



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Public Services Council Committee

Thursday, October 10, 2024

5:00 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL (ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE) CONFIRMED BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

Present 7 - Chris Gibson; Joe Hafner; Ann Williams; Brian Emison; LJ Bryant; Anthony Coleman and Janice Porter

3. NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

[RES-24:142](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, HERITAGE, AND TOURISM AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR TO ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS

Sponsors: Parks & Recreation and Grants

Attachments: [LWCF Contract Page 1](#)
[LWCF Contract Page 2](#)
[Northeast Park CONCEPT-PLAN](#)
[PLN-2167 Cornerstone United Methodist Church Addition Replat of Lot 3A](#)

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, yes sir I have a question for, I don't know Brain or Danny or Jeremy I'm sorry. The \$1,000,000 match, is \$1,100,000 course, where is that coming from, just general funds because I don't know if I see that? And if I'm overlooking it, forgive me. Grants Department Director Jeremy Biggs approached the podium and said, this match \$1,000,000 match was approved two years ago by City Council, so Steve might be the better person to answer that question moving forward in 2025 than me. But it was previously approved to provide that match for this grant application. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, sure, my question was where is it coming from? I understand it was approved. Grants Department Director Jeremy Biggs said, right. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, so I was just wondering where it was coming from, I'm just asking. Grants Department Director Jeremy Biggs said, I do not have that answer. Finance Department Director Steve Purtee approached the podium and said, that's a real good question. It will be appropriated, most likely, relative to the award that Jeremy referenced earlier, and those funds would come out of the general fund. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said thank you. Chairman Chris Gibson said, any other questions? Councilmember

Joe Hafner said, I was just thinking, they'll probably come out of general funds, but they'd be budgeted the Capital Improvement Fund. Just like any other budget year. Now, I think this is a great thing, trying to get a park on that part of town is going to be huge. Chairman Chris Gibson said, we've been looking at this how many years now? Several. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, to have a University Heights bike trail and all that tie into the park, it's going to be neat. Grants Department Director Jeremy Biggs said, we originally applied in 2022. And then, it's been a long process because we couldn't get any agreements in place with the property owners. And no progress was made towards that, so then we had got back in line for the same 2022 funding, but they gave us a firm deadline of September 30, 2024, or we would be thrown out completely. So, we really started to get the ball rolling earlier this year, we have been working on this since January with both of the property owners trying to move it forward. But then when you work with the State of Arkansas, then you work with the Federal Government, and you're working with Local Government it's a lot of moving pieces, but everybody's come to the table an agreeable to move forward on this project, and National Park is satisfied and excited to get it going as well. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, I think Mr. Gibson was referring to how long have we tried to get a park on that part of town? Chairman Chris Gibson said, yeah, it's been close to a decade for that. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, well I definitely appreciate it. I mean, it's in my ward so I thank you I appreciate that. Grants Department Director Jeremy Biggs said, yes sir, and Danny excited because it fits right into the Master Park Plans recommendations as absent neighborhood park space in that area of town, so that's a priority coming out of that Master Park Plan, it fits into our Social Determinants of Health Plan of being able to put a fully accessible adventure playground in. Every other amenity in the park will be fully accessible. So, we're really taken those two plans that council approved to pay for and go into contract with half, and it accepted both those plans. So, we are trying to utilize those plans as they were written. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, thanks for all your work on that. Chairman Chris Gibson said, appreciate you.

A motion was made by Joe Hafner, seconded by Anthony Coleman, that this matter be Recommended to Council. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 6 - Joe Hafner;Ann Williams;Brian Emison;LJ Bryant;Anthony Coleman and Janice Porter

[RES-24:143](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO ACQUIRE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1700 DISCIPLE DRIVE FROM THE PROPERTY OWNER, CORNERSTONE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sponsors: Parks & Recreation and Grants

Attachments: [LWCF Contract Page 1](#)
[LWCF Contract Page 2](#)
[Northeast Park CONCEPT-PLAN](#)
[PLN-2167 Cornerstone United Methodist Church Addition Replat of Lot 3A](#)
[Cornerstone Real Estate Contract](#)

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

Aye: 6 - Joe Hafner;Ann Williams;Brian Emison;LJ Bryant;Anthony Coleman and Janice Porter

Chairman Chris Gibson said, having no more business I just want to make one statement before I entertain a motion to adjourn. We will cancel the Public Services meeting for Tuesday night for lack of agenda items. I don't believe there's anything else on the agenda that needs to be tended to. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, will these two items will be on next week's agenda? City Clerk April Leggett said, they would have to be walked on. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, should we have said that in our motion? City Clerk April Leggett said, I can make a note of it now. Chairman Chris Gibson said, so I will walk these on next Tuesday night. Grants Department Director Jeremy Biggs approached the podium and said, from the Grants Department side, it would be appreciated if you want to walk it on for next Tuesday night, instead of delaying that for another two weeks. So that way we can have the official authority to move forward with closing on the property purchase. So, we can get that going, because until we get that closed, we can't get under contract for any endangered species studies, cultural resource studies, and other NEPA requirements from National Parks Service. But its totally up to the chair. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, I just wanted to make sure we didn't have to say that in our motion that it was going to be walked on. Since I know sometimes, we do that when we have a meeting the day of the council. Chairman Chris Gibson said, just for clarity why don't I entertain a motion to walk both of these items on and let's vote on that. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, do we need to make a motion to reconsider each of them.

Councilmember Joe Hafner motioned, seconded by Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman, to reconsider and walk on RES-24:142: and RES-24:143. All voted Aye.

Councilmember Joe Hafner motioned, seconded by Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman to Recommend to Council and walk onto the next City Council meeting, RES-24:142. All voted Aye.

Councilmember Joe Hafner motioned, seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison, to Recommend to Council and walk onto the next City Council meeting, RES-24:143. All voted Aye.

4. ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 6 - Joe Hafner; Ann Williams; Brian Emison; LJ Bryant; Anthony Coleman and Janice Porter