for Joe Mack Campbell. Parks and Recreation Director Danny Kapales said the difference in those sponsorships is that Joe Mack is actually one sign for that field itself. Councilmember McClain said so this is the big sign that stands up above. Mr. Kapales said yes sir. The ones at Miracle League Park and Southside Softball Complex are 5'x8' and there will be multiple signs on each field.

A motion was made by Councilperson LJ Bryant, seconded by Councilperson David McClain, 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-18:050](#)

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

Attachments: [CHRIS CONGER](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson John Street, seconded by Councilperson David McClain, 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-18:051](#)

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH SENSATIONAL KIDS PEDIATRIC THERAPY FOR SPONSORSHIP OF ONE OUTFIELD SIGN AT THE MIRACLE LEAGUE PARK

Attachments: [Sensational Kids](#)

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-18:053](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH THE BLUE AND YOU FOUNDATION TO RECEIVE SIX MINI GRANTS

Attachments: [RES-18-027](#)

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-18:054](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ACCEPT THE LOW BID AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ALLIANCE TRANSPORTATION GROUP FOR A 10-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN/STUDY

Attachments: [Alliance Contract 20180402.pdf](#)

Chairmember Joe Hafner said Transit Director Michael Black couldn't be here today. It looks like the total cost of this is \$99,913. The JETS 50% would be approximately \$50,000, which was, according to Mr. Black, included in the budget for this year under professional services. My main question is what's the purpose of this study. Does anybody know that? Councilmember John Street said instead of duplicating 15 different agencies that connect people, we're trying to actually connect from outside Jonesboro with some of those agencies into the central area where we can then disperse them around the city and get them back so they can get back out. It will avoid some of the duplication of federal monies for transportation. It's needed. Councilmember David McClain asked Mr. Street to explain that one more time. Councilmember Street said right now, JETS just stays inside the City of Jonesboro. There are numerous agencies that provide transportation to folks, but they don't connect to anybody. Councilmember McClain said like Area Agency on Aging. Mr. Street said yes. This would facilitate a lot of those agencies actually coordinating together to participate in trying to get people where they need to go around Jonesboro and around the area. For example, if you get somebody from Bono who needs to come in and needs to go somewhere, they could get in, get on JETS and JETS could get them somewhere, but they don't communicate now and they don't work together. This would help study the need and help put together a plan to facilitate better transportation and fulfill the need for people for transportation. Councilmember McClain said this is a 10-year contract so they'll study it for 10 years. Councilmember Street said it's a 10-year study. So, they will study for the next 10 years. Most of the stuff goes out 20 years for transportation planning, but this is a 10-year study. They don't want to project it out too much. Chairmember Hafner said it's not a study that lasts 10 years. They're just projecting the needs for the next 10 years. Councilmember Street said they are projecting what you anticipate to take place within the next 10 years.

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-18:055](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE SELECTIVE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PROJECT GRANT FROM THE ARKANSAS STATE POLICE HIGHWAY SAFETY OFFICE

Councilmember David McClain asked Community Development Director Tiffny Calloway if she would outline what the grant will cover. Ms. Calloway said it provides salary to the officers who work overtime on DUI and DWI enforcements and any kind of traffic enforcements that are overtime. Councilmember McClain asked if that was pretty much everybody. Ms. Calloway said no. Not everyone participates. Sgt. George Martin, with the Jonesboro Police Department, has the list of officers who participate in the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program, STEP. He is the coordinator for the program, so it does pay for him to attend training on this, as well. The match is in-kind and it's his salary.

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-18:058](#)

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

Attachments: [centennial bank - credit](#)

Councilmember David McClain asked Chief Financial Officer Bill Reznicek if he would speak on this resolution. Mr. Reznicek said the resolution relates to the city landfill and the environmental impact work that was done there by the state, and at the time there was a \$500,000 performance requirement and it reduced to 20% as maintenance and now \$23,000 is the balance they want us to continue to maintain in a letter of credit. It's a standby letter of credit meaning if we don't comply with conditions that state has imposed, then they can go to the bank and draw on that letter of credit. As a result, we have to have a line of credit with Centennial Bank for \$23,000. It's a draw down line of credit. It's a balance available similar to a personal line of credit. If you don't draw on it then you're not incurring any interest. If we were to draw on that, and that would be as a result of the state affecting the presentation of the letter of credit to the bank if we defaulted on our obligations on the environmental work that we're supposed to be doing, then the line of credit would cover the \$23,000 draw down on the letter of credit. We would incur 5.25% interest until we paid back the line of credit. There is a \$480 charge annually for this, \$250 origination fee on the line of credit, and \$230 as a fee for the letter of credit itself.

Chairmember Hafner said any time a landfill closes you don't just walk away from it. The person who owns the landfill is responsible for, I think, up to 30 years or so to do monitoring, to do closure and post closure. Councilmember John Street said we have flares out there now to burn off some of the methane that is coming up. We have to submit reports to the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, ADEQ, annually. They allow us to do it because it is a small amount, but, unfortunately, Class 1 and Class 4 were mingled so it's gonna be a long time before it's actually cleared and it can be capped and forgot about, and we can put a golf course or park on top of it.

