



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, June 16, 2026

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

PUBLIC SERVICES COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING AT 4:30 P.M.

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

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

3. ROLL CALL (ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE) INITIATED AND CONFIRMED BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

Present 9 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent 3 - Chris Gibson;David McClain and Charles Coleman

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

[COM-26:034](#)

Presentation by Downtown Jonesboro Alliance Director Sarah Doss

Downtown Jonesboro Alliance Director Sarah Doss said, I wanted to come tonight and just give you all a little temperature check or update on downtown, specifically on the Entertainment District as we're nearing our second anniversary. Downtown Jonesboro is a place where our projects are juggled in hopes of pushing downtown Jonesboro forward and making our district the best it can be. We're so grateful for this community because we never have to manage these projects alone. We're blessed with community buy-in, businessmen and women that see our vision and the value that downtown brings to our community. I'll briefly touch on a few of the many projects that are currently happening downtown that are spearheaded by people or organizations other than DJA.

Probably the most talked-about project at the moment is our six-month pilot program that's finishing up its second month of activity, transitioning Main Street down to one lane. This initiative was spearheaded by the Connectivity Committee. While this pilot program is taking place, they are working to create a thorough survey to be distributed to our downtown residents, business owners, and patrons to get their honest feedback. The committee will comb through that feedback and work towards making decisions on the future of this concept. We touched base with one of our Main Street residents, James Bickham, to get his input on this traffic change. He stated, I've absolutely loved going to one lane. It has made downtown substantially safer for my family, and I have noticed that the vehicles have been slowed down to a point where it makes

downtown feel like it should.

That same committee is responsible for the new bike plaza right here next to the municipal building. That new fixture downtown is constantly evolving. Over the upcoming summer months, you'll see additional visual changes as they work to bring meaningful art to the trailhead.

It would be impossible to discuss positive changes in downtown Jonesboro and not mention the Hargett family. Cate Street, lovingly called Ted Street by many downtowners, has seen an array of changes and renovations already with countless more to come. The future of downtown is bright, Cate Street specifically. As of now, we have a proposed hotel, which a feasibility study has come back on very positive. In the works, there's also a brewery, a restaurant, and pickleball courts. Bids are going out for a projected construction start date in September.

If that wasn't enough, there's also a park, complete with a state-of-the-art amphitheater, and a goal open date of spring 2027. From these projects alone, I hope you can see the momentum we have in downtown Jonesboro. In 2025, we actually had a record-breaking investment of \$27,545,831.66. Over \$27.5 million was funneled into downtown Jonesboro through building improvements, revitalization efforts, and general maintenance and upgrades.

In 2025, DJA was honored to receive multiple awards for our downtown efforts. We were recognized for events here in City Council, investments in our downtown safety, and more. 2025 was an outstanding year for downtown, and the first half of 2026 has proven to follow suit.

Lastly, I couldn't come speak to you all without mentioning the Entertainment District. The Entertainment District is nearing the end of its second full year here in downtown Jonesboro. The impacts have been broad, from economic growth to open doors in the entertainment industry to extended stays in our district and more.

Two years ago, when we were presenting to Council asking for this seemingly crazy idea to be passed, we could only hope that it would be as successful as it is. Through strict dry county rules and sharp learning curves, our community has navigated this district and been able to utilize it to its full potential. Beyond our community, this district has caught the attention of many visitors as well.

Prince Simmons from Gearhead said, all that come speak super highly of our downtown. It's usually out-of-town guests that visit with us and learn of the Entertainment District and tell us how cool that is to have on our Main Street. To our downtown business owners, this district means increased pedestrian traffic and a notable change in economic vitality. Chad Campbell, owner of Lemonade House Grill, said one of our main focuses when opening the restaurant was to offer outdoor patio seating to our guests. The Entertainment District allows them to socialize and enjoy our city in a way they haven't been able to do before. This helps create a vibrant downtown that's attractive to visitors.

