



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, August 4, 2026

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

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

PUBLIC HEARING AT 5:25 P.M.

No one spoke for against the alley abandonment in the Public Hearing.

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 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent 1 - Chris Gibson

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Audio/Video 13:32 mark: Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, Brian, are you in the chamber? Where's Brian? Just a minute Council, I do have a special presentation I'd like to make. We will go ahead and move forward with the agenda though and then when Brian gets here, I'll regress back.

Audio/Video 21:51 mark: Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, so, Council, I appreciate your time. I wanted to get this to you tonight. I think it's imperative that we do so. You don't get this opportunity very often to recognize and pay special attention to one of your own city employees, one of your own city department police officers. And last week we, it was several weeks ago, as a matter of fact, we had a resident who went above and beyond the call of duty. On July 10th, at 9:18, this officer responded to a call at 906 Caraway Road in reference to a citizen who was choking. Upon arrival, officer located a female who was choking on food in a bad way. Officer administered the Heimlich maneuver, causing the article to dislodge and allowing the citizen to regain respirations. In other words, he saved her life. This officer's action during this incident embodies the professionalism and service to the community that all of our officers do. But it is my honor this evening to recognize this gentleman's heroic actions with the prestigious Lifesaver Award of the City of Jonesboro. I think, more importantly, he did it in a humble way. He didn't talk about it. He didn't let people know. But people find out good deeds when people do good deeds. So, Chief Elliott, would you please come forward to accept this Lifesaver Award?

[COM-26:036](#)

UPDATE OF THE NEA CHILDREN'S MUSEUM PROJECT BY JORDAN CARLOW

Attachments: [City Council Presentation Aug 4.2026.pdf](#)

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, before you, Council, we do have a presentation this evening by a group of individuals from the NEA Children's Museum Project. Ms. Jordan, are you going to discuss, or do you want to make the introduction of those that are with you in the room? Ms. Jordan Carlow, responded, I'm the president of the Northeast Arkansas Children's Museum. Our mission is to inspire imagination, encourage exploration, and foster lifelong learning in the children of Northeast Arkansas. Our goal is to create a dedicated children's museum with exhibits that allow children to experience the themes and interests that they see in our community every day. Our goal for this presentation is to report on our project updates, present our museum renderings, outline our financial plan, outline our timeline, request the city's partnership, mitigate any anticipated concerns, and then we will answer some questions. We were awarded a grant through Arkansas Tourism that was matched by the city of Jonesboro and the A&P Commission that helped us get our feasibility study. And, within that study we learned that we have an anticipated amount of 77,000 visitors annually, which is only going to increase with the opening of the sportsplex.

With the help of Jonesboro Unlimited, we were able to get our museum exhibits, the site plan, and everything completed by our museum exhibitor Roto. In 2025, we had our inaugural Night at the Museum Fundraiser, where we raised \$40,000 just from the community, and we're currently planning our 2026 fundraiser and our capital campaign launch, and we're working with the Kyle Cook with Brackett-Krennerich to help design our facility. Some of our exhibit renderings, you'll see our health and wellness. Below, you'll see our Arkansas agriculture, a little wonders for our toddlers, factories, a theater, a grocery and cafe, and a veterinary clinic. You'll see our nature-inspired exhibits and our Mini-Mississippi, our Woods and Wetlands, our Windy Wonders, and the bottom left is going to be our low sensory exhibit.

This project is estimated to cost about \$10 to \$12 million, with our exhibits being 40% of this cost, and our final costs are dependent on the land, parking, and if we are able to build up or out. Our long-term, low-interest financing is being explored through CDFIs, access to the public sector, financing through the Facilities Board, and we have already had five years of debt service secured by two partners that will be named at a later date. Our capital campaign and sponsorship will have tiered giving opportunities. Our corporate sponsors for exhibits will be offered a 10-year payout timeline, and all raised capital will go towards our debt service for early payoff. Once 50% is secured, we will submit our match grants through philanthropic, state, and federal funders, and our operational fees will fund 60%, and 40% or less will be supplemented by donations, fundraising, and grants. If we're able to secure our location quickly, we can then move on to our pro forma and business plan, secure our long-term financing. We'll have a soft launch for our capital campaign, and hopefully break ground in the fall of 2027 with a grand opening in the fall of 2028.

