



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, April 7, 2015

5:30 PM

Municipal Center

NOMINATING & RULES COMMITTEE MEETING AT 4:45 P.M.

[play video](#)

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

[play video](#)

PUBLIC HEARING AT 5:15 P.M.

[play video](#)

Regarding the abandonment of an unused/undeveloped alley way in Meyer's Addition ending on Belt Street as requested by Walter Jackson

No one spoke concerning the abandonment.

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

[play video](#)

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

[play video](#)

3. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK DONNA JACKSON

[play video](#)

Present 10 - Darrel Dover; Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Rennell Woods; Charles Coleman and Todd Burton

Absent 2 - Mitch Johnson and Tim McCall

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

[play video](#)

COM-15:013

Engineering update and presentation by City Engineer Craig Light

[play video](#)

Sponsors: Mayor's Office

Attachments: [2015 Projects](#)

City Engineer Craig Light discussed the 2015 Capital Improvement projects. See the attached presentation. He noted many of the projects are already underway.

Councilman Coleman asked if Hedger Brothers will be donating concrete for the Patrick Street widening. He added in the past they had indicated they would donate materials towards the widening. Mr. Light stated they can ask if Hedger is willing to participate in the project, but they have no understanding with Hedger at this time.

Councilman Moore stated he has received a lot of calls about citizens concerning with how traffic will be handled regarding the South Caraway Bridge replacement project. Mr. Light explained they will build to the west of the bridge, then divert traffic to the new box culvert. The project was bid specifically with the intention of leaving Caraway Road open. There will be a time when the pipes are put in and the road will be closed, but they are looking at closing the road during off peak hours or possibly a Sunday morning.

This item was Filed.

COM-15:019

Check presentation from Mark Thurman and Dawn Layer from Families, Inc.

[play video](#)

Sponsors: Mayor's Office

Ms. Layer stated they had planned to do something for the Miracle League and decided to pay for the security cameras at the Miracle League Field to prevent future vandalism. They presented the city with a check for \$7,291.20 to pay for the camera system. Mayor Perrin thanked them for their donation.

This item was Filed.

Recognition of Police Department chaplains

Police Chief Rick Elliott discussed the chaplain program with the Police Department. He recognized the volunteers in the chaplain program and thanked them for their service. Dr. Charles Coleman, Kerry Williams, Mike Martin, Hershel Richardson, Gene Martin, Roger Hutcheson and Don Blackmore were all commended for their service.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

[play video](#)

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

Aye: 10 - Darrel Dover; Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Rennell Woods; Charles Coleman and Todd Burton

Absent: 2 - Mitch Johnson and Tim McCall

MIN-15:033

Minutes for the City Council meeting on March 17, 2015

[play video](#)

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

This item was PASSED on the consent agenda.

RES-15:025

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO PURCHASE PROPERTY LOCATED AT TRACT 2, HWY 351/AGGIE ROAD INTERSECTION (AHTD 100790 - TRACT 2), JONESBORO, ARKANSAS FOR THE PURPOSE OF INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

[play video](#)

Sponsors: Engineering

Attachments: [Offer and Acceptance](#)

This item was PASSED on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-038-2015

RES-15:026

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH ALLIED CORPORATE FURNITURE FOR SPONSORSHIP OF A OUTFIELD SIGN AT SOUTHSIDE SOFTBALL COMPLEX

[play video](#)

Sponsors: Parks & Recreation

Attachments: [Allied Corporate Furniture.pdf](#)

This item was PASSED on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-039-2015

RES-15:028

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO PURCHASE PROPERTY LOCATED AT TRACT 3, HWY 351/AGGIE ROAD INTERSECTION (AHTD 100790 - TRACT 3), JONESBORO, ARKANSAS FOR THE PURPOSE OF INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

[play video](#)

Sponsors: Engineering

Attachments: [Offer and Acceptance](#)

This item was PASSED on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-040-2015

[RES-15:029](#)

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH CARTER'S CORNER FOR SPONSORSHIP OF A OUTFIELD SIGN AT SOUTHSIDE SOFTBALL COMPLEX

[play video](#)

Sponsors: Parks & Recreation

Attachments: [Carter's Corner 2015.pdf](#)

This item was PASSED on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-041-2015

[RES-15:035](#)

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH FOCUS BANK FOR SPONSORSHIP OF A BASEBALL FIELD AT JOE MACK CAMPBELL PARK

[play video](#)

Sponsors: Parks & Recreation

Attachments: [Focus Bank.pdf](#)

This item was PASSED on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-042-2015