This is yet another perk in Jonesboro's long list of accolades for talent recruiters to showcase, keeping us competitive with comparable cities, as well as cities much larger. It adds to the overall quality of life for Jonesboro citizens and visitors. When asked about the Entertainment District, Bethania Baray-Harrison from Always Jonesboro stated, the Downtown Jonesboro Entertainment District has become one of the best examples of how thoughtful growth can strengthen a community. What we've

seen is a downtown that feels more vibrant, more welcoming, and more alive. For talent attraction, that's huge. People want places where they can gather with friends, linger after dinner, and feel part of something bigger. The Entertainment District has helped create those moments, and the Downtown Jonesboro Alliance deserves tremendous credit for championing a vision that has made downtown even stronger.

One final quote that I want to leave you with is from Sarah Nobles, who owns the Rec Room and operates a liquor license inside of Stage Too. She said, as someone who sat on the board that helped bring the Entertainment District to life, watching it succeed has been incredibly rewarding. We worked on this for a long time because we believe Jonesboro deserved it. And now we are seeing that vision play out in real life. At the Rec Room, it's been a clear positive, especially during our outdoor events when foot traffic picks up and people are out enjoying the district together. What means the most to me is that we've had zero incidents during the Entertainment District hours. According to our police chief, this tells me that it's being done right. A thriving city should have spaces like this, and I'm proud that Jonesboro does.

Although Sarah stated it, I wanted to reiterate one line of her statement to make sure everyone grasped it. According to JPD and our police chief, in our almost two years of having an active district, we have had not a single police report that was directly related. That statement is a true testament to not only the hard work of our downtown business owners and employees, but also JPD for helping the community navigate the learning curve of a change like this and continuing to keep us safe. The quotes I've mentioned throughout this evening have been a collection of opinions from downtown business owners, downtown employees, downtown residents, economic development and talent attraction officials, as well as JPD. I hope through them you're able to get a glimpse into downtown from the viewpoint of the people who work, eat, shop, live and play there.

Moving forward, we will continue this momentum in a multitude of ways. We have new events on the horizon. We're in discussion with community partners working on ways to fund much needed downtown additions, such as safety bollards, for example. We're working on new beautification efforts like the recent purchase of hanging baskets for Main Street and the installation of our most highly requested mural to date, currently being installed at the corner of Main and Monroe. We hope in the future we'll see growth to our Entertainment District, whether by boundaries or hours or a combination of both. I appreciate your time, and I'll be happy to answer any questions you have.

Mayor Copenhaver said, the one question I would like to know, what kind of feedback are you getting on what side of the street the one lane is on, Sarah? Ms. Doss said, yes, so the general feedback I'm getting is very positive. However, the constant, I guess, negative comment I am hearing is that they wished it was flipped. So the side of the street that the delivery lane is currently on has a much more functional alleyway behind it, and a semi could fit down if it needed to. Where the opposite side is where the alleyway is pretty tight, and so having that delivery lane moved over to the other side would be much more beneficial from the viewpoint of deliveries from our restaurants and retail. Mayor Copenhaver asked, are you going to have that in the survey, that question? Ms. Doss replied, yes.

Councilmember L.J. Bryant said, Sarah, I know you and I have talked about this a little bit, and I don't even know how you'd measure it. Would the proper measurement be how many armbands have been given out? What would be the proper measurement to try to figure out the success over time of the Entertainment District in year one versus year two and such? Ms. Doss replied, yes, so that's something that I'm tried to

get a tangible number for us tonight. It turns out when we were making this ordinance and we were doing our best to give the restaurant owners as much autonomy as possible, and it turns out each of their systems kind of calculated it differently. So, not everyone was able to track how many wristbands had been given out, and that kind of thing. They all kind of track it differently, so I wasn't able to get a number from you. Really, from now, our measure of success is just from looking at geofencing through A&P and seeing people lingering so much longer overall downtown, especially at events than they were prior, and just being able to see business growth from our restaurants. That kind of thing. Unfortunately, we don't have the numbers of specific wristbands, which I wish we did, but with everyone having different systems, POS systems, it was difficult to track. Councilmember Bryant said, gotcha, thank you. Mayor Copenhagen said, Ms. Doss, thank you for your time tonight. Appreciate your presentation. Ms. Doss said, thank you very much.

Read

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Councilmember Chris Moore motioned, seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison to adopt the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman asked that RES-26:064 be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion. Councilmember Chris Moore motioned to amend his motion and Councilmember Brian Emison amended his second to reflect removing RES-26:064 from the Consent Agenda. All voted aye.

