



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, January 3, 2023

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

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

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

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

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, good evening everyone. Welcome to the new year 2023. I hope everybody had a festive season and a healthy season and I am looking forward to 2023. We accomplished a lot in 2022. We have a lot of things going on in the city and community so I am looking forward to 2023. So, let's go ahead and start this evening's meeting.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

3. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

Present 12 - Janice Porter; Brian Emison; Charles Coleman; Chris Moore; Ann Williams; Chris Gibson; David McClain; Anthony Coleman; Joe Hafner; LJ Bryant; Mitch Johnson and John Street

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver stated that we do not have any special presentations on the agenda.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

Aye: 12 - Janice Porter; Brian Emison; Charles Coleman; Chris Moore; Ann Williams; Chris Gibson; David McClain; Anthony Coleman; Joe Hafner; LJ Bryant; Mitch Johnson and John Street

[MIN-22:112](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON DECEMBER 20, 2022

Attachments: [CC Minutes 12202022](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver stated that we do not have any new business as well.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[ORD-22:047](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE AND ABANDON A PORTION OF STREET RIGHT OF WAY FOR UNDEVELOPED HARLAN COVE LOCATED NORTH OF JONATHON DRIVE AS REQUESTED BY FISHER & ARNOLD, INC.

Attachments: [Harlan Cove](#)

Held at second reading

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-22:048](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR RIVERFRONT ASSOCIATION

Attachments: [Riverfront Private Club Permit Application Redacted](#)

James Elwin Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, said, I meant to speak against this at the last meeting, but you know the way these are with the aliases and all, I wasn't sure if this was the right one. But, before I spoke, I wanted to be sure that I was talking about the right place. This request for a permit is to put in a place on Huntington Avenue. Let me explain a little bit about my familiarity with that area. I live about a block from where Southwest Drive and Culberhouse cross each other. I have a sister that lives on West Philadelphia Road. She shares a property line with Philadelphia Baptist Church. So, most of you know where that is at. The easiest route to get between my house and her house is the Culberhouse/Flint Route. A few years back when you were in the downtown park where you had to move between Flint and Culberhouse, that was an area that you drove through with your windows rolled up and your doors locked. It was bad. Now, over a period of time for various reasons, the biggest one putting in clubs on Main Street caused them to move that business over to Main Street. But, it's not the way it was. I'm not saying there is no prostitution or drug dealing going through there, but, usually, it used to be if you drove through there you saw some of these people and you knew what they were doing there. You don't see that now. I can't remember. It has been a long time since I saw that. This club permit is only about a block from where that happened there on Huntington. We do not need to reintroduce that kind of atmosphere back onto Huntington Avenue. It's been cleaned up. Let's keep it clean. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, thank you for your comments.

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

Aye: 11 - Janice Porter; Brian Emison; Charles Coleman; Chris Moore; Ann Williams; Chris Gibson; David McClain; Joe Hafner; LJ Bryant; Mitch Johnson and John Street

Recused: 1 - Anthony Coleman

[ORD-22:049](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE AND ABANDON A UTILITY EASEMENT AND A DRAINAGE EASEMENT LOCATED WITHIN LOTS 1 AND 2 OF THE CAVENAUGH AUTO GROUP MINOR PLAT IN JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AS REQUESTED BY CAVENAUGH PROPERTIES, LLC.

Attachments: [Plat](#)
[petition](#)
[Letters](#)
[NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING](#)
[CWL Letter 12012022](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore, to adopt the emergency clause on ORD-22:049. All voted aye.

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

Aye: 12 - Janice Porter; Brian Emison; Charles Coleman; Chris Moore; Ann Williams; Chris Gibson; David McClain; Anthony Coleman; Joe Hafner; LJ Bryant; Mitch Johnson and John Street

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported on the following:

We have hit the ground running for the new year and our first Director's meeting was held this morning and it showed me that every department is ready to work on its projects in 2023.

I was especially proud of our holiday festivities which are growing in number and attendance. These are a product of a giving community of volunteers as well as a lot of city employees who made it so successful.

I was also proud that our Police Department Patrol Christmas shopping and parking lots and made many store visits throughout our community during the holiday. Hopefully, we can continue to do that on an annual event.

Our Fire Department helped hold the city together through frigid temperatures that included increased numbers of broken pipes and fires and not to mention auto accidents as well. And, so, I know that seeing them throughout the last weekend, they very rarely, did you see a fire truck in the station. They were out on call most of the time.

I want to thank our Engineering and Street Departments and Council's support in allocating funding for ditch cleaning efforts to make our drainage system as efficient as possible. A piece of equipment can't fix geography, but we can work hard to get the water that can be removed out of town as fast as possible.

