



# City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center  
300 S. Church Street  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

## Meeting Minutes City Council

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Tuesday, July 16, 2024

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

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### SPECIAL CALLED NOMINATING & RULES COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING AT 4:45 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** 10 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

**Absent** 2 - Anthony Coleman and Ann Williams

#### 4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

*Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, good evening council. It is an honor to stand before you this evening as always. In this case, I am very excited because this is not something that I have been a part of in our community. And, this is going to be an award to an individual in our community that did not ask for it. She doesn't feel like she deserves it. But, nonetheless, it is commendable for her to receive it. So, in the early morning hours of Saturday, June 6, 2024, in the 3100 block of Fairview near Brazos, Tina Lott walked out of her front door walking her dog. She immediately knew a life threatening disaster was occurring right before her eyes. The house across the street was in flames. Tina began banging the door to wake up the residents. She could hear them yelling. She called 911 and the response from the emergency was large and fast. Six people in that house were injured, adults and children, and all had varying degrees of burns. Officers agree that if it weren't for Ms. Tina Lott, that there might have been six fatalities instead of injuries. I, along with Fire Chief Marty Hamrick, feel that it is most appropriate to honor your heartfelt actions with a Mayor's Medallion for the Service and the Fire Department's Award for Citizen Hero. So, if you would, please come forward Ms. Lott along with Chief Hamrick. Chief Hamrick said, we would like to award you. Most people that are heroes, we don't think they are heroes until after the fact, and what you did that morning, most people would have picked up the phone and said, hey there's a fire across the street and would not have crossed the street to do what you did. And, I understand, also, that your dog played a little different role in the deal by going to the front door where he would typically go to the back and he wouldn't let you go back there this time. So, there's a reason for that. And, now we found out why because your actions led to the people surviving that fire destruction. On behalf of Jonesboro Fire Department and the Fire Marshall's Office, the city, and the citizens,*

thank you very much.

Mayor Copenhaver said, guys, it's going to be hard to follow that. Okay. But, I tell you what, it's all about leadership. And, the next group of young men are from our community. They have been born and raised, most of them, in our community and it's about the leadership qualities. But, what more impressed me was their teamwork. And, so gentlemen, if you would come forward, the Valley View Baseball State Champions. All right gentlemen, I do appreciate you taking the time. Thanks again for being a representative of not only your school, but the City of Jonesboro. And, we are here to recognize you tonight for what you have accomplished not only through your hard work, but your teammanship of playing together. So, this is a proclamation for the Valley View Boy's High School Baseball 5A State Champions. On May 19th, the Valley View High School Baseball team won the Class 5A State Championship in Conway, Arkansas. They were led by Josh Allison, Assistant Coach Barry Jones, Coaches Dustin Jones, Matt Snider, Corbitt Cooper, and Tyler Walls. The Blazers completed a dominating tournament run with a 5-0 win over Maumelle in the Championship game which many of us were watching live stream. The baseball championship marks the fourth in Valley View School history and a second in the last four years. The rich talent team contains, now hear this, eight college baseball signees to date and was led by seniors Grayson Becker, Conner Brown, Eli Crecelius, Title Game MVP Lance Davis, Hudson Hosman, Lawson Ward, Dax Webb, and first team all American Slade Caldwell, who was recently selected by the Arizona Diamondbacks in the first round of the 2024 Major League Baseball draft. Amazing. The title capped another successful season of the Blazers who finished the season with a record of 31-2 including an unblemished record in the 5A East Conference play in National Ranking of 23rd by SB Live and Sports Illustrated, 18th by the Prep Baseball Poll, 14th by the Max Preps, and 12th by Perfect Game. So, I, there, now for, Harold Copenhaver, Mayor of the City of Jonesboro, by the virtue of the authority vested in me and the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim this Valley View Blazers High School Baseball Day in the City of Jonesboro. Congratulations gentlemen and coaches.