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

Aye: 9 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent: 3 - Chris Gibson;David McClain and Charles Coleman

[MIN-26:050](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON JUNE 2, 2026

Attachments: [CC Minutes 06022026.pdf](#)

THIS ITEM WAS PASSED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA.

[RES-26:062](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 316 S MCCLURE, PARCEL 01-144183-21000, OWNED BY SBREME, LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$465

Attachments: [260189 316 S MCCLURE BILLING REQUEST.docx](#)
[260189_316 S MCCLURE_OFFICIAL INVOICE.pdf](#)
[260189_316 S MCCLURE_VIOLATION NOTICE.pdf](#)
[image18060.pdf](#)

THIS ITEM WAS PASSED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA.

Enactment No: R-EN-079-2026

[RES-26:065](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO AMEND THE CITY SALARY AND ADMINISTRATION PLAN

Attachments:

[Permit Coordinator Job Description.docx](#)

[Marketing Community Outreach Coordinator 6.1.26.docx](#)

[Digital Media Specialist 6.1.26.docx](#)

[Revised Pay Grades Salaries effective June 2026 \(002\).pdf](#)

THIS ITEM WAS PASSED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA.

Enactment No: R-EN-080-2026

RESOLUTIONS REMOVED THE CONSENT AGENDA

[RES-26:064](#)

A RESOLUTION FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO APPROVE THE FY2026-2027 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) ANNUAL ACTION PLAN THAT INCLUDES THE FY2026-2027 CDBG PROJECTS, ACTIVITIES AND BUDGET

Mayor Copenhagen said, I do have a motion on the floor to adopt, and I'm assuming you had a question, Councilman? Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman responded, yes, sir. Thank you, Mayor. I apologize. I was not here for the committee meeting last week, and I would have asked these questions for that, but a couple of questions, and I don't know who can answer this. Mayor Copenhagen asked Grants and CDBG Director Chris Richey to come to the podium. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman continued, number one, the public service grant portion, or the public services grant portion, I'd like to know what's the discussion on, or the reasoning for the budget line item for that, how much we give, because I know it's supposed to be seven and something, 700 and something. And then follow-up on that, not only the line item and why that amount, but then the process, quickly, on who, I guess how you all decide how much decisions are made on that. Then follow-up is the public infrastructure and what that actually entails and what we do with that.

Mr. Richey said, okay, so the public services is a percentage of the overall allocation. It's 15% of the overall allocation can be public services. And so then we have an application process that was put out, a request for applications put out in February. I believe that's right, February, somewhere in there. The applications were submitted, and then we have the advisory committee that we give the applications to them for them to go over. They have a rubric where they score them. And then the allocations, each allocation for each group was based on their rubric scoring. So it was, you know, depending on how they scored in the rubric for the application, that's how much of the total for public, the 107 that they were awarded except for one, because CASA only asked for \$11,500. That was what they asked for and so even though they scored higher, they only got, you know, the amount that they asked for.

And then the public services, not the public services, the public infrastructure. That was the only one you asked about. Public infrastructure, that is just, it has not been decided exactly what projects we're going to use that for yet. In the past, it's been used for overlays for streets. It's been used for sidewalks. It's been used for public parks. It's also been used for public facilities, non-profits to be able to apply to get some money if they need to work on their facilities in low-to-moderate income areas. So basically after we get this submitted to CDBG, get their sign off on it, then we can look at the, well, get with parks, get with Craig and City Engineering, and look at projects we want to do in the low-to-moderate income areas.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, great, so go back to that advisory board itself. So how are those persons chosen? Is that, that goes through this process too? Mr. Richey replied, yes. Yeah, that went through a couple months ago. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, okay. And I'm sorry I'm asking this questions. Mr. Richey replied, no, you're fine. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman continued, I just trying to... Mayor Copenhaver said, tell him how many are on the board, Chris. Mr. Richey said, there's seven I believe. No, I think there is eight. Yeah, I think it's eight. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman continued, okay, can that rubric, can you email me that rubric and the application itself. I just want to see that. Mr. Richey replied, sure, yeah, we can get you a copy. Yes, I can get you both. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, perfect. Thank you so much. Mr. Richey replied, yeah, no problem. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you, Councilman.