We are starting to get some statistics in from 2022 and some of the early numbers that I thought were important to include tonight are 80 condemned homes. So, let me say that again, 80 condemned homes were removed and 21 were repaired. That is a significant number. 100 houses that were complete blight and at this pace, we are

making a lasting impact on Jonesboro.

I will say and in my Mayor's notes this evening on two counts, we lost a significant giver in our loving community this past week. Qubilah Jones was Jonesboro's Volunteer of the Year just a few years ago and she had one of the most gentle, kind spirits I have ever met. She's gone too soon, but she will be remembered for a long, long time. And, I also found out today that a long-term friend of ours and mine, former State Representative that served this community for twenty years, Bobby Hogue also passed away. So, please keep his family Frankie and family in your prayers.

[COM-22:055](#)

CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OVERVIEW,
NOVEMBER 2022

Sponsors: Finance

Attachments: [November 2022 Financials](#)

Filed

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to nominate Chris Moore as Mayor Pro-Tempore for 2023. All voted aye.

Councilmember LJ Bryant said, I would just echo what the Mayor said about Bobby Hogue. He was a two term Speaker of the House and I think there were only two of those at that point and things had changed. So, an educator and a great guy. Mayor Copenhaver said, that's right. Thank you.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, first, I would like to first of all say thanks to Mayor Copenhaver and his wife actually because I have become familiar with them several years ago through their son and I am excited to be here and thanks and looking forward to working with Carol, April and to all of the City Councilmembers and I appreciate that and I appreciate you. I do want to give special recognition to Dr. Charles Coleman who I have known since I was a kid probably. And, when I was running a campaign, people asked did I know him and was he my father or uncle or something and I said it depends on if you like him or not. But, we are not any blood kin, but he has been a great friend to my dad and so I would like to say thank you to him and to Ann Williams who also supported us and others who were great to us. I would like to give special recognition to David McClain. Mr. McClain, who is also a fellow Ward 6 representative, but also, a long time I have known him. He planted the seed and so I wanted to say thank you and thank you openly to all who also helped us in that regard and to Seth Speer who worked temporarily in this seat, but he has exhibited compassion and desire to move Jonesboro forward. I wanted to publicly thank Mr. Speer for that. To my wife, Joycelyn, who has been my grace for over 21 years, who has been my rock and my ride or die as they would say, my children and grandchildren. I am appreciative of my church family and other family members and supporters for this opportunity to serve this great city. I have been here 26 years and I'm looking forward to being a part of Jonesboro moving forward. And, to Ward 6 and the citizens of Ward 6 as well as the city at large, I want to thank you for your support and for your challenge as well as your vote and support during this election process. And, I will say this as I said my first time when I had another position, I told those constituents at that time that I was leading, I said, well, it's time to roll your sleeves up and I'm ready to work and that's who I am. I am rolling my sleeves up, ready to work and as I showed during the campaign, I want all my fellow colleagues to know that I

don't mind. I was out there in the rain, sleet, hail, snow and the sun and meeting and greeting and shaking hands. And, I think it was Joe that helped me out saying you probably need about two or three pairs of sneakers and so I did wear out two or three, but I just wanted to give my public thank you in that regard, but thank you for this time. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you councilman.

Councilmember Chris Gibson said, Public Services needs to have a meeting on the 17th at 4:30 p.m. if that time works for the agenda just for purpose of organization and I have spoken with the Mayor's Office and I think they are going to have an item or two to add as well.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, I just wanted to welcome Dr. Coleman and Mrs. Porter. It is always nice to have people interested and volunteer to run for elections. There is not exactly a lot of us that put in the time so I look forward to working with both of you. John, thank you for the nomination. I look forward to working with the Council. My phone is always open. If there is anything that I can do for the Mayor or the Council, don't hesitate to call. Thank you Mayor. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you councilman.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I just want to say thank you to both of the individuals that are sitting on this side. This is a better side. I just want to make sure about it. Thank you.

Councilmember Brian Emison said, I just wanted to say welcome to our new councilmembers. It is always good to have another Dr. Coleman and also Mrs. Porter. We are happy to have you as well and welcome to the City Council. I look forward to working with both of you all.

Councilmember Janice Porter said, I would just like to say thank you to the Mayor and the other Councilmembers and the other city employees for your helpfulness to me in learning the logistics I need to serve in this position. I would like to thank you all for your warm welcome and I look forward to serving together. I think there's great things ahead for the City of Jonesboro. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you councilmember and I would just like to add we are very blessed by everybody's service in this room and it takes conformity and uniformity together, but we all have the same goal and that is to serve our constituents and I am looking forward to 2023.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments made.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 12 - Janice Porter; Brian Emison; Charles Coleman; Chris Moore; Ann Williams; Chris Gibson; David McClain; Anthony Coleman; Joe Hafner; LJ Bryant; Mitch Johnson and John Street

Harold Copenhaver, Mayor

Date: _____

Attest:

April Leggett, City Clerk

Date: _____