## **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:** 10 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

**Absent:** 2 - Anthony Coleman and Ann Williams

[MIN-24:062](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON JULY 2, 2024

**Attachments:** [CC Minutes 07022024](#)

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

[RES-24:073](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 504 BELT STREET, PARCEL #01-144074-16200, OWNED BY AMY HUTSON IN THE AMOUNT OF \$465; LEGAL DESCRIPTION: WAGNER SUB

- Attachments:**
- [1. Notice of Violation](#)
  - [2. Billing Request](#)
  - [3. 504 Belt St Invoice Notice](#)
  - [4. 504 Belt St 2nd Council Notice](#)

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-070-2024

[RES-24:074](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1313 PARDEW, PARCEL# 01-144212-20200, OWNED BY MICHELLE NUT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275; LEGAL DESCRIPTION: PARDEW SUB PT W 1/2 E 1/2 SE NW 21-14-4 N 1/2 LOT 10 50X140.81 ALL LOT 11

- Attachments:**
- [1. Notice of Violation](#)
  - [2. 1313 Pardew Billing Request](#)
  - [3. 1313 Pardew Billing Invoice Notice](#)
  - [4. 1313 Pardew Council Notice](#)

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-071-2024

[RES-24:075](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2612 CRAWFORD, PARCEL #01-144273-02300, OWNED BY RANDY & ALEY CRAWFORD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275; LEGAL DESCRIPTION: NE JB NETTLETON CITY

- Attachments:**
- [1. 2612 Crawford Notice of Violation](#)
  - [2. 2612 Crawford Billing Request](#)
  - [3. 26912 Crawford Invoice Notice](#)
  - [4. 2612 Crawford Council Notice](#)

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-072-2024

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

*ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING*

[ORD-24:018](#)

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-24:020](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE

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PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 TO C-3, LUO FOR A SHOP BUILDING ONLY FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5415 SOUTHWEST DRIVE AS REQUESTED BY JEREMY MOORE

**Attachments:**    [Appeal Letter](#)  
[Zoning Application](#)  
[Zoning Plat](#)  
[Zoning Mail Receipts](#)  
[MAPC Meeting Minutes](#)  
[Publication Receipt](#)

*Councilmember Chris Moore said, Madam Clerk, I will continue to abstain. Mayor Copenhagen said, noted.*

*Mary Tucker, 5321 Darr Hill Road, said, this is directly behind the lot Mr. Moore is seeking to rezone commercial. During the appeal hearing at 17:30, Mr. Moore stated that the other three corners are already zoned commercial which is not correct. Two corners are zoned commercial. His lot is zoned residential and 5503 Weaver is zoned residential according to AR County Data. This corner is already congested and dangerous. There are accidents there all of the time and now with a truck stop going in across from Sonic, it is going to get even worse. I worry about the kids that are going to school getting t-boned. I've seen way too many accidents. I've seen a postal worker, we couldn't find her. She was hit so hard she was thrown out of her truck and her shoes actually came off she was hit so hard. I think she is okay now, but I would hate for that to be my grandson going through that intersection because, you know, he is sixteen and when the green light is for him, he doesn't know to wait and look both ways. I am very afraid for the kids and their safety. I appreciate your time and respectfully ask that you not overturn the MAPC's decision. Thank you. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you for your comments.*

*Jeremy Moore, 2013 Jamestown, said, when I made the comment about the corners already being zoned commercial, I was going off of the city planner's map that I had received. I haven't looked at AR County Data. I was going off of what was currently zoned from Derrel's office and that Weaver property on that map was already zoned commercial. So, that is why that comment was made. So, the others are zoned C-3, C-3, and C-4 and that was in that packet that I included whenever I turned that in. And, I realize that there are a lot of bad intersections in Jonesboro. There is no doubt about it and there are a lot of wrecks that happen at intersections all over town. That is one of the reasons I made the concession to do the limited use with that. So, even though it calls for it to be a high impact, high intensity area, I realize that lot is small. So, that is why I decided to go with something less impact on that lot to make that concession. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you for your comments Mr. Moore.*

*Joanie McNabb, 2100 Paul Drive, said, a couple of things. First, he just said that he went based on data and he didn't know. His application stated it correctly that there was another corner that was residential. He stated it incorrectly at the meeting. So, I mean, he did know because he had it correct on his application. I'm confused a little bit as far as reading what the ordinance is from R-1 to C-3, but at the last meeting, we were told that his application had changed and it was requested to be C-1. So, what will you be voting on next time, C-1 or C-3? City Attorney Carol Duncan said, C-3 with a Limited Use Overlay. It's not C-1. Ms. McNabb stated, that is not what we were told two weeks ago by Mr. Street when he said that he was trying to change it to C-1, not C-3. Ms. Duncan said, no. Councilmember John Street said, no, C-3 with a Limited Use Overlay. It can't be C-1. Derrel can answer that. It has to be either R-1 with a residence*

or C-3 to put a shop building on it. So, he didn't need the residence, so at C-1, you misunderstood R-1. He didn't want to put R-1 on it. Ms. McNabb said, well it is already R-1. Councilmember Street said, well, he didn't want to put a house on it and then a shop building, so it has to be C-3 by our requirements for you to put a shop building on that lot. So, we looked at C-4 and everything else. Derrel did too, but it has to be C-3. But, it is limited to his shop building only for his use and it has to go back to MAPC for site approval. So, there will be barriers. Ms. McNabb asked, but how hard is that to change? How hard is that to change? Ms. Duncan stated that it would have to be rezoned again. It would go back through this whole process again if you changed it from the shop building. Ms. McNabb asked, but would that not be easier once it is already designated C-3? If it is limited use, would that not be easier to get it, to get those restrictions lifted than to move it from R-1 to C-3? Ms. Duncan said, I can't tell you how people will vote. I can just tell you that the process is the same. He would have to go back through the same rezoning process to remove that LUO. Ms. McNabb stated, and that is a concern for all of the reasons that have been stated tonight and at previous meetings. Just the area, the traffic, the size of the lot, the congestion that it will bring, and majorly the safety concerns. There is just not a lot of access and it is going to impact, not just the residents there, but everyone that drives through there and there is a ton of traffic. I mean, thank goodness there is a stop light there now. It used to be worse, but that is a huge concern. That lot is not going to get any bigger. So, I still ask that it be denied. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you for your comments.

#### **Held at second reading**

#### [ORD-24:021](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH AN ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT IN HISTORIC DOWNTOWN JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

#### **Attachments:**

[Exhibits](#)

[Handout DJA Entertainment District](#)

[Bob Hester Handout 07022024](#)

[Handout from Janice Porter 07162024](#)

Councilmember Janice Porter said, at our last meeting the subject of the cost of providing protection came up. And, since that meeting at my request I asked the Police Chief to prepare an estimate on what it would cost for the first year of operation and I gave all of you members a copy of that email that he sent. And, he said a very conservative estimate would be \$157,000 for the first twelve months. And, I think that is helpful information. Councilmember Chris Moore said, it was my understanding at the last meeting and maybe I misunderstood, but I thought we were going to take a budget neutral approach and then review in six months if we needed additional security in the downtown area. Is that not correct Chief? Mayor Copenhagen asked, Chief, if you would come forward. Police Chief Rick Elliott said, so, any expenditures for security for the remainder of the year, there's money already set aside. As we go forth in the next budget year, if we have to have security, then I had to formulate some kind of numbers. But, since the last meeting, the Mayor and I have kind of set down and gone over this and then we have reached out to other cities that have the entertainment districts. And, when they were in the same process that we are in, the Chiefs there had the same concerns of problems. And, after their districts were up and running, they are not seeing the problems that we are anticipating on seeing as far as people violating the rules and leaving the district with open containers. Fort Smith said they are not seeing it yet. And, so, with that being said, it's kind of like, okay, we can maybe back off on this and just monitor it. And, if it does become a constant problem, then we can start bringing security in if need be. Again, as you mentioned last meeting, this is a new concept for us. And, I took the most aggressive approach because I feel that is my job. But, you know, I am not opposed to backing down and kind of work this as it

goes and just monitor. If the need arises, then we can start certainly adding people down there. But, it will all depend on the people. If they abide by the designated rules, then we will be fine. But, if there is gross negligence and violation of the rules, then we will have to take a different approach and start putting officers down there. So, in that preparation, I gather the overtime, what the officers overtime sheet is for different positions because I don't want there to be any surprises. If I have to come back to council and go, hey I need "x" number of hours of security, I don't want you to be shocked. So, you have the worst case scenario of what it could look like potentially. The best case scenario, we may can get by with a fraction of that. Now, this does not take into the consideration of the weekends, like the BBQ Fest. So, I looked at 52 weeks. So, you take out the BBQ Fest, which they pay for security for that event, which is anywhere from 15 to 20 officers and the Local Fest, the same thing. So, there's a couple of weekends that would be taken out of that.

Councilmember Moore said, the whole idea is new to me. I mean, and it's new to everybody in the city. And, I would think the prudent thing to do would be in six months to sit down, do an analysis of what has transpired. There's a committee that's got to be formed. I would think that you and the committee would sit down and review the rules and if it is causing a problem, that at any time, we would openly modify the agreement. Chief Elliott said, I agree and I took another step forward with this and I went and pulled stats from 2021 to 2024 on crimes that we have dealt with in the proposed Entertainment District. And, that is drinking in public, DWI, possession of open containers, public intoxication. In public intoxication and drinking in public in the year 2021, we made 43 arrests for those violations. In 2022, we made 27 arrests. In 2023, we made 30 arrests. And, so far this year, we have only made six arrests. So, the trend from 2021 to the present has kind of gone down as far as the problems that we have seen in some of the places down there. I think that's with the businesses trying to self police and take care of themselves. So, a lot of that goes back to the business owners. You know, they want the right thing for the Entertainment District and so does DJA. So, I think everybody working together like you said, I think, again, we will meet and I'm not opposed if this thing goes crazy, I am not opposed to coming back before you and go, hey, this is a bad idea. But, I'm not opposed to giving it a shot. I understand the positives from talking to different business people that this may be for the city. My job is to protect the people. But, we'll make it happen either way we decide to go with it. But, as we move forward, like I said, it's looking to go either way. We can take it week by week. Councilmember Moore said, your inquiries to the other cities indicated that it had not made a significant change. Chief Elliott said, not in the need for law enforcement. They have yet to designate anybody in those areas because they said they just haven't seen the problems yet. Fort Smith brought in some civilians, kind of like monitors. They do have a radio that they can contact the police if there's a need or somebody walking beyond the district boundaries. But, they are the only ones that have taken that step that far. The other's just haven't seen the problems yet.

Mayor Copenhaver said, if I may interject and this is just kind of word for words, Chief Baker at Fort Smith said they actually have two designated areas and while there are a number of concerns voiced initially, neither have presented to be an issue except for the homeless folks that are in some of those areas. The city did implement a program when the downtown area staffed by civilians that they call Downtown Ambassadors. These individuals are not officers, but do have radios in which they contact dispatch. They provide onsite eyes and ears presence and double as someone who can assist in those directions. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I think Little Rock had that when we were there for the conference. Chief Elliott said, they didn't respond back to us yet. Ms. Duncan said, I saw a guy on a bicycle with an ambassador vest that stopped to ask where we were headed and if we knew where we were going. It was kind of