So, how can the City of Jonesboro help? We're asking the City of Jonesboro to offer 215 West Monroe, which is the location of Winter Wonderland, to the Children's Museum. We're requesting a donation for a long-term land lease, ideally solidifying this agreement before the fall of 2026 in order to maintain this proposed timeline. This partnership from the city will allow us to move forward in our project, be located in downtown as desired, and to divert valuable funding from land and parking costs to our construction. We think this is the best option because it will be easy for families to

enjoy all of downtown during one museum visit. It's a great opportunity to collaborate with community events and festivals. One of the goals that is outlined in the DJA's project plan is to encourage families to visit downtown, and this is going to directly impact that goal.

This project will have an economic impact on small local businesses and restaurants in downtown, and this project will increase the use of this huge city asset from two months out of the year to 12 months out of the year. So, with an ask this big and a project this large, we know there's going to be some concerns. So, what is going to happen to Winter Wonderland if City Council donates or leases this land? We do plan to incorporate the current operations of Winter Wonderland into our museum's operations every year at no cost to the community. And what will happen to 215 Monroe if the museum is unable to raise the funding and to build the museum? In an agreement with the City regarding the land lease or donation, we will propose a clause that if this museum does not get built, the City can regain full ownership of the property, and we will not move forward with demolition or construction unless we an agreed upon certain percentage of funds is raised prior to building and construction. Thank you so much for your time. Thank you for listening. And, if you have any questions, you can ask me now, and I have Heather Clark, who is also our project manager and grant writer, and Kyle Cook is our architect. So, if you have any questions, we will take them now.

Mayor Copenhagen said, okay, first of all, thank you very much for your time and presentation. This has been going on, what, almost two years now? Ms. Carlow said, about two years, yes sir. Mayor Copenhagen continued, yeah, two years, and I know y'all have done a lot of due diligence within the community, but I also feel it's important that that be recognized, your efforts as well. So, Council, I'll open it up for any questions Council might have of the group. Do we have any questions by Council? Or concerns? Anyone in the audience? Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, I have a question. Thank you, good presentation. I was looking at the financial plan, and so where are you actually on some of these capital? Is it starting? Have you started? Ms. Carlow replied, we've had some premature conversations, but we did not want to formally take any capital donations until we have secured a site. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, gotcha. Mayor Copenhagen said, and Councilman, this, over two years ago, we were able to assist with a grant to initiate the program so they could do the citywide study on the enhancement of what a museum for children would do and implement in our community. And so then they have moved forward with their ask to different locations throughout the city of Jonesboro. So, anyhow, I think it's a very viable opportunity, but nonetheless, that decision is left up to Council, and I appreciate y'all presenting that tonight. Ms. Carlow replied, thank you so much for your time.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said, Mayor, I have a question too. So, if this is something the city believes is viable and a good option, what are the steps to get it in front of Council so we can actually make a decision? Mayor Copenhagen replied, a resolution. We can draft a resolution. And Kyle's done some work on the building. I know that there were some concerns on the building structure. Kyle, can you kind of talk about any of those concerns initially that we had on the structure itself, the current condition, and obviously the status moving forward if the funds were to be able to be raised for that? Kyle Cooper, Architect at Brackett-Krennerich, said, okay, are you talking about the existing Winter Wonderland building? Mayor Copenhagen said, that's correct, yes, sir. Mr. Cook replied, right. So we've done some, we've worked on some design work for the city of Jonesboro for some renovation of that facility. The problem with the facility that is of that age, there's a lot of structural issues that you have to take care of. And so, you know, it makes a lot of sense to raze the building and use it for an

opportunity like this. The renovation of a building like that, there's just a lot of structural costs that go into renovating a building like that. So we experienced a lot of that during the design process. So I think making use of the land and razing the building would be a good idea. Mayor Copenhaver said, and I think, Councilman, too, you bring up a good point. I would like to go ahead and obviously allow time for you, Council, to have questions. I mean this was just presented to you tonight. So I want you to have questions. I think it's key, a lease opportunity versus a purchase or giving the property to them. It would be a lease opportunity. So what would your priorities be? And if you would go ahead and email then the office about that and questions you might have, then we can move forward with another presentation on how that would proceed councilman.