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-18:059](#)

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO UTILIZE FEDERAL-AID RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM FUNDS AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM FROM THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Community Development Director Tiffny Calloway said I would like to request one amendment be made before you vote on this. After talking with Parks and Recreation Director Danny Kapales and Engineering Director Craig Light, we need to change the

Craighead Forest Greenway Phase IV Project and make Recreational Trails Program, RTP, go for Southside Ballfield Paved Walking Trail Loop in Connection to Miracle League Ball Park. There are two places in this resolution where it states Craighead Forest Greenway Phase IV in the first whereas, and in Section 1, it states the Craighead Forest Greenway Phase IV Project. We need that to say Southside Ballfield Paved Walking Trail Loop in Connection to Miracle League Ball Park, and the reason for that is because there's more funding available on the Transportation Alternatives Program, TAP, and Phase IV costs more than Southside. I'll explain that one more time. We need to strike Craighead Forest Greenway Phase IV Project and replace it with Southside Ballfield Paved Walking Trail Loop in Connection to Miracle League Ball Park, and this is because more funding is available in the TAP grant. The next resolution that you will read talks about TAP and we want to use that for Craighead Phase IV. I do have some figures for both of those projects I can go over with you. Chairmember Hafner said let's take care of the amendment first. Councilmember John Street made a motion to amend RES-18:059 to strike Craighead Forest Greenway Phase IV Project and replace with Southside Ballfield Paved Walking Trail Loop in Connection to Miracle League Ball Park, seconded by L.J. Bryant. All voted aye.

Ms. Calloway said we had a public hearing. We had a lot of calls and e-mails thanks to Mr. Keith Inman's article in the Jonesboro Sun. The public was really supportive of this project. The total cost for a one-mile walking trail, with resting benches at various points on the trail, is \$277,000. That would be \$181,668 in federal funds and \$45,417 in local match. When we actually receive the grant, you will have all the documentation on any expenses associated with it if we're awarded on this project.

A motion was made by Councilperson John Street, seconded by Councilperson David McClain, 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-18:060](#)

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO UTILIZE FEDERAL-AID TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM FUNDS AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM FROM THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Councilmember John Street made a motion to amend RES-18:060 to strike Southside Ballfield Paved Walking Trail Loop in Connection to Miracle League Ball Park and replace it with Craighead Forest Greenway Phase IV Project, seconded by L.J. Bryant. All voted aye.

Community Development Director Tiffny Calloway said we are funded for Phase III, which will be completed this fall. This will connect to the Harrisburg Road widening project so everyone wants to see it complete. It will offer everyone who lives in that area, especially in the high-density apartment area, a connection straight to Craighead Forest Park.

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-18:061](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE AARP COMMUNITY CHALLENGE 2018 GRANT FROM THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR RETIRED PERSONS

Councilmember David McClain asked if this was a dog park. Councilmember John Street asked what happened to this going in at Craighead Forest Park. They were looking at putting this in the center at Access 6. Parks and Recreation Director Danny Kapales said that plan is still there. This is an opportunity to get money to be able to put one close to the Harlin Henry Center, which is basically our senior citizens building. It has to be related to the senior citizens building, so it gives us an opportunity to do another dog park and get funding for it. The one at Craighead Forest Park is still looking for funding. We have an outside group that is working on raising funds for that. Councilmember David McClain asked if you had to be a member of the senior center to use the dog park. Chairmember Joe Hafner said no. It would be available for everybody. Councilmember McClain said you said it was connected to the senior center. Chairmember Hafner said the dog park just has to be near the senior center.

Community Development Director Tiffny Calloway said it's a short-term quick action grant that they want a community to be able to implement older individuals into the project. With the proximity of the proposed dog park that has been talked about for many years in Jonesboro right there at Earl Bell Community Center, we thought this would tie it in with the Harlin Henry senior citizens building and other aging communities. We have talked to Area Agency on Aging and a lot of nursing homes and they're supportive of this project. So, we'll be getting resolutions of support from them. This grant is due pretty quickly. We are going to hold a couple of public hearings and get the public input on this. It is a no match grant.

A motion was made by Councilperson LJ Bryant, 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-18:062](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE 2017 STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE (SAFER) GRANT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Community Development Director Tiffny Calloway said in full disclosure, we didn't put the number that we were going to be requesting before we submitted the resolution because we were still working out the figures. Fire Chief Kevin Miller is going to be requesting three full-time fire fighters and I feel like that is a good request. As it states, the grant covers salaries for the first two years at 75% federal, 25% local, and the fourth year the city will assume full responsibility on the three firefighters.

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-18:063](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF APPLICATIONS WITH THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION, AN OPERATING ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FOR FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED BY 49 U.S.C. CHAPTER 53, UNITED STATES CODE, AND OTHER FEDERAL STATUTES ADMINISTERED BY THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

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 asked Chief Financial Officer Bill Reznicek if the first compensation committee meeting has been scheduled. Mr. Reznicek said no, the meeting has not been scheduled, but we will do that soon. We were waiting to get some information from the Johanson Group. They are going to give us a guideline to get started. Chairmember Hafner said I just wanted to make sure that I hadn't missed something.

7. Public Comments

8. Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilperson LJ Bryant, seconded by Councilperson David McClain, 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