surprising to me. Chief Elliott said, correct. It is kind of twofold. It's kind of like a tourist guide plus eyes on to what is going on. It's probably a more approachable person than somebody in uniform. But again, the Mayor and I, we sat down and looked at these opportunities. We kind of feel comfortable that we can probably back off of this right now. But again, when it comes to budgeting and money, if it does come up this year, we've got it covered as far as any money issues. But, by then, as we get into budgeting, we will know if we're going to need it or not next year or how much we need it. So, we may hopefully be able to get that number down to a fraction of what I presented because again when we were first talking about this, I just looked at it as I would look about anything else. So, further research, just looking at that, we can probably back off a little bit right now. But, again, every week needs to be evaluated. If things get out of hand, then we will certainly take a different approach. I'm not going to let things get out of hand. Mayor Copenhaver stated, and when those issues come up Chief and I have also sat down and we have been working on this quite a while. A possible Park Ranger Program that would allow us then to have access to just Park Rangers throughout all of our parks or downtown area, our pools, and those type of things. So, these are things that we are looking at to add to the budget so this would not play into the overtime budget. So, this way, we would have full-time officers in those roles or individuals in those roles for our community. Chief Elliott said, correct. We have actually been talking about that for quite a while and I think it is a great concept. But, I'm just now getting to the point of being fully staffed. I can't ask for more bodies until I can fill the vacancies I've got. But, with the recent pay raises and things that we've done, we're getting there. So, I kind of look for that as we move forward in the next year's budget, we will certainly explore that opportunity.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said, as I was kind of doing some reading on this topic, I mean, one of the things that I've seen some other cities do maybe not in Arkansas, I can't remember where it was, but they have actually got a portion of their hospitality tax or their A&P tax that was devoted to the overtime or the increase in police pay from the Entertainment District. That's just another idea, I mean, I don't know if A&P would be open to that, but that's another avenue that they want to pursue. Hospitality tax, I mean it's hospitality. Councilmember L.J. Bryant asked, Chief, in visiting with other cities, did any of them have dedicated PD officers even before the Entertainment District for their downtown's? Chief Elliott said, just off hand, I know Little Rock did, but I'm not sure if that's before. When they came up with the River Street Market, I know they've got a substation down there. Of course, a lot of your bigger cities like Beale Street, they've got substations down there because the volume of people. I don't know if they're designated as Entertainment Districts, but I know Little Rock is now. But, going back, how far in history, I don't know. Mayor Copenhaver said, in Argenta, north of the downtown Little Rock area, they have hired individuals for that. Chief Elliott said, right. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, Chief, I have a question. Has anyone entertained maybe having a substation in that area? Chief Elliott said, well, a substation is one thing and having the bodies to put there is another thing. Our losses over the years, it has taken a while to catch up. We are not there yet, but we have made great strides. So, I'm not at that point in life that I could look at something like that. Now, what was the substation up at Parker Park, the Mayor and I have been talking about that. I think it would serve a twofold, one for the pool because we have to have security at the pool and then, two, it would give officers in the north side of town a place to stop, get out and use the restroom and things like that. The same as the substation over at Allen Park. So, kind of bringing that back in would be my first move. I think downtown, no more hours than we've got involved in this, I don't really see the need for that. If it got to the point that this became so big that we're shutting the streets down and it's like Beale Street, then, we will cross that bridge then. And, I hope it does. I would like to see the downtown continue to thrive. And, so, whichever way

*DJA is trying to go then, our job is to be there and protect and support. So, that's my goal. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Chief. Chief Elliott said, yes sir.*

*Linda Allen, 5710 Kingspoint Lane, said, if this has already been answered, I apologize for wasting your time. The ABC Board in Little Rock has found that loophole to let bars be put in every place that they want and let them say they're a club. What loophole has come up that let's us have drinking in a cup on the street? Councilmember Chris Moore said, there was a legislative act. Do you want me to look it up Carol? City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I don't have it in front of me. The State Legislature passed a law allowing it. Ms. Allen asked, for everybody? Even in dry counties? Ms. Duncan said, yes ma'am. Ms. Allen said, so, in a dry county, even if we didn't have bars in all of our restaurants? Ms. Duncan replied, correct. I was as surprised as you when I read the law, but yes ma'am they did in 2020, I believe it was. Ms. Allen said, well, I do feel as a person who has voted ever since I was 18 and proud to that my vote has been trampled on every time a new liquor license is given in the town of Jonesboro, Arkansas. Thank you for your time. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you for your comments. Councilmember Moore said, just for the record, it's Legislative Act 812.*

