



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Finance & Administration Council Committee

Tuesday, April 18, 2017

4:50 PM

Municipal Center

Special Called Meeting

1. Call To Order

2. Roll Call by City Clerk Donna Jackson

Councilman Coleman arrived at 4:55 p.m.

Present 4 - Ann Williams; Darrel Dover; Joe Hafner and David McClain

Absent 2 - John Street and Charles Coleman

3. New Business

Resolutions To Be Introduced

RES-17:044

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO UTILIZE FEDERAL-AID TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM FUNDS FOR THE DOWNTOWN TO A-STATE CONNECTION PROJECT

Sponsors: Grants, Engineering and Parks & Recreation

Attachments: [Downtown to ASU Cost Estimate](#)
[Downtown to A-State Maintenance Letter](#)
[Downtown to Astate8x11](#)
[Survey Results for the Public Hearings](#)
[Downtown to ASU Application](#)

Chairman Hafner noted this is a five-year grant for \$499,770 with HUD providing 80% of that and the city matching it with 20%.

Grants Administrator Kimberly Marshall explained they originally were only going to have one public hearing so they wouldn't have to call a special Finance meeting to discuss the grants. But, the public wanted to have a second public hearing and she obliged. She included survey results in a packet she provided the Council and the three projects that were picked. Because there's only \$1 million in TAP Grants state-wide it was in the city's best interest to limit it down to just two TAP applications so the city wouldn't be competing against itself.

This particular project was the one that the majority of the people voted for. It goes down Cate, hits Patrick, hits Hope, goes through a wooded area which is part of the

railroad, and goes to A-State. Maps were provided, so the public was able to look at the designs. This is the one that was voted on unanimously. It was an overwhelming vote. Chairman Hafner noted the vote was not unanimous, but was overwhelming. Ms. Marshall agreed.

Mayor Perrin stated before the meeting Bill Smith, a representative of ASU, indicated to him that the trail would not coordinate with ASU's master plan. Len Frey, the ASU Vice Chancellor for Finance & Administration, had called him earlier in the day, but he was not able to get to the call and hasn't called back yet. He assumed that was why Mr. Frey called him. Mayor Perrin asked if the city could still apply for the grant, then change the design later on. Ms. Marshall stated there are no design plans; rather, they just did a sketch and concept.

Chairman Hafner added before the meeting he had asked if obstacles were to come up, if the money could be used elsewhere. Ms. Marshall had indicated to him that was possible. Ms. Marshall agreed, noting they would have to go back to the Highway Department if there were any substantial changes and request the city be allowed to proceed. Mayor Perrin stated he thinks they've done that before.

Councilman McClain asked if there was a reason the city wasn't using the plan Lose & Associates gave them for this. Ms. Marshall explained when she read their plan it was more towards Johnson Avenue. When they went together, she went with the Engineering Department and Parks & Rec. This is what their take on what they wanted and what was best suited for our area. They were looking at the overall plan. They already have maps with trails. This what is they were looking at that would be a better use. They would be getting residents and bikes off those streets. They've had a lot of complaints about safety. They are scared of the traffic because a lot of those roads are very busy. This is a better way of getting them off those tracks and off the main roads.

Councilman McClain stated they paid to have the plan completed. He asked if they could go down Aggie and have three points where they could crossover – Fisher, Bridge or Patrick. Ms. Marshall explained with Fisher they have significant problems with it because there's two trains that typically park there. People can be stuck between the trains. They've known the trains to sit there for hours. It's a dangerous situation for the residents, whether they're pedestrians or bicyclists. She's seen videos where children are jumping through the track cars to get to the other side. It is not safe for them to route the trail that way.

Councilman McClain then questioned whether the plan was to close off Bridge Street. Ms. Marshall stated Bridge Street is still functioning as a vehicular bridge. They are looking at fifteen years down the road. Engineering does have plans to redo the sidewalks on Aggie and go from the university to Fisher Street. Those are being rehabbed this year and are included in the budget that was passed.

Councilman McClain explained the university has just developed new student housing and if they are serious about connecting the university to downtown. Quite a bit of students are going to live on Aggie in Williamsburg Apartments. He questioned why, if there's a huge concentration of students, why they wouldn't go that route versus the other route.

Ms. Marshall stated Bridge Street is not in compliance with the ADA standards. It's kind of dangerous if your riding a bike or on the sidewalk. There's a very low drop and it's not wide enough until the bridge is closed down. But, at this point it doesn't mean the bridge is going to be closed. That doesn't mean they can't put in other trails later on. Their goal is to provide the sidewalks and trails that are needed for the residents.

But, this is just one step. They can still go back and change it if it looks like it won't work. This is just concept. They needed an idea of what it would cost. Once they get awarded the grant, then they would start the design phase to find out the connections.

Bill Smith, speaking for ASU, noted the plan that has been presented today and includes some of their land, hasn't been reviewed by them for approval. They saw it first when it was brought to the meeting. They have been very clear with city staff about their preferred connection being Aggie Road, in coordination with the Lose & Association plan. They have done a lot of heat map analysis of where their students are. If they are trying to connect the downtown, go across the Marion Berry intersection and then into downtown will be somewhat problematic. As a cyclist, he noted having to take a left-hand turn at the Marion Berry intersection where there's two humps and you can't see the traffic coming will be as dangerous as going through the Fisher Street crossing which he personally rides every day. He stated that is why Mr. Frey tried to contact the mayor. They had a meeting with City Engineer Craig Light about this and it was their understanding that this plan was not the going forward. That they would be trying to build the connection out of Aggie per the bicycle plan that they've had for the past three years.