Councilmember L.J. Bryant said, Mayor, the only question. I can't remember. I knew at one point we allocated some money and studied turning it into an event center and such. And we kind of scrapped that plan at one time. What was the status? Have we kind of reallocated that money already or what was the status? Has that been a year or two? Mayor Copenhaver replied, yeah, that was two years. And if you're talking about the funding for that, yeah, that was never. We didn't move forward with that funding on that, on the study. I think, if we're talking about the same. Councilmember Bryant said, yeah, it was a year or two ago. I remember we were going to kind of do like we were going to do an event center thing. Mayor Copenhaver said, yeah, at that location. Councilmember Bryant said, yes sir. Mayor Copenhaver said, at that location, that's correct. That's correct. But after Kyle had done the analysis on that, the feasibility of that was not a good one. Yeah, it was not positive. Craig, you got anything to add to that that you remember? (Engineering Director Craig Light said no off camera/mic) Okay. All right. Well, thank you all very much for your presentation and your time. And we'll move forward. I look forward to the questions from Council, and then we can address that. And we'll get together with your team as well. But I know a lot of hard work has gone into this. And we're here to listen and serve the community. So, thank you very much.

Read

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

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

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

[MIN-26:067](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON JULY 21, 2026

Attachments: [CC Minutes 07212026.pdf](#)

THIS ITEM WAS PASSED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA.

[RES-26:079](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS,

TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 218 W. FORREST, PARCEL 01-144073-27900, OWNED BY DERR LAVAUGHN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$315

Attachments: [261761_218 W FORREST INVOICE.pdf](#)
 [261761_COUNCIL NOTICE.pdf](#)
 [Billing Request 218 W Forrest 261761.docx](#)
 [ORIGINAL VIOLATION 261761 218 W FORREST.pdf](#)

THIS ITEM WAS PASSED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA.

Enactment No: R-EN-095-2026

[RES-26:080](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 413 PARKVIEW, PARCEL 01-144302-18300, OWNED BY SANDHILL PROPERTY MGT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,240

Attachments: [260721_413 PARKVIEW INVOICE - Copy.pdf](#)
 [260721_413 PARKVIEW VIOLATION LETTER.pdf](#)
 [Billing Request 260721_413 Parkview.docx](#)
 [Council Notice 260721.pdf](#)

THIS ITEM WAS PASSED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA.

Enactment No: R-EN-096-2026

[RES-26:081](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 616 E. OAK, PARCEL 01-144191-17500, OWNED BY JOYCE SCARBOUGH IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

Attachments: [262159 COUNCIL NOTICE.pdf](#)
 [262159 NOTICE OF VIOLATION.pdf](#)
 [262159_616 E OAK INVOICE.pdf](#)
 [Billing Request 616 E Oak 262159.docx](#)

THIS ITEM WAS PASSED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA.

Enactment No: R-EN-097-2026

[RES-26:082](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 704 VINE, PARCEL 01-143134-22200, OWNED BY EKPE UKO IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

Attachments: [262104 COUNCIL NOTICE.pdf](#)
 [262104 VIOLATION.pdf](#)
 [262104_704 VINE INVOICE.pdf](#)
 [Billing Request 704 VINE 262104.docx](#)

THIS ITEM WAS PASSED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA.

Enactment No: R-EN-098-2026

[RES-26:083](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS,

TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1702 W. NETTLETON, PARCEL 01-143242-00800, OWNED BY EF HOLDCO WRE ASSETS REO LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$315

Attachments: [262237 Council Notice.pdf](#)
 [262237 Violation.pdf](#)
 [262237_1702 NETTLETON INVOICE.pdf](#)
 [Billing Request 1702 W Nettleton Billing Req 262237.docx](#)

THIS ITEM WAS PASSED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA.

Enactment No: R-EN-099-2026

[RES-26:084](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5017 MT. CARMEL, PARCEL 01-133013-01500, OWNED BY KATHERINE ARTERBERRY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$465

Attachments: [261441 COUNCIL LETTER.pdf](#)
 [261441 VIOLATION.pdf](#)
 [261441_5017 MT CARMEL_INVOICE_ARTERBERRY.pdf](#)
 [Billing Request 5017 Mt. Carmel 261441.docx](#)

THIS ITEM WAS PASSED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA.

Enactment No: R-EN-100-2026

[RES-26:085](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ADOPT A REVISED EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO

Attachments: [Employee Handbook Revised July 2026.pdf](#)

THIS ITEM WAS PASSED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA.

Enactment No: R-EN-101-2026

[RES-26:086](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ACCEPT THE LOW BID AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT RL PERSONS CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR THE SOUTH CARAWAY ROAD WIDENING PROJECT - JOB NO. 2026:20

Attachments: [Contract Documents 2026 20.pdf](#)
 [Bid Tab.pdf](#)

THIS ITEM WAS PASSED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA.