[RES-15:038](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH CRAIGHEAD COUNTY JONESBORO PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR PUBLIC SERVICES

[play video](#)

Sponsors: Mayor's Office

Attachments: [Library Contract](#)

This item was PASSED on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-043-2015

[RES-15:040](#)

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ACCEPT THE LOW BID AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH LAKESIDE CONTRACTORS, LLC FOR THE CARAWAY ROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT OVER HIGGINBOTTOM CREEK PROJECT - 2015:12

[play video](#)

Sponsors: Engineering

Attachments: [Contract Documents 2015 12](#)
[Bid Tab](#)

This item was PASSED on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-044-2015

RES-15:042

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO SUBMIT THE FY 2015 CDBG ACTION PLAN TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[play video](#)

Sponsors: Grants

Attachments: [2015 Action Plan 3_24_15.pdf](#)

This item was PASSED on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-045-2015

RES-15:043

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CITY OF JONESBORO MAYOR TO RELEASE THE LIEN ON PROPERTY AS DESCRIBED: LOT 1 OF THE REPLAT OF LOT 5 AND THE 2ND REPLAT OF LOTS 1 AND 2 BEACON AND BRIDGES 2ND ADDITION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AS SHOWN BY PLAT RECORDED IN PLAT CABINET "C" PAGE 207 AT JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AND BEING SUBJECT TO EASEMENTS AS SHOWN ON RECORDED PLAT

[play video](#)

Sponsors: Grants

Attachments: [Partial Release Deed - Corporate.PDF](#)
[1410 Church survey.pdf](#)
[ARKANSAS DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY Owner of 1410 Church Beacon&Bridges2ndAddition_Lot 1.pdf](#)
[Commit A.pdf](#)

This item was PASSED on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-046-2015

RES-15:046

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH NORTHEAST ARKANSAS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION FOR FUNDING OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES.

[play video](#)

Sponsors: Finance

Attachments: [NAIDC Contract 2015](#)

This item was PASSED on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-047-2015

RES-15:047

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ACCEPT THE LOW BID AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH BAILEY CONTRACTORS, INC. FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE JETS REGIONAL MULTIMODAL TRANSFER CENTER.

[play video](#)

Sponsors: JETS

Attachments: [Contract from Cromwell for RMMCTF Project with Bailey 3-23-15](#)

This item was **PASSED** on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-048-2015

6. NEW BUSINESS

[play video](#)

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[play video](#)

ORD-15:011

ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE SECTION 2-576 AND ADD GRANTS CONSULTING AS A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY

[play video](#)

Sponsors: Grants

Councilman Gibson offered the ordinance for first reading by title only.

Mayor Perrin explained a lot of cities have consultants stationed in Washington D.C. to help them get more federal grants through potential projects, as well as assisting to coordinate with congressional delegation concerning grants. He stated Jonesboro representatives cannot be in D.C. all the time and only go once or twice a year to work with agencies to receive funding. Grant funding allows the city to do projects that could not be financed with sales tax dollars alone. Mayor Perrin further explained they will be venturing out into the private sector to receive grant funding. They already have meetings scheduled during a Washington trip they will be taking later this month to discuss grant funding with several private companies. The consultant's contract will have a clause in it allowing the city to get out of the contract if they see fit. The consultant they are looking at is experienced and they think he will be able to get the city a lot of added funding. Monthly reports will be provided by the consultant to ensure work is being done on the city's behalf. Mayor Perrin added they expect about three to four times the consultant's salary to be brought in via grant funding.

Councilman Moore asked about the emergency clause. Mayor Perrin explained they added the clause because they have a Washington D.C. fly-in on April 22 and have some meetings scheduled. It would be good to have the contract in place before April 22nd.

Mr. Phillip Cook asked about the proposed contract. Mayor Perrin stated the contract will cost about \$3,000 per month.

Mr. Robert Coleman questioned who the consultant is they are looking at. Mayor Perrin explained the individual lives in Washington D.C. They have known him for at least five years and used to work with Senator Boozman. He is currently representing several cities in this area. Mr. Coleman expressed concern about working with someone from Washington due to the state of the federal government. Mayor Perrin stated a city cannot be run on sales tax alone. Jonesboro currently has between \$18

million to \$20 million in grant funding that came from several agencies such as HUD, Department of Justice and the Department of Transportation. Those funds are needed in order to provide the citizens with needed services. Mr. Coleman stated he would like to know the authorities this person will have. City Attorney Carol Duncan explained the consultant will have no authority on behalf of the city. She reiterated the contract has a 30-day out clause in case the city becomes unhappy with the services they can cancel the contract.