*Brett Ivy, 2812 Covey Drive, said, I wanted to give you guys a perspective that we probably haven't heard before. I'm a salesperson for Performance Food Service. Some of you may know me a little bit. I've worked in the downtown area my entire career, 12 years. I have sold all of these restaurants a lot of their groceries for a long time and I have seen a lot of the ups and downs that we've had before Covid, during Covid, and after. And, we have seen a decline. Our overall economy in downtown is not what it was for 2017, 2018, and 2019 as it was growing. We've seen it come down a notch. We need something like this to reinvigorate this economic growth. With that economic growth, we are going to get more alcohol sales and a better property value downtown. Both of which would directly correlate to more tax dollars paying for everything that we just heard Chief Elliott say we might not even need. We would have extra funds in place ready for that on top of what you guys have already budgeted. And, that's the way I see it happening. All of our restaurants downtown, most of the owners are good friends of mine. They all live in this area. 100% of these owners live in this town. Most of the area, we have all of these chain restaurants that don't incorporate near as much money back to the town as these guys do. And, we owe it to them to do something like this. And, I would implore you guys to think that way. Thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you for your comments.*

*James Elwyn Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, said, first, we don't owe it to them. People that eat at those establishments pay for what they get. And, let me point out this decline in this area, what has happened in that area during this period of time? What has happened is more and more clubs, more and more places sell alcohol. As the alcohol has increased in that area, it has gone into decline. I remember when that was a great area I wanted to be into. Now, I drive way out of the way which a lot of people are going to have to do with this Entertainment District because it is going to take every north and south street in the heart of downtown Jonesboro to do this. But, I do want to mention once again on at least three occasions, the people of Craighead County have voted for this county to be dry. This proposal includes public property, public rights-of-way, and tax money. Because we are dealing with something that people have voted for, this lady feels like her vote has been trampled on, I say give the vote back to the people. I think this needs to be referred to the people of Jonesboro. Let them vote on it, whether they want this. There is a municipal election coming up in November. We could put it on the ballot. It wouldn't cost a whole lot of money to do it at that time. Let the people have their say. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you for your comments.*

Held at second reading

## 8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

*Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported on the following:*

*I want to begin this evening on the Mayor's Comments by sharing with everyone a wonderful designation that KARK reported on this past week and the City of Jonesboro was included. In case you haven't heard, Jonesboro was named No. 2 in the state of Arkansas for the most livable small cities in Arkansas. This is a study based on cities that are in between 65,000 and 100,000. According to the study by a financial company called Smart Asset. We were barely edged out of the No. 1 spot by Conway. Smart Asset Group studies livability, demographics, and other issues in the U.S. The listing is determined by housing costs as a percentage of household income, percentage of residents below the poverty line, unemployment rates, percentage of residents with health insurance, and the average commute time. By the way, Fort Smith, Springdale, Rogers, and Fayetteville rounded out the top six. So, good company to be included with.*

*I want to say thank you again to our new employee of the month for July, Madelynn Humble in the Grants Department. She is a grants and finance specialist and she works with the Community Development Building Grant funding. Madelynn initially came to work for the city as a VISTA worker with Americorp. Madelynn, then became a full-time employee in February of 2023. She earned her BA in environmental science as well as Associates Degree in Fine Arts from Arkansas Tech. We are all blessed to have her and her passion working every day is helpful for the city and our community.*

*Currently, going on right now, the Arkansas Society of Association Executives Conference is in town. And, knowing many of them, it is wonderful to see them in our community. This is an organization and association of executives that are in our community, seeing our community and the result from this can be more conferences and even more new businesses deciding to use Jonesboro as a new location. Some of their recreational activities covered were Downtown Jonesboro, Craighead Forest Park, the Shooting Sports Complex, and Arkansas State University. And, I want to give a shout out to Dr. Shields and his team last night for providing them a wonderful area last night at the tower at Arkansas State University.*

*Once again, I want to point out that you never know who is in town or who your customer may be. So, we should always strive to put our best foot forward.*

*Moving on to Independence Day celebrations, we had fireworks at Joe Mack Campbell Park on July 3rd and Freedom Fest on the 4th with fireworks at the Southside Softball Complex. I want to say thank you, as always, to the Jonesboro Radio Group and East Arkansas Broadcasters and all of the sponsors for their kindness and commitment to our city. It was a great show as always and I actually received comments that there weren't too many mosquitoes, that the mosquitoes weren't too bad. That is a bonus.*

*On July 6th, Parker Park Community Center was the site of a free diaper giveaway by the nonprofit Mama to Mama.*