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

Aye: 9 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent: 3 - Chris Gibson;David McClain and Charles Coleman

Enactment No: R-EN-082-2026

[RES-26:060](#)

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING FREE UTILITY SERVICES FROM CITY WATER AND LIGHT FOR CITY-OWNED PROPERTY

Councilmember John Street asked to be recused from discussion and voting on RES-26:060 due to his membership on the CWL Board of Directors.

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

Aye: 8 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent: 3 - Chris Gibson;David McClain and Charles Coleman

Recused: 1 - John Street

Enactment No: R-EN-081-2026

6. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-26:018](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 TO PD PLANNED DEVELOPMENT FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1004 N. CARAWAY ROAD AS REQUESTED BY DAVID TAPP

Attachments: [Staff Summary RZ_26-08](#)
[Rezoning-Application 1004 N Caraway](#)
[Plat](#)
[Certified Letter Receipts](#)
[MAPC Approved Rezoning 6.9.26 Minutes](#)
[1004 n caraway receipt](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-26:018 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported on the following:

First of all, I'd like to acknowledge the employee of the month is Jordan Wilson, an HR representative. His journey with the city just began in the summer of 2024 when he began as an intern. He pursued his master's degree through National University Online Program, and he arose into the Human Resources Department now, so we're appreciative of the work that he has done. He started as a part-time employee, so obviously full-time, and this is the challenge and the good part of what our young adults are eager to do in helping public service.

I do want to welcome back Ronnie Shaver. I know many of you are well aware. Ronnie came back to work last week, and he's getting back to normal. We're glad to have you back, Ronnie. Many prayers are answered for you, and just another bearer of good news, Ronnie Sturch emailed me this afternoon, and man, he got word that he's cancer free, so that's really good news for our community and the public servant that he is as Director of E-911.

So don't forget the Youth Council applications are opening up coming up for 9th thru 12th graders. Public, private, and homeschool students, please apply as a new applicant through the city website at jonesboroar.gov. The deadline is July 1st.

Summer keeps our parks and pools busy. Jim alluded to that earlier in a previous meeting. Upcoming maintenance is ongoing now at Craighead Forest Park. Obviously, Access #5 playground, splash pad, and pavilion will be closed on June 24th and 26th for maintenance. A social media announcement went out today and no reservations were affected. So please help take care of our parks. When you see a need, please inform us so we can address it. With over 800 acres in Craighead Forest alone, the team of 10 there does good work, but obviously we're always looking for community support, individuals that would like to volunteer to help make that park their own.

Don't forget that the Crag Rock Wall at Earl Bell Community Center has extended its hours Monday through Friday from 12 to 9 p.m. and Saturdays 12 to 5 p.m. It's a great indoor activity to beat the summer heat and wear the kids out.

Speaking of summer heat, please continue to stay weather aware and check in on your neighbors, especially the elderly. For those needing it, remember that the community centers are cooling stations and GOJO will provide free rides to any cooling station.

We heard great news today as Ritter Communications in Jonesboro, Arkansas and Great Plains Communications of Blair, Nebraska are joining to form RightFiber. Together, RightFiber will serve more than 400 communities with a network spanning 20 states, connecting 300,000 homes and businesses across its 28,000-mile regional fiber network. Continue to drive significant revenue and growth throughout organic expansion in MA. We, unequally situated as a trusted partner with the community, businesses and hyperscalers, and create one of the largest privately held communication platforms in the United States. The combined organization will continue operating with a strong local focus while leveraging expanded scale and resources.

We've enjoyed a lot of summer activities since our last City Council meeting, including FOA Behind the Red, a public look at the 2026 and 2027 Forum Theater season, where yours truly shared in show tunes, revealing Fiddler on the Roof. So, I was blessed and was able to enjoy my time to reveal that, and it was very enjoyable. It was good to see many of the community partners together for that event.

The community really came together last Saturday, June 6th, for the neighborhood cleanup at Fisher Street United Methodist Church. Eleven tons of trash and sixty-two tires, were collected. The next cleanup will take place July 11th, a week later due to the 4th holiday at Lacey Drive location, so mark your counters.

The same Saturday, June 6th, both DARE Show Your Ride and Motorcycle Rodeo took place at Joe Mack Campbell Park and the Mountain Dew Grand Slam as well.