Councilman Burton stated he is anxious to see the grants the city is able to obtain through private funding. Mayor Perrin agreed.

A motion was made by Councilman Gene Vance, seconded by Councilman Chris Moore, that this matter be Placed on second reading . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 10 - Darrel Dover;Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Rennell Woods;Charles Coleman and Todd Burton

Absent: 2 - Mitch Johnson and Tim McCall

ORD-15:013

AN ORDINANCE ABANDONING AND VACATING AN UNUSED/ UNDEVELOPED ALLEY WAY IN:
NORTH END OF 15' ALLEY (APPROXIMATELY 170 FEET) ENDING ON BELT ST.
SHOWN ON PLAT OF BLOCK 10 OF MEYERS ADDITION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS.

[play video](#)

Attachments: [Petitions](#)
[Plat](#)
[Utility Letters](#)
[Planing & Engineering Letter](#)

Councilman Dover offered the ordinance for first reading by title only.

Councilman Moore asked if all adjoining property owners have been notified. City Planner Otis Spriggs answered yes, it is part of the abandonment process that all affected parties have to be notified as well at the utility agencies.

Councilman Coleman stated there is a lot of property on the north side of this abandonment. He asked if the issues with those properties will be addressed in the 2030 Plan. Mr. Spriggs answered no, they will not be addressed in the 2030 Plan. But, administration is aware of the issues. They have begun to inventory a lot of the alleyways in the west end and their objective is to study the ones that are not being used in order for the city to take action to abandon some unnecessary alleyways. It will be an extensive process and they will have to deal with ownerships.

Councilman Frierson motioned, seconded by Councilman Coleman, to suspend the rules and waive the second and third readings. All voted aye.

A motion was made by Councilman Charles Frierson, seconded by Councilman John Street, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 10 - Darrel Dover;Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Rennell Woods;Charles Coleman and Todd Burton

Absent: 2 - Mitch Johnson and Tim McCall

Enactment No: O-EN-011-2015

[ORD-15:014](#)

AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING THE DISTRICT COURT CLERK AS THE OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COLLECTION OF FINES ASSESSED IN DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

[play video](#)

Sponsors: Mayor's Office

Councilman Gibson offered the ordinance for first reading by title only.

Councilman Street noted that this service is already being performed by the District Court Clerk and this is just an ordinance to straighten out the process. Councilman Dover added the state is requiring the passage of this ordinance.

Councilman Dover motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Williams, to suspend the rules and waive the second and third readings. All voted aye.

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

Aye: 10 - Darrel Dover;Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;Tim McCall;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Rennell Woods;Charles Coleman and Todd Burton

Absent: 2 - John Street and Mitch Johnson

Enactment No: O-EN-012-2015

[ORD-15:015](#)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO AMEND THE 2015 STREET FUND BUDGET TO ADD \$500,000 FOR STREET OVERLAYS

[play video](#)

Sponsors: Finance

Councilman Street offered the ordinance for first reading by title only.

Councilman Dover explained this is to make repairs to streets that were damaged due to the inclement weather the city received during the winter.

Councilman Moore motioned, seconded by Councilman Street, to suspend the rules and waive the second and third readings. All voted aye.

After passage of the ordinance, Councilman Street motioned, seconded by Councilman Frierson, to adopt the emergency clause. All voted aye.

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

Aye: 10 - Darrel Dover;Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Rennell Woods;Charles Coleman and Todd Burton

Absent: 2 - Mitch Johnson and Tim McCall

Enactment No: O-EN-013-2015

ORD-15:016

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO AMEND THE 2015 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND TO ADD \$875,871 FOR THE CARAWAY ROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT OVER HIGGENBOTTOM CREEK PROJECT

[play video](#)

Sponsors: Finance

Councilman Street offered the ordinance for first reading by title only.

Councilman Street asked if this needed to be expedited. Mayor Perrin answered yes. Due to the recent weather, they have fallen behind and the projects need to get started.

Councilman Street motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Williams, to suspend the rules and waive the second and third readings. All voted aye.

After passage of the ordinance, Councilman Street motioned, seconded by Councilman Woods, to adopt the emergency clause. All voted aye.