*The city's Animal Services Department began participation in the Bissell Foundation Empty the Shelter's National Adoption Campaign this month. Adoption fees were discounted to \$40 which includes spay and neutering, rabies vaccination, the five in one vaccination, microchip, and heartworm test. By the way, it is not too late to adopt a*

*pet. This special discounted service runs through July 31st.*

*Speaking of Animal Services, our low cost pet vaccination clinic was a huge success with more than 750 vaccinations given and signups for the August clinic are already underway.*

*The Foundation of Arts LEAP Program presented a summer themed showcase on July 11th. LEAP is a Learning Expression Through Arts Programming. The presentation was called "The Summer We will Never Forget" and included an art gallery. A cast of 14 adult clients of Abilities Unlimited performed a 30 minute show of well loved summer songs followed by frozen treats and cookies reception in the lobby. The LEAP Program at the Foundation of Arts has been bringing smiles to the community for more than twenty years.*

*On July 13th, our Neighborhood Cleanup was held on East Highland Drive. A total of 9.29 tons plus 79 tires were picked up. In addition, we have been running a series of informational posts about the Code Red Alert System, a very important communication system that we encourage all citizens to sign up for. Instructions are on the website.*

*The last couple of weeks we have had a good number of ribbon cuttings for new services and new businesses from St. Bernard's Recuperative Care Program of NEA, which has up to a twenty bed unit now in a crisis stabilization unit, to even a new bank in town, Bank OZK. It is important that we do and we continue to track new business whether it is expanding existing establishments or new enterprise. What we do in that part by supporting infrastructure and making it easy to do business in Jonesboro, work in Jonesboro, and live the best life in Jonesboro.*

[COM-24:033](#)

JONESBORO AIRPORT COMMISSION FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE MONTHS OF JANUARY 2023 THROUGH DECEMBER 2024 AND JANUARY 2024 THROUGH MAY 2024

**Attachments:**     [JAC Jonesboro Airport Financials 01\\_23](#)  
[JAC Jonesboro Airport Financials 01\\_24](#)  
[JAC Jonesboro Airport Financials 02\\_23](#)  
[JAC Jonesboro Airport Financials 02\\_24](#)  
[JAC Jonesboro Airport Financials 03\\_23](#)  
[JAC Jonesboro Airport Financials 03\\_24](#)  
[JAC Jonesboro Airport Financials 04\\_23](#)  
[JAC Jonesboro Airport Financials 04\\_24](#)  
[JAC Jonesboro Airport Financials 05\\_23](#)  
[JAC Jonesboro Airport Financials 05\\_24](#)  
[JAC Jonesboro Airport Financials 06\\_23](#)  
[JAC Jonesboro Airport Financials 07\\_23](#)  
[JAC Jonesboro Airport Financials 08\\_23](#)  
[JAC Jonesboro Airport Financials 09\\_23](#)  
[JAC Jonesboro Airport Financials 10\\_23](#)  
[JAC Jonesboro Airport Financials 11\\_23](#)  
[JAC Jonesboro Airport Financials 12\\_23](#)

**Filed**

## 9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

*Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I wanted to thank Parks & Recreation Director Danny Kapales for working with me and a citizen in the community on working on some access passes for individual youngsters to go to the swimming pool.*

*Councilmember David McClain said, the only thing I have, Nominating & Rules met earlier and I would like to suspend the rules and walk on RES-24:076. Councilmember Chris Gibson seconded the motion. All voted aye. Councilmember John Street asked that he be recused due to his membership on the Board of Directors for CWL. Mayor Copenhagen said, so noted. Thank you councilman.*

### [RES-24:076](#)

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 David McClain motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to suspend the rules and offer RES-24:076 by title only. All voted aye.*

*Councilmember John Street asked to be recused because of his membership on the Board of Directors.*

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

**Aye:** 9 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Janice Porter;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

**Absent:** 2 - Anthony Coleman and Ann Williams

**Abstain:** 1 - John Street

Enactment No: R-EN-073-2024

## 10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

## 11. ADJOURNMENT

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

**Aye:** 10 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

**Absent:** 2 - Anthony Coleman and Ann Williams

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Harold Copenhaver, Mayor**

**Attest:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**April Leggett, City Clerk**