Councilman Charles Frierson noted the plan is not effective until after they get the money. Chairman Hafner agreed, adding the first step is to get money hopefully. Councilman McClain asked if they can deviate from the plan that is submitted. Ms. Marshall explained the engineers will decide that. They will look at the environmental, which still have to be done. There has been no approvals as far as use of property, right of ways or anything. Again, since the plan is so costly at half a million dollars they want to be sure they have funding before they proceed.

Ms. Marshall then explained the reason this plan was presented to the committee was they gave the public the alternative of the Lose & Associates plan or this one and this is what was chosen as what the residents would want. Mr. Smith disagreed. He said the Lose & Associates plan was not presented in its entirety; rather, it was presented as a sidewalk. Ms. Marshall stated they did change it to a trail at the end because that was what was requested. They were looking at the other side as a trail.

Mayor Perrin to answered Councilman McClain's question – yes, it can be changed. The change will be based upon safety, money and if it can be all put together. That includes looking at property acquisitions or donations. The city will have a 20% match on the grant, which would be \$100,000. They are going to be very cautious.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ann Williams, seconded by Councilman Darrel Dover, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 3 - Ann Williams; Darrel Dover and Charles Coleman

Nay: 1 - David McClain

Absent: 1 - John Street

RES-17:045

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO UTILIZE FEDERAL-AID TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM FUNDS FOR THE CRAIGHEAD FOREST GREENWAY PHASE IV PROJECT

Sponsors: Grants, Engineering and Parks & Recreation

Attachments: [Craighead Forest Trail Phase 4 8x11](#)
[Craighead Forest PH4 Cost Estimate](#)
[Craighead Forest Greenway Phase IV - Maintenance Letter](#)
[Survey Results for the Public Hearings](#)
[TAP Craighead Forest Application](#)

Chairman Hafner noted this is five-year funding totaling \$499,415. It's an 80/20 match. This will extend the greenway from Harrisburg Road to Craighead Forest. Ms. Marshall explained they will begin at Craighead Forest Road, along Harrisburg, and go to Fire Station #4. Chairman Hafner added it will tie in with the new five lanes on Harrisburg Road.

Ms. Marshall further explained it is a continuation of the Craighead Forest Greenway that they started within the park. They are in the design phase for phase three. This will just continue that trail.

Councilman McClain asked if this will connect to the back of Craighead Forest. Ms. Marshall answered phase three comes out of the back of Craighead Forest and goes down Lincoln and will run on the north side of Craighead Forest Road. It will stop at Harrisburg Road and Craighead County Road, but then they will go from Craighead County Road along Harrisburg to Fire Station #4. Because they don't know what has to be widened, it wouldn't be a good choice to spend money now on something that has to be taken out later.

A motion was made by Councilman Darrel Dover, seconded by Councilman David McClain, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 4 - Ann Williams;Darrel Dover;Charles Coleman and David McClain

Absent: 1 - John Street

RES-17:046

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO UTILIZE FEDERAL-AID RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM FUNDS FOR THE TURTLE CREEK GREENWAY LIGHTING AND SIGNAGE PROJECT

Sponsors: Grants and Parks & Recreation

Attachments: [Turtle Creek Greenway Lighting and Signage - Maintenance Letter](#)
[Survey Results for the Public Hearings](#)
[Turtle Creek Lights8x11](#)
[RTP Turtle Creek Application](#)

Chairman Hafner stated this is five-year funding totaling \$161,695. It's an 80/20 match. The local match would be \$32,339.

Ms. Marshall explained this is one of the few trails that is completed and is being used. It can't be used at times of low light, even though some kids use it to go back and forth to school. It also runs from Allen Park to Nettleton, all the way behind the mall. They are going to make it so people know where it's at so they can use it more. They're going to add trail head signs, directional signs, mile markers, as well as solar lighting. They are going to do away with electrical and make sure it's something they can maintain.

Chairman Hafner noted he was in Dallas recently and rode one of their bike trails.

The signage made it easier to navigate, especially since he's not from there.

Councilman McClain questioned whether it's typical to have lighting and asked if they want people there late at night. Or, do they only want people there during daylight hours. Ms. Marshall stated right now there's no lighting so it's really dark. There's people who probably would like to walk in the evenings or early night. This gives them the opportunity to have access to that without getting lost on the trail.

Mayor Perrin added the lights can be set on a timer, so they don't have to be on all night.

A motion was made by Councilman Darrel Dover, seconded by Councilwoman Ann Williams, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 4 - Ann Williams;Darrel Dover;Charles Coleman and David McClain

Absent: 1 - John Street

Question about Bridge Street

Councilman Coleman asked about the Bridge Street bridge. He had spoken to them about railing so people don't fall off the sidewalks. Ms. Marshall explained once the bridge ends, it becomes obsolete. Once the structure hits 100 years old, even if the structure itself is fine, but due to age it would be hard for it to continue to be a vehicular bridge. They are going to turn it into a pedestrian/bike overpass. Councilman Coleman asked if it would still need the rails. Ms. Marshall answered no, because it will be barricaded where bikes and pedestrians can still get over it, but not vehicles. The bridge would then be all one level since there will no longer be a need for sidewalks due to the lack of vehicular traffic.

4. Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilman Darrel Dover, seconded by Councilwoman Ann Williams, that this meeting be Adjourned . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 5 - Ann Williams;Darrel Dover;Charles Coleman;Joe Hafner and David McClain

Absent: 1 - John Street