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

Aye: 10 - Darrel Dover;Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Rennell Woods;Charles Coleman and Todd Burton

Absent: 2 - Mitch Johnson and Tim McCall

Enactment No: O-EN-014-2015

ORD-15:017

AN ORDINANCE TO MODIFY ARTICLE 1, SECTION 101-1 OF THE JONESBORO CODE OF ORDINANCES AND ADOPT THE FUTURE LAND USE PLAN FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS BY REFERENCE AS RECOMMENDED BY THE METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING COMMISSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF GUIDING THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY AS PART OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING PROCESS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY TO CAUSE THE PLAN TO BECOME EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY UPON PASSAGE

[play video](#)

Sponsors: Planning

Attachments: [Land Use Map](#)
[Land Use Plan Narrative](#)
[MAPC Record of Proceedings](#)
[Presentation](#)

Councilman Street offered the ordinance for first reading by title only.

Councilman Moore asked that this ordinance be read at three consecutive Council meetings.

Councilman Burton encouraged everyone to take a good look at the plan because he feels it was a complete overall of the plan with the use of the growth sectors, which is a new concept. Mayor Perrin agreed. He added the plan will be updated every other year, so the plan will not go longer than two years without being updated.

This ordinance was Held at one reading.

[ORD-15:018](#) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE JONESBORO CODE OF ORDINANCES, AND ADOPTING THE CITY OF JONESBORO MASTER STREET PLAN; PROVIDING FOR AMENDMENTS OF ARTICLE III, CHAPTER 101, AND ADOPTING SUCH AMENDMENTS TO THE MASTER STREET PLAN BY REFERENCE AND ESTABLISHING AN EMERGENCY TO CAUSE THE PLAN TO BECOME EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY UPON PASSAGE

[play video](#)

Sponsors: Engineering and Planning

Attachments: [Master Street Plan](#) [Master Street Plan Map With Aerial](#)
[Master Street Plan Map Without Aerial](#)
[Master Street Plan Narrative](#)
[MAPC Record of Proceedings](#)
[Presentation](#)

Councilman Street offered the ordinance for first reading by title only.

This ordinance was Held at one reading.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

[play video](#)

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[play video](#)

[ORD-15:006](#) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 112 OF THE JONESBORO MUNICIPAL CODE

[play video](#)

Sponsors: Engineering

Attachments: [Maintenance Assurance](#)

A motion was made by Councilman John Street, seconded by Councilman Gene Vance, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 10 - Darrel Dover; Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Rennell Woods; Charles Coleman and Todd Burton

Absent: 2 - Mitch Johnson and Tim McCall

Enactment No: O-EN-015-2015

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

[play video](#)

Mayor Perrin reported on the following items:

The property maintenance code is continuing to be looked at. Councilman Moore recently visited with him, City Attorney Duncan, Lt. Todd Nelson from Quality of Life and Chief Building Official Tim Renshaw concerning the code. Once the code is finalized they will be presenting it to the Council for adoption.

The recycling program was advertised. There was one bidder, Abilities Unlimited. They are working with the company for a contract to present to the Council.

The Wolverine demolition is scheduled for April 21st. The bids came in well. It will include the two buildings and the entire slab.

He along with Grants Administrator Heather Clark and Chief Financial Officer Ben Barylske will be flying to Washington D.C. on April 22nd. Meetings have been scheduled with several private companies, as well as government agencies.

Fisher & Arnold has completed their plan for Northside Park. A map was located in Council Chambers during the meeting for viewing. There will be an area for community gardening. There will also be a connector between Highway 141 and Patrick Street. They are going to try and get grants to pay for the park, which is estimated at \$4.8 million.

They are still working on the Citizen's Bank building. The state has taken it back and will be sold in May. There are some companies who are interested in purchasing the building.

COM-15:022

Airport Commission financial statement for February, 2015

[play video](#)

Sponsors: Municipal Airport Commission

Attachments: [Financial Statement](#)

This item was Filed.

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

[play video](#)

Councilman Woods asked for an update on the grants program. Mayor Perrin stated Ms. Clark will have a report to present at the next Council meeting.

Councilman Burton stated he is glad to hear things are moving forward with the property maintenance code as recommended by the Moratorium Committee. He then asked about the roundabout project. Mr. Light explained it is a city-initiated project with state funds being used to fund it. A study of the intersection showed there was only one hour in the day when a traffic light would help the flow of traffic with the rest of the hours a light would delay traffic. There won't be near as many delays with a roundabout intersection. Councilman Burton questioned whether there will be any conversations with the schools about ways to get cars out of the roadways during peak travel times so it doesn't affect the traffic flow at the roundabout. Mr. Light explained that's not really a problem with the intersection; rather it's a problem with getting traffic to flow at the school so it doesn't hold up traffic on the road. That may be another project that needs to occur after conversations with the school. He added if the traffic does back up into the intersection it would be caused because of the turn

into the school, not the intersection design. Councilman Burton then asked if there will be any educational plans to inform people about the roundabout. He asked if something could be put on Channel 24 to help people drive in the new intersection. Director of Communications Fritz Gisler stated he went through the exact same process in Fayetteville and they will be working together to put educational materials together for Channel 24 and get some things in print.