Enactment No: R-EN-102-2026

6. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-26:023](#)

AN ORDINANCE REGARDING THE ABANDONMENT OF A 15' ALLEY BETWEEN 1810 HENRY STREET AND 1812 HENRY STREET AS REQUESTED BY DAVID

CLIFFT

Attachments: [Opinion Letter](#)
 [Abandonment Plat](#)
 [AT&T](#)
 [CWL](#)
 [Optimum](#)
 [Ritter](#)
 [Summit](#)
 [Publication Receipt](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-26:023 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

[ORD-26:024](#)

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

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-26:024 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

[ORD-26:026](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR ENCOURAGING ADVANCEMENT, INC. d/b/a BLAZING BUFFALO SPORTS GRILL, INC. TO BE LOCATED AT 3310 SOUTHWEST DRIVE, SUITE 7, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

Attachments: [Private Club Permit Application_Redacted](#)
 [Publication Receipt](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-26:026 by title only. All voted aye.

James Elywn Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest said, it may not surprise you, though, I am here to speak against this ordinance. We don't need a lot of liquor up and down Southwest Drive. Since this is just the first reading, that's all I'm going to say on it for right now. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you, Mr. Hinds.

Held at one reading

[ORD-26:027](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR MATAJI LLC d/b/a MY PLACE HOTEL JONESBORO, AR TO BE LOCATED AT 2905 GILMORE DRIVE, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

Attachments: [Application_Redacted](#)
 [Publication Receipt](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-26:027 by title only. All voted aye.

James Elywn Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, said, I'm also opposed to this one and I'll have more to say at future readings. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you for your comments.

Held at one reading

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS*ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING*[ORD-26:020](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING APPENDIX 7 OF THE STORMWATER DRAINAGE DESIGN MANUAL

Attachments: [ARR150000 Permit 2026.pdf](#)

Held at second reading

[ORD-26:022](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, ARTICLE III, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, PROVIDING FOR A CHANGE IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM C-3 GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT TO RM-12 LUO MULTI FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT WITH LIMITED USE OVERLAY FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2038 NORTH CHURCH STREET, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, AS REQUESTED BY NK & SONS INVESTMENT

Attachments: [rezoning application signed](#)
[2038 N Church Rezoning Plat](#)
[Kumar Rezoning-Certified Mail Receipts](#)
[Staff Summary RZ_26_09](#)
[rezoning information](#)
[MAPC Minutes 06.23.26](#)
[Publication Receipt](#)

Held at second reading

[ORD-26:025](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 TO C-3 LUO FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1400 SOUTHERN RIDGE BLVD. AS REQUESTED BY FISHER ARNOLD

Attachments: [Cover Letter - Rezoning](#)
[Rezone Application signed](#)
[Plat](#)
[FA Rezoning Property Owner Notification Letter](#)
[COJ Rezoning Notification](#)
[certified mail receipt](#)
[Staff Summary RZ_26](#)
[MAPC Minutes 07.14.26](#)
[Publication Receipt](#)

Held at second reading

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING[ORD-26:017](#)

AN ORDINANCE MODIFYING ORDINANCE 24:037 WHICH ESTABLISHED AND CONSOLIDATED SPECIAL TRAFFIC PATTERNS NEAR JONESBORO PUBLIC

SCHOOL CAMPUSES

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: 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

Enactment No: O-EN-023-2026

[ORD-26:019](#)

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

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

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

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

Enactment No: O-EN-024-2026

[ORD-26:021](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, ARTICLE III, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-3 TO C-3 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2911 BROWNS LANE

Attachments: [26139 -ORD-RZ.doc](#)
 [Browns Lane Rezoning.pdf](#)
 [26139 Hasley Brown39s Lane Rezone Packet.pdf](#)
 [Staff Summary RZ 26.pdf](#)
 [26139 - Halsey Brown's Lane Mail Receipts.pdf](#)
 [associated.pdf](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

Enactment No: O-EN-025-2026

ITEMS THAT HAVE BEEN HELD IN COUNCIL[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 Chris Moore asked, Mr. Mayor, was that the third reading for that? City Clerk April Leggett noted off mic, yes.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

Enactment No: O-EN-026-2026

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported on the following: So, since last City Council meeting, our Public Works crew have continued making great progress throughout the city. Over the past two weeks alone, they've repaired 75 potholes, while also completing bridge repairs, drainage improvements, street sweeping, mowing operations, and preparing additional streets for future overlays, and have been touching up paint on sidewalks and street lines around our schools.