Last weekend, downtown, we saw the Juneteenth Parade and Pride Fest on the same day. Don't forget that this Friday, June 19th, is Juneteenth Fireworks Celebrations at Lyons University Park on Bridge Street. Gates open at 8:30 p.m., and fireworks will begin around 9.15 p.m. Thanks to KLEK for organizing the event, and please, if you have pets, stay aware, stay aware, and keep them indoors if they're not fans of fireworks.

This Thursday, at 6 p.m., Steamiverse is hosting Above and Beyond, a night with Susan Kilrain, a NASA astronaut, a Navy test pilot, at the Valley View Fine Arts Center. I'm telling you, y'all, this is, if you have the opportunity to go, you need to go. Tickets are free, so you don't have to reserve a spot, but just get a ticket. We're hoping for a sellout crowd with her. There aren't too many astronauts. She's a commander, and her accolades are strong and high. So, I think it would be a wonderful evening if you're not doing anything to support.

Sunset Sessions begin at Craighead Forest Park on June 20th. The band shell off of Access #6 will have live free music and an opportunity for the kids to play.

While summer events are going strong, we're working to ensure the safety of students and pedestrians at the Academics at Jonesboro High School. The crosswalk on Main Street at Campus Street now has been upgraded with a rectangular rapid flashing beacon from two lights to six. These indications will increase visibility to pedestrians. The installation is complete, and the lights are up and running as of this morning.

Work is underway on the Johnson Avenue side pathway as well, which will also add a turning lane in JTowns.

We're moving towards a groundbreaking at the Realtime Crime Center in early July. So

I'll repeat that. A groundbreaking on the Realtime Crime Center in early July. We'll keep you updated on that.

In the next finance meeting, we'll have an engineering proposal for Caraway Road. All revenue bond projects that are in progress.

So we're always moving as we say. So thank you to all of you who serve the city, and let's continue to continue to work together.

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember John Street said, Mayor, in regards to Craighead Forest, it is my understanding that Game & Fish was initially going to help dredge that youth and senior citizen pond out over behind Rotary. I heard that they weren't going to be able to do that, but I hope we can figure a way to do that so Game & Fish will continue to stock it. I hear from a lot of people that it's a very popular attraction for kids. You know, they stock it well and they don't have to watch a bobber for a week and a half. You know, they go out and they have pretty good success catching fish. But, it's a popular spot and I hope we can see that project go forward. Mayor Copenhagen said, absolutely. Well, as a matter of fact, we are in communication with them pretty much because they are doing some additions to their property back there as well, and so, entrance ways and exit opportunities for us to be able to utilize as well, on the property. So, yeah, I will add that to the conversation. Councilmember Street said, thank you. And, I am looking forward to a successful summer conference at the Municipal League. I hope we learn a lot and get a lot down there. So, hope to see y'all there.

Councilmember L.J. Bryant said, Mayor, I was going to say thank you for being so responsive Saturday. I texted you and you took care of something immediately and I appreciate you being so responsive. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, Mr. Mayor, I was downtown over the weekend and I noticed that some of our lights downtown still are not burning on our string lights. So, I know Sarah and them are working hard. So, if you will, just have somebody check. It maybe that they just don't notice it until it's after dark and the city employees go home, but if you will. The ones they noted were on Union, but we just check them all. Mayor Copenhagen said, okay. (Off camera/mic, Maintenance Director Ronnie Shaver said, we just ordered some new bulbs for that Chris. We ran out of bulbs.) Councilmember Moore said, okay. It just looked like there were two or three strings right here on the west side of the road that we're not burning. Chief Administration Officer Brian Richardson said, yes, I've talked with Ms. Doss about that. We're actually trying to coordinate a time because we're going to shut the street down for a minute to rehang those, so we're trying to find a good time that works for the downtown vendors and with the city to maybe before our next special event that we'll carve out a couple hours before that. Councilmember Moore said, there's no hurry. I just think the lights really add a lot to the downtown at night when you're walking around down there. Mayor Copenhagen said, they provide a safety element. Mayor Copenhagen replied, thank you.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments made.

11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Moore, seconded by

Councilperson Brian Emison, that this meeting be Adjourned. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 9 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent: 3 - Chris Gibson;David McClain and Charles Coleman

_____ **Date:** _____

Harold Copenhaver, Mayor

Attest:

_____ **Date:** _____

April Leggett, City Clerk