Councilman Gibson stated he has been reflecting on Councilman Moore's comments at a past Council meeting where concern was expressed regarding the number of walk-ons to the Council agenda. He asked for City Clerk Jackson to send all the Council members a copy of the current Council procedures for review. He would like their feedback as whether or not they think they need a refresher course on the Council procedures. Mayor Perrin added he has asked Mr. Gisler to look at the Council's rules and procedures to see if there's anything the administration should change.

Councilwoman Williams stated she is glad to see the sidewalk projects that will be done in 2015. She's received questions from citizens regarding some of the projects, so they'll be happy to see the projects being undertaken.

Councilman Moore asked for a presentation concerning the Land Use Plan and the Master Street Plan at the next Council meeting. He asked that a department head do a short presentation highlighting the differences between the current plans and the proposed changes. Mayor Perrin answered yes, they'll do a presentation on both plans. It was noted Mr. Spriggs will not be present at the next meeting, so he will do the presentation at the following meeting.

Councilman Moore then referred to comments made earlier by Mr. Light concerning traffic backing up to intersections. Councilman Moore stated there is a problem with traffic backing up at the Flint and Nettleton lights due to children waiting to unload/load at the Kindergarten Center. He asked for that intersection to be looked at so, if needed, they could possibly ask Jonesboro Public Schools to deed some property to the city to make extra turning area for cars to unload/load the kids. He's noticed the traffic backs up and you can't get through the intersection.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

[play video](#)

Mr. Mike Regan, an ASU student, asked the Council to pass a resolution protecting its employees from discrimination due to sexual orientation or gender identity. He explained he wants Jonesboro to be viewed as a welcoming environment. He stated he has had trouble in Jonesboro and has sent applications to other schools due to the troubles he has had. He further explained he was assaulted recently at IHOP due to his presumed sexual orientation. He feels it's important for non-discrimination to be in place to protect any city and state employees.

Ms. Amber Carswell, 904 West Oak Avenue, also spoke in support of the Council passing a resolution protecting city employees from discrimination due to sexual orientation or sexual identity. She spoke on behalf of a downtown business owner and said she didn't want to see the city participate in discriminatory practices. But, she would also like to see protections in place. Ms. Carswell asked the Council to do what's right and to address the disease of bigotry and contempt for humans on a deeper level.

Ms. Lealea Van Winkle Gisler stated she is new to Jonesboro. She came from a

community that was ripped apart by this issue, but has found Jonesboro to be welcoming and encouraging to her and her husband. She explained everyone has strong values and beliefs. She asked that respect be shown to the people in this process. She added no one is a villain and no one needs to be vilified because of what they believe. Ms. Gisler further added this is an amazing city, but if we vilify each other and don't listen then progress will go backwards. She then asked that nothing be rushed into. She asked that if the Council decides to act on this matter that it be done in a reasonable and considerate manner. Ms. Gisler explained in Fayetteville they tried to push through an ordinance that was ill-conceived and just made things worse and it caused people to be pulled apart. She asked that the Council respect each other, listen and continue to move the city forward.

Another citizen spoke in favor of adopting a resolution. She explained she is from Jonesboro, she lives here, her family is here and her business is here. She pays her state taxes every month and is held to the same standard as every business owner here. But, she is not afforded the same civil protections. If she is going to continue to be held to the same expectations, she should also receive the same civil protections.

Ms. Keira Hazelwood stated this issue is not about somebody's beliefs; rather, it is about the citizens. All citizens have the same right to be protected under the same civil ordinances. She added this is not an endorsement of a religious belief to protect all of the citizens. We all deserve the same protection and every human should be given the same protection under the law.

Councilwoman Williams explained this issue has to do with the city employees and the employee handbook, so it should be referred to the Finance Committee. Councilwoman Williams motioned that the issue be referred to the Finance Committee. The motion died for lack of a second.

11. ADJOURNMENT

[play video](#)

A motion was made by Councilman Chris Moore, seconded by Councilman Charles Frierson, that this meeting be Adjourned . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 10 - Darrel Dover;Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Rennell Woods;Charles Coleman and Todd Burton

Absent: 2 - Mitch Johnson and Tim McCall

_____ Date: _____

Harold Perrin, Mayor

Attest:

_____ Date: _____

Donna Jackson, City Clerk