



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Agenda Public Services Council Committee

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

4:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL (ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE) CONFIRMED BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[MIN-24:081](#) MINUTES FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICES COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING ON AUGUST 20, 2024

Attachments: [PServ Minutes 08202024](#)

[MIN-24:095](#) Minutes for the Special Called Public Services Committee meeting on October 10, 2024

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

4. NEW BUSINESS

5. PENDING ITEMS

6. OTHER BUSINESS

[COM-24:040](#) MONTHLY UPDATE FROM JETS

Sponsors: JETS

[COM-24:041](#) MONTHLY UPDATE FROM PARKS & RECREATION

Sponsors: Parks & Recreation

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

8. ADJOURNMENT



City of Jonesboro

300 S. Church Street
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Text File

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MINUTES FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICES COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING ON AUGUST
20, 2024



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Public Services Council Committee

Tuesday, August 20, 2024

4:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL (ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE) CONFIRMED BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

Present 7 - Chris Gibson; Joe Hafner; Ann Williams; Brian Emison; LJ Bryant; Anthony Coleman and Janice Porter

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[MIN-24:059](#)

Minutes for the Public Services Council Committee Meeting on Tuesday, June 18, 2024

Attachments: [Public Services Minutes 06.18.2024](#)

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

Aye: 6 - Joe Hafner; Ann Williams; Brian Emison; LJ Bryant; Anthony Coleman and Janice Porter

4. NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

[RES-24:090](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION AND ACCEPT THE FY21 BUSES AND BUS FACILITIES GRANT

Attachments: [AwardLetter AR-2024-019-00](#)

Chairman Chris Gibson said, Lee do you want to hit on this a little bit for us? JETS Director Lee Wells approached the podium and said, I believe this is just the 5339 bus shelters. I had to remind myself, I'm sorry. This is the bus shelter grant that we're trying to get finalized. We have already finalized it and worked it through, but then it got hung up and some things. Then the vendor actually went out of business, so we had to, basically, start over from the beginning on this because of all of that. This is the same bus shelter grant that we had had previously. Just trying to get everything to the point that we can put it out for bid, in order for us to move forward on this project.

A motion was made by Brian Emison, seconded by Ann Williams, that this matter be Recommended to Council. The motion PASSED with the following

vote.

Aye: 6 - Joe Hafner;Ann Williams;Brian Emison;LJ Bryant;Anthony Coleman and Janice Porter

5. PENDING ITEMS

6. OTHER BUSINESS

[COM-24:029](#)

MONTHLY JETS UPDATE

Attachments: [Jets 20240624 122525](#)
[JETS Powerpoint 08202024 Public Services](#)

JETS Director Lee Wells and JETS Marketing Coordinator Shelly Anderson approached the podium. Director Lee Wells said, we just have this little presentation that we wanted to bring to you guys. This is actually something that we have done to some of the community events, and we just wanted to bring this to y'all's attention and kind of go through this presentation with y'all. So of course, you know, with JETS, we've been around since 2006. We are offering fixed routes, paratransit service, and then our Red Wolf express, which we do for the football games. So, one of the reasons we do this is to benefit the community, of course, you know we're community driven. This is the whole point of our public transit service. We are, of course, economical for everyone. The transit system also creates an environment friendly atmosphere. This keeps people from having to drive, cuts down on those carbon emissions and pollutants. Also easy to use with 139 stops that we have all over town. We do have our routes currently circling about once every hour. And then, this is an equalizer allowing everyone to kind of participate in the transit, doesn't matter who you are this public transit is for everyone. It is community driven. We are active at a lot of different events. Things such as Touch a Truck, Stuff the Bus, we are also supportive and helpful to our non-profits and civic groups like Project Search and the Mayor's Youth Advancement Council. We also support local business through close and convenient bus stops for them. That would be for both customers and their employees to be able to get to and from work. And then we also do keep our ticket prices extremely low and offer promotions whenever applicable.

We do have three lines currently. Our red line, our blue line, and our green line. Our red line, of course, is going to go out towards the post office on Caraway, Walmart, Caraway Plaza, The Links, Wolf Creek Apartments, which we do get a lot of students over in that area, and then the Department of Human Services. Our blue line is going to go out towards Bill's Fresh Market on Johnson, The Municipal Center here, St. Bernard's, the City Pool, and also The Villas. Then our green line goes out to Days Inn, Race Street Market, Caraway Plaza, NEA Baptist, and then also Arkansas State Campus.

Councilmember Ann Williams said, I just want to ask a question as far as if you can fill us in. I know we did have five routes, but during covid it was cut back to three routes. Director Lee Wells said, yes. Councilmember Ann Williams said, and that has made a difference, I assume, in the service in the number of stops, and the capability, as far as providing a lot of service to people. I mean it's cut back on some of the service. Can you elaborate on that? What effect that's had? And then, are we not also working to get back to five routes? Director Lee Wells said, we are. I've actually have got that on one of our bullet points on that to bring that up. We have obviously cut back after covid with reducing our routes. We are going to the fourth route in October, and then we hope to add more additional routes even more

abundant than what we had before in 2025. Councilmember Ann Williams said, cutting back to three routes, obviously, cut back on ridership, I would assume, because there's not the extent of service that was with five routes. Director Lee Wells said, we have actually increased in ridership a little bit and I do have a slide for that as well.

Director Lee Wells said, you can see here our Transfer Center which is conveniently located there in the center of town. It gives the riders a safe location to be able to come as a hub to get on the bus. And, we also have a partnership with Greyhound to where Greyhound is actually able to utilize our Transfer Center. So those that are coming from out of town or those that are in town and traveling out of town, they have a nice location for them to be able to get on the Greyhound bus and travel. We do operate all of our routes, including our paratransit, Monday through Friday from 5am to 7pm and then Saturday from 9am to 4pm. And that entire schedule, not only do we have those routes running, but we also offer that complete paratransit service as well.

Our ticket prices, we have located on the website, but you can see them here. Our standard fare is \$1.25. We do offer a rate for college students, those over 18, is a 90-cent rate. And then we have a discounted price for a number of those, whether they be a senior adult, disabled, Medicare, or youth, like high school or younger age student at 60-cent. And then our paratransit rate is \$2.50. Those are all for a one way. We do also offer passes for anyone to participate. We offer those passes in a one day, seven day and a thirty-day pass. Those also have a discounted price as well.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, question. This is great. But they can only purchase those here, correct? Director Lee Wells said, currently, yes sir. They can only purchase them at the Collections Office here at the Municipal Building, yes sir. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, do you ever consider doing that at the Transfer Center? Director Lee Wells said, it is definitely something we've thought about. Not only doing it at the Transfer Center, but as we've talked about some of the upgrades that we're making, specifically our software upgrade, this is going to allow us to be able to have some access to digital ticketing. Which will allow those to be able to go online to purchase their ticket and use that digital fare. That way they can actually link an account to it, maybe have a way to bring in, this is just a hypothetical future possibility, go to a convenient location, whether it be a Walmart or something, and actually load money onto their account that they can then use for a bus fare pass. So that's one of the steps we're looking for in the future.

Director Lee Wells said, we do have some promos that we run. Specials. One of the things that we've done for a long time is the youth pass. It's a \$10 pass all summer long, that runs for kids six to eighteen, anyone under the age of six, of course, rides for free, but that's from anywhere between the age of six to eighteen from Memorial Day through Labor Day. They can actually get a pass for \$10, and they can use that pass anytime during the summer when school is out. We are also happy to announce, this year with our Red Wolves Express, that we will be offering a season pass. So again, the Red Wolves Express does transport those that are wanting to go to the game, from downtown here at Kate and Church parking lot, that's a free parking area, we will pick up there and we will take them straight to the stadium, drop them off right there at the entrance. And that fare is standardly just our regular price, but we are offering a season pass this year, in order for you to be able to go to all the games, you can actually get that season pass for \$10 and anytime you want to go to a game you can jump on our bus and ride over there. We are also going to offer \$5 for the employees here and also for the students on campus, to allow them to be able to get a discounted price on that season pass. I may be jumping ahead but with Red

Wolves Express we're happy to announce we're doing some expansions on that as well.

Here you can see one of the slides with our ridership. We pulled together the ridership from the second quarter, which we just finished up, of this year compared to last year. We're actually up 30% from that year and this is something that is going to continue to grow. Now this is a combination of both fixed route and paratransit, so when we pull that ridership, this is just an aggregated total amount of riders. But as you can see, there are more people this year using the bus than what there was last year. And then, we also have on the next slide, our revenue you can see that increase of ridership has also brought more coming in, because we're having, obviously, more ticketing and then also more passes being sold. It has also increased 33% from this time last year.

So, our future plans, of course, like I mentioned, we are going to be adding that fourth route, come this October. We're super excited about this. This is obviously going to decrease wait time for a lot of those customers that are using our service, and hopefully increase the drive for those that don't use it to use it. Our goal is, of course, to make this the most convenient community form of transportation, and this is our first step is going to the four routes. So that four routes are going to decrease that wait time, and it's also going to allow for a few extra stops. That some of the stops that we have suspended, be it that they're on the wrong side of the road for the way we're going now, that's going to open up a few more for that access. So, it just gives a little more convenience for those that are needing to ride the bus. We also have, like we just talked about, the updated shelters. We are going to be refurbishing our current shelters. We're also looking to add 20 new shelters with this grant. So, with the grant that we're doing and upgrading what we have, and also adding these new, we also have intentions to go and do just some general upgrade and upkeep on these shelters that maybe the grant isn't touching, so that way we can continue to keep that good appearance and presence for our stops. We do have our staff going out and working on those to be able to maintain them and clean them up all the time. We're also looking at safety upgrades with lights and things like that, and then also digital displays.

Again, with our updated software, that's going to allow us to connect that to where there can be a display in the stop that actually tells you, next bus arriving in such and such time. This also gives an opportunity for us to put out community messages, maybe we want to advertise that the BBQ Fest is coming or maybe we just want to put out some kind of notification about the warming shelters in the winter or cooling shelters in the summer. You know, this is a lot of opportunity that these things will give us. We also do have some partnership we're working on with A State. Arkansas State University is hoping that we can get a dedicated route specifically for the campus. What our hope is, is to have one route that actually goes just on campus with a connector coming from out of campus taking it on to the rest of the city from there. That will provide more availability for those students and staff that are on campus to get from one side of campus to the other without having to walk however many miles it is from one to the other. We're also hoping to grow our ridership, both in fixed route and in paratransit, and then also with our Red Wolves Express. One of the things that we are working to do, for example, is to branch out to more than just the football games. We have actually spoken with Arkansas State, and we are going to attempt to do a few basketball games this year to see kind of how the drive is for that and then also see how we can work that into our schedule to be able to bring that accommodation to those in the community. And I know you keep hearing me say community driven, that's a big key for me. That's one of the things that I strive, I want to make sure we're going is we want to continue to do that. We want to reach out to those that are out in the community. We want to do different things to bring

awareness to who we are and what we do. To educate about the system. To know how to use the system. And with the education, it's not only about letting them know how to get on and ride but also with our paratransit service. There's a lot of education involved with that, because there is a process. Our paratransit is part of our transit, but it requires a certification. There is an application that has to be filled out and then turned in that gets reviewed, so there is a lot of education that comes with that to be sure that every one's aware of how that works. And then, just sharing this information with various groups. We've actually had two meetings with Arkansas State University this month to build on some of these plans I talked about, and we've actually had two Civic organizations presentations that we've done. And with that, last week alone, I just wanted to brag on my staff and also the popularity, is we've actually added 15 new riders, just last week, to our paratransit program. And again, just to highlight that, it's not just 15 new people that are wanting to ride, but they had to go through that entire application process. Both from an individual fill out and then a medical professional completes a portion, and then have that reviewed. So, that's a big thing for us to get the word out on that paratransit program.

Councilmember Ann Williams said, Lee, could you share, like you did at the Finance Committee, about the new paratransit buses? The good aspect of that as far as the number that can be taken. Director Lee Wells said, yes. So, just as an example with these 15 new riders that we're adding. With our paratransit service, most of that is a door to door or curb to curb service, so it's not like we're taking them to a broad location and just unloading everyone. We're actually taking them to their destination. If they're wanting to go to Walmart to buy groceries, we're taking them to the door at Walmart. If they're going to the doctor's office for an appointment, we're taking them directly to the door at that doctor's appointment. And then when we return them home, we're taking them directly to their house. It's not like we're stopping three blocks away. So, one thing with these new vehicles that we're looking at, is these vehicles will allow more seating. With our service that we have now, we're only able to carry one or two people on a vehicle at a time. That makes scheduling very difficult sometimes. I am very proud of my team, on the way they work on getting everything scheduled, that we have not had to deny any trips. We are always able to make that work, but with the growth that we're gaining, we're getting close to the point where we may have to tell someone, I can't get you today. Unfortunately, I can't take you to Walmart, because I don't have a vehicle to be able to get you there. So, adding these vehicles with the more seating, you're able to get three, four, maybe five passengers and take all of them as a group. They may not all be going to the same location, but they're going close enough that we can make that route drop them off to be able to accommodate. Councilmember Ann Williams said, how many will each one carry? I thought I heard eight. Director Lee Wells said, it's eight passengers with seats, seatbelts and everything, and then they will hold two wheelchairs as well. Now a lot of those vehicles, whenever you have to add a wheelchair, that may mean one of the seats, is what you would call a jump seat, they may fold up, so by adding a wheelchair you may decrease the amount of actual seats that you have. But having these larger vehicles are definitely going to be a benefit for us.

And I did forget to mention the trolleys, which I know we've all talked about a number of times. Obviously, the trolleys are still coming the end of this year. We're hoping to have them in October. I still have not gotten a definitive date yet from the manufacturer. I did speak with them at the end of last week, and we do have the first trolley online. Unfortunately, to be completely transparent, there was a slight delay on ours by a week or two. However, that week or two delay on getting them online, allowed them to get ahead in some of the other areas. I believe I'd mentioned last time how the side walls are not built on the line, they're built separately then taken to the line and added to the frame. So, they were able to get some of the side walls completed, but they just weren't able to get our chassis onto the production line as

quick as they had thought they would. I should hope to hear something this week, next week at the latest, on definitive dates on when they are expecting to have those completed. And I also did confirm, with them when I spoke to them, that they are wanting to deliver as they come off of the line. They're not going to hold all five of them and set them up in Wisconsin and wait for them to get done. They're going to send to us whenever they are done.

I know I've mentioned a few times we do have a great team at JETS. We've got a little slide here, of course myself. We have Rachel Cook, which is a great get that we got from out of town. She came to us from another transit agency in Kansas, and we're excited to have her with us as the Transit Field Supervisor. We have Devoe Bilbrey as our Operations and Safety Supervisor. He has worked his way up in department to be able to be in that. Logan Gramling, he actually single-handedly takes care of all of our paratransit, so he is a great individual for us to have on team. He does a fantastic job, not only with keeping the schedule working, communicating with the customers, but also, he's been working with Mrs. Shelly on some outreach and education on the program. Which you can see is working. Then of course, we have Shelly Anderson who is our Marketing Coordinator in our office as well.

Then the last thing I wanted to do, is I wanted to invite anyone, all of you, of course, are welcome at any time. Feel free to reach out to us. We would love to have you out at our office, which is out on Lacy Drive, 2630, or to visit our Transfer Center, which is on the corner of Caraway and Matthews. But if anyone is interested in ever meeting with us, we would love to have you. Sit down with you, talk about anything you want to talk about, answer questions, but more importantly I'd love for y'all to come out and see our office, to see our fleet, and to see what we do. That way you can kind of help understand how our processes work. Oh yes and take a ride. If anyone's interested in riding, I highly recommend that, and if there is, for some reason, that you aren't familiar with where the stops are or how that process works just holler at us. We'll get you on a bus, we'll figure out where it's at, and we'll ride it and that way you can see firsthand how the service works. And of course, if anyone has any questions, we just want to thank you so much so feel free to reach out, to myself or Shelly with any questions or anything we can do to help out.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, you were talking about the shelters and the stops just for a moment. Do you know, average, how many stops we have? Director Lee Wells said, we have 139. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, without shelters? Director Lee Wells said, off the top of my head, I don't know for sure on that number. I can definitely find that number for you. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, yeah, I just wanted to know, because you have the grant coming and just see how many that will actually cover. How many shelters? Director Lee Wells said, yes sir. I do actually have a document that has all of the sheltered stops that I can send you, so that way, not only would you know the number, but you would also see the location. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, sure. Director Lee Wells said, but I just don't have that number off the top of my head just to say what it is. But we are, I like mentioned, excited because we're going to be able to add 20 new shelters by doing this shelter grant.

Councilmember LJ Bryant said, I think I missed it. Did we talk about sponsorships and where we are on that kind of thing? Director Lee Wells said, can you define that for me? Sorry. Councilmember LJ Bryant said, bus sponsorships, side of the bus kind of thing. I mean, I know I saw in there, we did have some sponsorship specifically for certain programs, but I was thinking more along the line of advertising. Director Lee Wells said, advertising, yes. So, we are working on that. We do actually have kind of a plan in act, but one of the biggest things that we have to do is to get our shelters and our buses to the point that we can start that program. We are

working on updating our fleet, and then also updating our shelters in order to add that. But more importantly, let me let Shelly tell you about that, because she's the one that actually ring leads all of that. JETS Marketing Coordinator Shelly Anderson approached the podium and said, it's a really good question. Thank you so much. We have actually already put together the marketing collateral needed in order to sell sponsorships, aka advertising. The issue is right now our bus shelters are not in the best condition, so it's a little embarrassing to ask people to put money into that. Our plan is to get everything looking great and tidied up, and then I will be happy to get out in the community and present those marketing collateral packets. We actually already have a list of several people that are interested when it's time, so we're set to go.

Councilmember Brian Emison said, well great minds think alike, because that was actually my question LJ. Whenever I saw smart shelters, and just being able to load those on the screens. We were talking about advertising for the Downtown BBQ Festival, I was thinking about businesses and the way we could have some other revenue arms there. I'm glad to hear that y'all are already moving in that direction.

Councilmember Ann Williams said, you said about a fourth route, and what will that entail? Director Lee Wells said, let me show you here. I've got that on my slide. I know this is kind of hard to see, but the slide right behind you has a map. On that map you'll see that we have the three routes, which is currently what we do, red, blue, and green. So, with the green route, you can see that it is a very large route. It covers a lot of mileage. By adding this fourth route, what we are doing, is we're separating that down into two separate routes, but also allowing us to go to more locations in the center of town. So those areas that are heavily trafficked, Walmart, the Post Office, Caraway, those areas right in there, which are the most popular locations, will actually get additional stops. It may not be the same bus, but you'll have more opportunity for catching a bus to get somewhere. But also decreasing that wait time for those in those areas. Currently our red line and our blue line, they are our most efficient line that we have. Anyone that's ever tried to drive up Hilltop knows exactly what I'm talking about because that's where that route goes. Green line not only goes out towards the industrial park but also up to Hilltop, which does cause a lot of delays sometimes. So, separating that into two multiple routes is going to decrease the wait time for them as well.

Councilmember Ann Williams said, I know Mr. Street mentioned recently, this is a demographic that I was not aware of, that there are some older residents that will park their car near a bus stop and take the bus, because they don't want to drive on Red Wolf Boulevard to go shopping. Have you noticed an increase, or have you noticed that demographic? That's something I have not thought of, but I think it's great. It's wonderful. Director Lee Wells said, we do have some that are like that. We do have a stop at, for example, Turtle Creek Mall, we have a stop at the Walmart campus over on Highland, we have a stop at the Neighborhood Walmart, we have a couple of stops there on Caraway. So, you know, some of those actually, they will use the system, and like you said, they may come in and go to that location. We also have some that come from out of town. I know for example, out towards Philadelphia up 141, we'll have some they actually come in or walk or hike into Thomas Greene Road, and then they'll get on the bus there and ride into town and do all of their shopping and then we'll take them back out there and then they traverse back out to their homes not too far from there. That's just one example of the different ways people can utilize our system. Councilmember Ann Williams said, I thought that was interesting that older drivers would prefer to take the public transit rather than drive. And I understand that, I think it's great.

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[COM-24:030](#)

MONTHLY UPDATE FROM PARKS AND RECREATION

Parks and Recreation Department Director Danny Kapales approached the podium and said, first off JETS has been a great partner, so I really appreciate them. We did do an event earlier this month with Project Search and they helped transport us around. One of things we did get to see with that drive around was we took a lot of the young people out to the playgrounds and one of them was in a wheelchair, and we had been told all along that the children that are in a wheelchair would actually be able to go across our playground mulch that's out there. It was accessible. But it's not accessible if you're a young person in a wheelchair. If you're a young adult that may have some weight on you that could not. This person actually, as soon as they hit that mulch, they started sinking in and was not able to utilize the playground. So, one of the things we learned from that was we have to do better. We have to figure out how to make sure everybody can get out on our playgrounds. And I know within our Master Parks Plan, that's one of the things that it has said. That we need to make sure that we move beyond the mulch and move to a playground surfacing that wheelchairs are accessible throughout the playground. That's something we'll be looking at and be presenting as we move forward over the next few years. But they've been a great help with getting folks out to some of the conferences that have happened over the summertime. They went out to the Shooting Range. They went out to Craighead Forrest Park, and JETS have gotten those folks out there from Embassy and other locations in town to be able to enjoy those excursions to the parks. So, it's been a great activity between us all.

I'll be quick on the numbers. So basically, we come out of the summer events, which were basketball, and we had a little over 800 kids in that program. We finished up this past month with basketball tournament. Seem like we had pretty well finished with most kids still involved. I mean, obviously, you always lose a few but we finished with most of them involved. Currently, registration is tackle football. We've got about 139 and we're expecting to get about another 100 registered. We've got 10 days left for that registration.

Flag football we've got a little over 200 with a month left on registration for it. This Sunday if you want to go out and see some kids practice with the Grizzlies, they'll be there from 2:00 to 3:30 at Parker Park. We've got the Memphis Grizzlies putting on a camp at Parker Park. We are the biggest camp that they have in Arkansas. They actually added another 25 spots, because ours filled up so quickly. They're hosting camps in other parts of Arkansas, like around Little Rock, and we filled up the quickest and so they added space.

Shooting Range, so I don't want to take too much away because I know we got some stuff to talk about with the Shooting Range later, but Game and Fish had a youth shooting sports training for their coaches. Had 12 coaches there for that training. This Friday we have two handgun classes for the ladies to come out and train, so if you're looking for a place to get some training. It's basic handgun training. Saturday, shotgun training, it's going on, that's for everyone. Basic training. We have registration for both of those online. It's with the Game and Fish, but we have them at our Facebook page, you can find that.

Softball, we have 400 kids registered for our youth softball this fall. That's up 300 kids over last fall, so the numbers are starting to increase, we're getting more people involved. We changed the program a little bit where we're going to have a recreational program and a travel program. So, we saw a lot of travel teams starting to come back and getting involved in the program, because they know they'll be able to compete against kids on their same level. The recreational kids get to play in games that are more competitive for them and a little more parable play. We also have a tournament this weekend, United Way, with 23 teams, out at Southside. So,

it's another opportunity to get out and go see some teams playing. Adult registration is open right now.

Soccer, we have 1,150-ish kids signed up for soccer. That is about flat from last fall. Really that's about what we can take for the fall season with all the other programs we've got going on. One interesting part is, 580 of those kids are between the ages of four and seven, so 50% of it is the little bitty guys out there running around on the fields. We do have the Riceland Roods Harvest Cup tournament, September 14th and 15th, we're expecting a little over 60 teams. One of the things we've done with our soccer tournaments is we have Mike Knowles that use to host tournaments over in Memphis at the Mirco Stadium. He is helping us host tournaments, reaching out, bringing teams into Jonesboro, going to be on site. That has helped tremendously with making connections, getting people wanting to come to Jonesboro. And so, just finding ways, avenues, to make connections. Other events, volleyball, we've got registration ending on September 15th on that. That's our youth volleyball program. Then we have elementary basketball, we'll start registration mid-September.

The pools, we will be shutting down the pools the Monday after Labor Day. That will be the end of both the pools. Right now, we're currently looking at, with the number of lifeguards we have, we're transitioning down to just keeping Parker Park open. That is the easiest pool for us to get people in and out of, and easier for us to watch over and maintain right now. Depending on the number of kids we can get, obviously we work with a lot of high school kids and college kids, as far as being lifeguards. So, getting them out on a Saturday and Sunday after going back to school is really tough. So, it really depends on numbers, if we can get all of them out on a Saturday, we'll have both open. But we're really looking at Parker Park being open on Saturday and Sunday right now. We do have a big swim meet coming up. I believe it's a USA swim meet. We're looking at teams, participants, coming in from multiple states. The Jets is hosting that event on September 13th – 15th, so it will be a Friday, Saturday and Sunday swim meet. I actually think it's one of the first swim meets we've done that's actually a three day event. It should keep the pool pretty active at that point.

And then just looking forward to September, I know there's a lot more events than just this, but these things kind of hit me right away. We have Local Fest that's going to be downtown that we have to work on. We also have BBQ Fest, and the week that we have BBQ Fest we'll have ARPA, which is Arkansas Recreation Parks Association. So, we'll start that on Tuesday night. We'll go from Tuesday until 1:00pm Friday with the conference. We have Dave Caring happening on Friday, which will encompass a lot of our park activities and BBQ Fest starts that Friday night. So, it's just a constant, and we don't stop any of the sports programs for those events to happen. We just pile those on top of what we're already doing. So, September is going to be pretty busy for all of us.

When you look at projects, I'll be real quick on those. Dog park opening, if you haven't had a chance to see the one at Parkview, it's a really nice dog park. Really, really big, shaded, plenty of room for your dog to run. You can go sit at the picnic table and relax and watch. Every time I've been out there, there's been someone out there enjoying that park.

Field 10 is about 50% complete, at Southside. That was a field that was off set away from the other fields. We turned it around. It's going to be our premier championship field when it's done. It's got LED lights, it's going to have up lighting, new concrete, new fencing. It's going to have the backstops that are not fence backstops it's actually going to have the tension netting, so you actually sit back there you can see through it. It's really, really nice. Like what you see more at the colleges and high school level. So, it's going to be a really, really nice field for people to be on. So

hopefully within the next 45 days, that will be a completed field.

Sod work, we've done a ton of sod work out at Joe Mack. One of our fields had to be completely re-sodded. A lot of them just patch work. Problem with that is now, we went through that process of babying the sod through the summer months, that's watering a whole lot, fertilizing, just keeping up with it. So, it's been a project for the guys out there.

Then our youth mountain bike team, The Ridge Riders, has spent multiple days out at the Craighead Forrest helping the crew clean and maintain the trail system, but they've been a great crew. I think they'll be out there three days next week, right at the end of school day, they'll come, and they'll help work on the trail. It's been a great partnership with just any high school kids involved with a project they really love. So, it's been good for them.

And then out at the Shooting Range, a little bit back to them, Tracy out there has just done phenomenal job of just planting trees, landscaping. If you have not had a chance of going out there and seeing what he has done. He's doing things that, you know, let's say, a project that was started before some of us were in charge of what's going on and still not completed yet. It was a project that was not fully funded when it got started and it needs to be completed. But he's in the process of getting things done right in the budget that we have, and he has made it look good for when you pull into that park, at this moment. Hopefully we can get finished with it and make that park what it's supposed to be.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, the youth program, the one that does the, is it Rough Riders? Director Danny Kapales said, Ridge Riders. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, Ridge Riders. So, are they getting volunteer hours for that? Director Danny Kapales said, I believe so. I believe it's going toward their school hours. Yes sir.

Read

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 6 - Joe Hafner; Ann Williams; Brian Emison; LJ Bryant; Anthony Coleman and Janice Porter



City of Jonesboro

300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Text File

File Number: MIN-24:095

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Minutes for the Special Called Public Services Committee meeting on October 10, 2024



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Public Services Council Committee

Thursday, October 10, 2024

5:00 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL (ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE) CONFIRMED BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

Present 7 - Chris Gibson; Joe Hafner; Ann Williams; Brian Emison; LJ Bryant; Anthony Coleman and Janice Porter

3. NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

[RES-24:142](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, HERITAGE, AND TOURISM AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR TO ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS

Sponsors: Parks & Recreation and Grants

Attachments: [LWCF Contract Page 1](#)
[LWCF Contract Page 2](#)
[Northeast Park CONCEPT-PLAN](#)
[PLN-2167 Cornerstone United Methodist Church Addition Replat of Lot 3A](#)

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, yes sir I have a question for, I don't know Brain or Danny or Jeremy I'm sorry. The \$1,000,000 match, is \$1,100,000 course, where is that coming from, just general funds because I don't know if I see that? And if I'm overlooking it, forgive me. Grants Department Director Jeremy Biggs approached the podium and said, this match \$1,000,000 match was approved two years ago by City Council, so Steve might be the better person to answer that question moving forward in 2025 than me. But it was previously approved to provide that match for this grant application. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, sure, my question was where is it coming from? I understand it was approved. Grants Department Director Jeremy Biggs said, right. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, so I was just wondering where it was coming from, I'm just asking. Grants Department Director Jeremy Biggs said, I do not have that answer. Finance Department Director Steve Purtee approached the podium and said, that's a real good question. It will be appropriated, most likely, relative to the award that Jeremy referenced earlier, and those funds would come out of the general fund. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said thank you. Chairman Chris Gibson said, any other questions? Councilmember

Joe Hafner said, I was just thinking, they'll probably come out of general funds, but they'd be budgeted the Capital Improvement Fund. Just like any other budget year. Now, I think this is a great thing, trying to get a park on that part of town is going to be huge. Chairman Chris Gibson said, we've been looking at this how many years now? Several. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, to have a University Heights bike trail and all that tie into the park, it's going to be neat. Grants Department Director Jeremy Biggs said, we originally applied in 2022. And then, it's been a long process because we couldn't get any agreements in place with the property owners. And no progress was made towards that, so then we had got back in line for the same 2022 funding, but they gave us a firm deadline of September 30, 2024, or we would be thrown out completely. So, we really started to get the ball rolling earlier this year, we have been working on this since January with both of the property owners trying to move it forward. But then when you work with the State of Arkansas, then you work with the Federal Government, and you're working with Local Government it's a lot of moving pieces, but everybody's come to the table an agreeable to move forward on this project, and National Park is satisfied and excited to get it going as well. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, I think Mr. Gibson was referring to how long have we tried to get a park on that part of town? Chairman Chris Gibson said, yeah, it's been close to a decade for that. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, well I definitely appreciate it. I mean, it's in my ward so I thank you I appreciate that. Grants Department Director Jeremy Biggs said, yes sir, and Danny excited because it fits right into the Master Park Plans recommendations as absent neighborhood park space in that area of town, so that's a priority coming out of that Master Park Plan, it fits into our Social Determinants of Health Plan of being able to put a fully accessible adventure playground in. Every other amenity in the park will be fully accessible. So, we're really taken those two plans that council approved to pay for and go into contract with half, and it accepted both those plans. So, we are trying to utilize those plans as they were written. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, thanks for all your work on that. Chairman Chris Gibson said, appreciate you.

A motion was made by Joe Hafner, seconded by Anthony Coleman, that this matter be Recommended to Council. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 6 - Joe Hafner;Ann Williams;Brian Emison;LJ Bryant;Anthony Coleman and Janice Porter

[RES-24:143](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO ACQUIRE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1700 DISCIPLE DRIVE FROM THE PROPERTY OWNER, CORNERSTONE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sponsors: Parks & Recreation and Grants

Attachments: [LWCF Contract Page 1](#)
[LWCF Contract Page 2](#)
[Northeast Park CONCEPT-PLAN](#)
[PLN-2167 Cornerstone United Methodist Church Addition Replat of Lot 3A](#)
[Cornerstone Real Estate Contract](#)

A motion was made by Joe Hafner, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 6 - Joe Hafner;Ann Williams;Brian Emison;LJ Bryant;Anthony Coleman and Janice Porter

Chairman Chris Gibson said, having no more business I just want to make one statement before I entertain a motion to adjourn. We will cancel the Public Services meeting for Tuesday night for lack of agenda items. I don't believe there's anything else on the agenda that needs to be tended to. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, will these two items will be on next week's agenda? City Clerk April Leggett said, they would have to be walked on. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, should we have said that in our motion? City Clerk April Leggett said, I can make a note of it now. Chairman Chris Gibson said, so I will walk these on next Tuesday night. Grants Department Director Jeremy Biggs approached the podium and said, from the Grants Department side, it would be appreciated if you want to walk it on for next Tuesday night, instead of delaying that for another two weeks. So that way we can have the official authority to move forward with closing on the property purchase. So, we can get that going, because until we get that closed, we can't get under contract for any endangered species studies, cultural resource studies, and other NEPA requirements from National Parks Service. But its totally up to the chair. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, I just wanted to make sure we didn't have to say that in our motion that it was going to be walked on. Since I know sometimes, we do that when we have a meeting the day of the council. