



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

SPECIAL CALLED NOMINATING & RULES COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING AT 4:15 P.M.

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

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

PUBLIC HEARING AT 5:25 P.M.

No one spoke for or against the public hearing regarding the abandonment of a portion of right-of-way along Judy Street in Jonesboro, Arkansas as requested by Halsey Real Estate Holdings, LLC and MCP Investments, LLC

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

3. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

Present 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams
Absent 1 - Joe Hafner

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

Aye: 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams
Absent: 1 - Joe Hafner

[MIN-23:024](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MARCH 7, 2023

Attachments: [CC Minutes 03072023](#)**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**[RES-23:055](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, FY22 STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE (SAFER) GRANT

Attachments: [FY 2022 SAFER Budget](#)**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-066-2023

[RES-23:056](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH FLOCK GROUP, INC. TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES

Attachments: [Flock Safety - Sole Source Letter 2023](#)
[Jonesboro PD Flock - Law Enforcement Agreement \(2\)](#)**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-067-2023

[RES-23:057](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF A PICKUP TRUCK FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO

Attachments: [img20230313_09243108](#)**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-068-2023

[RES-23:058](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH AXON ENTERPRISES, INC FOR TRAINING EQUIPMENT FOR AXON TASERS AND SUPPORTING AXON SERVICES

Attachments: [Jonesboro VR Quote](#)**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-069-2023

[RES-23:059](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ALLOCATE \$1,306,525 OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDS TO PURCHASE PUBLIC SAFETY, RADIO, ENGINEERING AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS EQUIPMENT

Attachments: [ARPA Spring 2023 Legistar](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-070-2023

RESOLUTIONS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

[RES-23:037](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 223 Miller St. Jonesboro, AR 72401; Parcel #: 01-144181-58000; OWNER: Ronnie & Jacqueline Stanback

- Attachments:**
- [223 Miller Inspection Report](#)
 - [223 Miller Map](#)
 - [223 Miller Pre-Condemnation Notice Certified Daughter](#)
 - [223 Miller Pre-Condemnation Notice Certified Owner](#)
 - [223 Miller Returned Certified Pre-Condemnation Daughter](#)
 - [223 Miller Returned Certified Pre-Condemnation Owner](#)
 - [WIN 20220603 14 22 01 Pro](#)
 - [WIN 20220603 14 22 25 Pro](#)
 - [WIN 20220603 14 22 54 Pro](#)
 - [WIN 20220603 14 23 14 Pro](#)
 - [WIN 20220603 14 23 35 Pro](#)
 - [WIN 20220603 14 23 38 Pro](#)
 - [WIN 20220603 14 24 13 Pro](#)
 - [WIN 20220603 14 24 33 Pro](#)
 - [WIN 20220603 14 24 48 Pro](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - Joe Hafner

Enactment No: R-EN-071-2023

[RES-23:038](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 716 W Washington Ave. Jonesboro, AR 72401; Parcel #: 01-143134-17800; OWNER: HRB PROPERTIES INC

- Attachments:** [716 W Washington Map](#)
[716 W Washington Pre-Condemnation Notice Certified](#)
[716 W Washington Returned Certified Pre-Condemnation](#)
[716 W. Washington Inspection Report](#)
[WIN 20220526 15 53 19 Pro 10615289](#)
[WIN 20220526 15 53 36 Pro 10615290](#)
[WIN 20220526 15 53 42 Pro 10615291](#)
[WIN 20220526 15 53 55 Pro 10615269](#)
[WIN 20220526 15 54 04 Pro 10615272](#)
[WIN 20220526 15 54 20 Pro 10615274](#)
[WIN 20220526 15 55 00 Pro 10615276](#)
[WIN 20220526 15 55 22 Pro 10615277](#)
[WIN 20220526 15 55 49 Pro 10615279](#)
[WIN 20220526 15 56 00 Pro 10615280](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - Joe Hafner

Enactment No: R-EN-072-2023

[RES-23:039](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 5306 E. Nettleton Ave. Jonesboro, AR 72401; Parcel #: 01-144271-04900; OWNER: David & Gail Oesterblad

- Attachments:** [5306 E Nettleton Pre-Condemnation Notice Certified](#)
[5306 E Nettleton Returned Signature Card](#)
[5306 E Nettleton Map](#)
[5306 Nettleton Inspection Report](#)
[WIN 20210319 09 58 56 Pro](#)
[WIN 20210319 09 59 16 Pro](#)
[WIN 20210319 09 59 26 Pro](#)
[WIN 20210319 09 59 42 Pro](#)
[WIN 20210319 09 59 47 Pro](#)
[WIN 20210319 09 59 58 Pro](#)
[WIN 20210319 10 00 02 Pro](#)
[WIN 20210319 10 02 15 Pro](#)
[WIN 20210319 10 02 18 Pro](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - Joe Hafner

Enactment No: R-EN-073-2023

6. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-23:011](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE AND ABANDON OF A PORTION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY ALONG JUDY STREET AS REQUESTED BY HALSEY REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS, LLC AND MCP INVESTMENTS, LLC.

Attachments: [Petition](#)
[Plat](#)
[Letters](#)
[Resolution](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Mitch Johnson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-23:011 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

[ORD-23:013](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR UNBREAKABLE, INC., d/b/a CASA BLANCA MEXICAN GRILL TO BE LOCATED AT 3410 EAST JOHNSON AVE., SUITE C, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

Attachments: [Unbreakable, Inc Application_Redacted](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Mitch Johnson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-23:013 by title only. All voted aye.

James Elwin Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, said, all of you take a good note of that address on there because I think everybody in here fairly well knows that area and knows that we have traffic problems there and there are steps being made to do something about traffic over on the East Johnson area. But, folks, it is going to take years to deal with the problems we already got. To add alcohol to the problems is not wise. I'm not in favor of the next two ordinances, but I am not going to speak on them because ASU is involved and there's some lawsuits involved and I think you all know about all that. Anyway, putting alcohol into this area is going to make the traffic problems deadly. It is not going to help them. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, thank you for your comments.

Held at one reading

[ORD-23:014](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR ELM STREET CENTER, INC., d/b/a ELM STREET SPORTS CLUB TO BE LOCATED AT FIRST NATIONAL BANK ARENA, 217 OLYMPIC DR., JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

Attachments: [Elm Street Center, Inc. Application_Redacted](#)
[Publication Receipt](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-23:014 by title only. All voted aye.

Councilmember David McClain said, *If I may, I would like to clarify for me, for my thinking and maybe for somebody else. I thought that ASU already had liquor permits for each property or as one big entity. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, ASU has some representation here. Jeff Hankins, Vice-President of the Arkansas State University System, said, I would be happy to clarify. I live in Little Rock. Yes, since 2015, NEA Sports Club has had a single permit that covered six different facilities on campus. And, recently, the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board asked us to make some structural changes. So, the University and NEA Sports Club will abandon three locations. We are going to discontinue sales at the Alumni Center, the Pavilion, and the Fowler Center. These two new permit proposals, each permit will be assigned to a specific facility. So, NEA Sports Club will maintain its permit that exists for all of the facilities. They will keep that permit just for the football stadium and then, each of these new permits, the Elm Street Sports Club permit will be assigned to First National Bank Arena and the Aggie Road permit will be assigned to Tomlinson Stadium, the baseball stadium. So, instead of one permit over six facilities as has been the case since 2015, there will be three entities, all with the same Board of Directors, the same purpose of supporting the Red Wolves Foundation, but each of those three facilities will have its own permit. Councilmember McClain asked, that is to sell, but not to serve or I guess, is it the same? Mr. Hankins said, well, it is to serve members of those clubs. Councilmember McClain said, okay. I am just trying to clarify. Mr. Hankins said, it does require, in other words, all three of those facilities as they are now are facilities controlled by Alcoholic Beverage Control administration. So, that would continue. Councilmember McClain said, you mentioned three others, the Pavilion and the Alumni Center. Mr. Hankins said, and the Fowler Center. Councilmember McClain said, okay. Mr. Hankins continued, the Fowler Center will no longer have alcohol sales service available. Frankly, those were rarely used for alcohol sales so it wasn't worth the effort to have six different permits. We stuck to the three primary facilities. The ASU System Board of Trustees has voted to approve new leases with these entities pending approval of the City Council and the ABC. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, thank you Mr. Hankins.*

Held at one reading

[ORD-23:015](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR AGGIE ROAD CENTER, INC., d/b/a AGGIE ROAD SPORTS CLUB TO BE LOCATED AT TOMLINSON STADIUM, 208 OLYMPIC DR., JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

Attachments: [Aggie Road Center, Inc. Application Redacted](#)
[Publication Receipt](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember LJ Bryant, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-23:015 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[ORD-23:006](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO PLACE VARIOUS TRAFFIC SIGNS AT DESIGNATED LOCATIONS AS DETERMINED BY THE TRAFFIC CONTROL COMMITTEE

Held at second reading

[ORD-23:007](#) AN ORDINANCE TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO PLACE VARIOUS TRAFFIC SIGNS AT DESIGNATED LOCATIONS AS DETERMINED BY THE TRAFFIC CONTROL COMMITTEE

Held at second reading

[ORD-23:009](#) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE JONESBORO CODE OF ORDINANCES TO UPDATE ADMINISTRATIVE FEES CHARGED BY THE CITY IN THE CORRECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL DEFICIENCIES IN THE CITY OF JONESBORO

Held at second reading

[ORD-23:012](#) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL AND C-3 GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT TO CR-1 COMMERCIAL RESIDENCE MIXED USE DISTRICT FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4902 AND 4904 E. HIGHLAND DRIVE, JONESBORO, AR AS REQUESTED BY JEREMY BEVILL WITH FISHER ARNOLD ON BEHALF OF BRETT STROBBE

Attachments: [Rezoning Plat](#)
[Staff Summary - C.C.](#)
[Cover Letter - Rezoning](#)
[Rezoning Application Signed](#)
[Certified Mail Receipts](#)

Held at second reading

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-23:008](#) AN ORDINANCE REGARDING AN ABANDONMENT OF A PORTION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY ALONG UNDEVELOPED BONAPARTE COVE AS REQUESTED BY HORIZON LAND SURVEYING ON BEHALF OF CURTNER ASSET MANAGEMENT, LLC

Attachments: [signed petition.pdf](#)
[Opinion Letter](#)
[Plat & Utility Letters](#)
[resolution](#)
[Publishing Receipt](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - Joe Hafner

Enactment No: O-EN-009-2023

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported on the following:

I just want to say that this past weekend, our fabulous Police Department performed a Spring Break saturation over the weekend targeting many drug dealers and other criminals on their radar. JPD made 26 arrests including 23 felony charges. Officers seized more than \$19,000 in cash, 315 grams of marijuana, 24 grams of mushrooms, 35 schedule 5 pills, 11 schedule 2 pills, 34 grams of meth, 3 doses of ecstasy, 156 fentanyl pills, and one firearm. I joined Chief Elliott as he oversaw the operation and it was impressive to see our Police Department's incredible ability to execute such a proactive cohesive operation. We are confident that this operation will lead to more arrests and make Jonesboro continuously less appealing to law breakers. I also had one of our Councilmembers was in on many of the transportation of those that were guilty this weekend. I appreciate your time and efforts Councilman. I appreciate your efforts there.

That is not the only cleanup going on though in our community. With combined efforts of Code Enforcement and the Sanitation Department, we are hauling off tons of items that people want to get rid of and giving a through clean to neighborhood one time every month. The next cleanup is on Southwest Drive, a week from Saturday, April 1st at Living Word Church, 5601 Southwest Drive. You can drop off anything you want to get rid of other than yard waste and hazardous materials and liquids. It will be from 8:00 a.m. until noon.

This weekend, the Fraternal Order of Police and at the Miracle League, they hosted an egg accessible Easter egg hunt which is exclusively for kids with physical and cognitive limitations. This will start at 11:00 a.m. on April 1st. It is a free event to those with such needs. So, we need to plan for a nice crowd and hope the weather is perfect.

I enjoyed Match Day at NYIT last Friday. It's so cool to have a Medical College right here on the Arkansas State University's campus. And, nothing is any more cool than Match Day when all of the new graduates learn their first assignments. In one ballroom at the Red Wolf Convention Center, I saw nearly, I think we had 100 doctors and all 100 were placed in their initial designations. They ranged from all around the country from the Delta to assignments as far as Conway now to New York to Wisconsin and six of which are right here in this community. I'm really proud of the hard work that Dr. Shane Speights and the whole NYIT team does for the University and these young professionals that are making their futures, many of whom are right here in Arkansas.

Spring has finally sprung, but our Parks Department has already had its first big outdoor sports weekend hosting 49 high school softball teams at Southside and 41 baseball teams at Joe Mack. That's a lot of teams in town, a lot of visitors experience our parks and eating and shopping in our city, so I tip my hat to Danny Kapales and the Parks team.

I would like to give a little plug for the Mayor's Youth Advancement Council. The applications are due by April 1st for the Mayor's Youth Advancement Council. We have already got 25 that have already applied and we hope that many more will do so. This continues to grow and their efforts in the community are much appreciated. They were on Scene Middy and they have an upcoming event in the next couple of weeks planned. So, hopefully some of you are able to attend.

So, in closing, I would like to say the largest audience ever at the Chamber of Commerce State of the City Address. I think our community is excited about the direction we are headed together. And, everything that is going on, everything that we

have on tap for 2023. It was impressive to see more than 600 of our business community on hand. I want to thank them and you to know that this administration is working diligently to keep Jonesboro safe and create more opportunities for quality time and quality growth in our hometown to make Jonesboro a better place to live.

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Brian Emison said, coming up this weekend is the United Way Free Tax Preparedness for those in the community that are having problems filling out their own taxes or getting anything filed. They are going to be having that from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the St. Bernard's Auditorium. So, anybody that would like to swing by at that time and get any assistance with their taxes, they will be more than happy to help. That is all I have today. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, thank you.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, I want to say a word of thanks to the Mayor. I noticed that all of the street lights were working on Union over the weekend so that helped a lot. The churches down there appreciate that too. So, thank you for getting on that. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, thank you for your comments.

Councilmember Chris Gibson said, Nominating and Rules met earlier tonight and I would like to ask to waive the rules and walk-on RES-23:061. It is a resolution regarding appointments to boards and the City Water and Light appointments are time sensitive. Councilmember Chris Moore seconded the motion. All voted aye.

Councilmember Chris Gibson motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore, to adopt RES-23:061. Councilmember John Street asked to be recused from discussion and voting on this matter due to his presence on the City Water and Light Board. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman asked to be recused from discussion and voting on this matter due to his reappointment on this resolution to the Keep Jonesboro Beautiful Committee and his presence on the Stormwater Management Board. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, duly noted. All voted aye.

[RES-23:061](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS AS RECOMMENDED BY MAYOR HAROLD COPENHAVER

Councilmember John Street motioned to abstain from discussion and voting on RES-23:061 due to his current status of being a board member of City, Water and Light.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman motioned to abstain from discussion and voting on RES-23:061 due to his current status of being on the board of the Stormwater Management Board and his reappointment to the Keep Jonesboro Beautiful Committee.

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Gibson, seconded by Councilperson LJ Bryant, that this matter be Passed. The motion PASSED with the following vote:

Aye: 9 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent: 1 - Joe Hafner

Abstain: 2 - John Street and Charles Coleman

Enactment No: R-EN-074-2023

Councilmember David McClain said, I have a couple of questions. When I first got on the Council, we had the Chamber, they came and made a presentation. We asked them to come by every so often. I was going to see if we could get them to possibly do the same thing at either the next Council meeting or even the one after that to give us an update on maybe some projects that they are working on, just different things going on that the Chamber is involved in. I would love to have an overall overview of some things that they are working on. The only other thing, I know the flyover, we weren't successful in getting the flyover. I'm just curious what we were planning on as far as our next steps for that, kind of our plan if we are planning to do a fundraiser or whatever we are trying to do in terms of that. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, well, first of all, let me address your original question. The Chamber, Mark and I have already set a schedule for that for them to come and visit. You are spot on with that. The other, we are working right now, Steve and our financial counsel that we had gotten early on at the late of the year, we're in discussions on how we can move forward with requests and then, partnerships I am working on that as well like we'd receive from Arkansas State University. We are looking for other commitments, but we are moving forward with that. I will present that to the full Council when we have all of our numbers ready. Councilmember McClain said, okay. Thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you.

Councilmember John Street said, I would just like to again follow up on what you said Mayor and compliment the Jonesboro Police Department for the outstanding operation that they conducted this last weekend. We've got a lot of brave men and women with JPD and I don't know that the people of Jonesboro really know how fortunate they are for the men and women we have that keep us safe and patrol our streets. I would also like to give acknowledgement to Captain Dupwe who really put in a lot of effort. He is a young Captain, but he's very energetic and I think he is going to do a great job in that position. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, thank you.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Absent: 1 - Joe Hafner

_____ Date: _____

Harold Copenhaver, Mayor

Attest:

_____ Date: _____

April Leggett, City Clerk