As we're all aware, our schools will be probably in operation here in the next week and a half to two weeks. So, please take note of that community. And I appreciate the hard work that these employees put in every day to maintain the infrastructure our residents rely on. And here just recently, Council, you might not all be aware, but as of Friday afternoon and all day Monday, we did not have any air conditioning in the Municipal Building. My office was 94 degrees at 7 o'clock on Monday morning, when it was 77 outside. So, I appreciate Ronnie Shaver and his staff working tirelessly through the weekend so we were able to have a functional facility today. You don't appreciate it until it's gone. So, I appreciate those that work behind the scenes.

So, with most schools starting back in the next two weeks, I want to again remind everyone that parents, they're going to be learning school traffic patterns, students walking to and from school, and as always, the number one thing you can do to contribute to safer streets is to put down your phone and reduce distractions on the road.

Speaking of being safe, I want to thank our proud crew at the Jonesboro Fire Department for working through the heat of July, which involved responding to more than 1,000 emergency incidents. So, when you see one of our firefighters, please tell them you appreciate their service. They need our continued support. The same goes for Police, Animal Services, and 911 staff. These are all tough jobs, and they require big hearts and a love of service.

I was excited to attend the opening ceremonies of the new Best Buy on Caraway Road. Not only is it nice to see yet another business come back to Jonesboro after the 2020 tornado, but we continue to see reinvestment in the core part of Jonesboro. And many of the employees, some of which were employed by the store six years ago, and now we're seeing revitalization of parents working there along with their children in our community, so it's kind of neat to see.

This Thursday at 6 p.m., Keep Jonesboro Beautiful is hosting a planned Jonesboro public input session. This is a great opportunity to make sure your voice is included on how we shape Jonesboro's future from both an infrastructure and a visual appearance. Thank you to Beverly Parker and the whole Keep Jonesboro Beautiful team for hosting this event. Again, 6 p.m. this coming Thursday at Lost Pizza.

Next week, there are several very important events that we should all be proud of and excited to see coming to realization. August 11th will be a very, very busy day in the city of Jonesboro. Starting the festivities will be a groundbreaking of the new Arkansas State University Crest Center, which, by the way, we are postponing that, I believe. And so we'll move on then to the 9:30 a.m., the newest industrial partner InnovAsian will hold their groundbreaking. Then we're also going to move to Arkansas State University at 11 a.m. for the brand new College of Veterinary Medicine opening up as well. Then later that day at 4:30 p.m., ARDOT will be hosting a public input meeting at Allen Park regarding the future direct connector route to Osceola. Council, there will also be a public officials input session from 3-4 p.m. that afternoon.

[COM-26:041](#)

JUNE 2026 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Attachments: [June 2026 Financials.pdf](#)

Filed

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember John Street said, August is National Shooting Sports Month, so get your trap gun and go out and exercise at the range. Give them some business. Mayor Copenhagen said, all right, thank you councilman. Jim, we also did have some shooting sports individuals go to the world, didn't we, competition? (Off camera and mic, Parks and Recreation Director Jim Stearns said, we did, yes, sir.) Okay. I think they were successful somewhat. (Mr. Stearns continued, they had 25 shooters that brought home 41 awards.) That's awesome. That's awesome. Okay, thank you.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said, yeah, just one thing real quick. The Mayor has asked me to call a special meeting of the Finance Committee, and I think he wants the Public Safety Committee there also for Thursday at 4:00 p.m. to just have a public discussion about the Shelter building, Shelter Insurance building. No votes or anything will be taken. There will just be discussion. So I guess I'll be sending you an e-mail April. City Clerk April Leggett replied, okay. Councilmember Hafner continued, okay, thank you. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you, Councilman. Councilmember Hafner said, yeah, this Thursday. Mayor Copenhagen asked, this Thursday, correct? Councilmember Hafner replied, yes.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, yes, I just want to reiterate school starting back soon, and I appreciate that, Mayor. I'm excited that I'm a new teacher here in Jonesboro, actually. So they pulled me from retirement, so I'm grateful for that. I will

be teaching math at Nettleton, so I need all the prayers you can send. But, yeah, so I just want to thank all the teachers and administrative staff. It's so many things and so many people involved with educating our children, and so I want to appreciate all of them and just praise for a great year, this coming year, thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS**11. ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

_____ **Date:** _____

Harold Copenhaver, Mayor

Attest:

_____ **Date:** _____

April Leggett, City Clerk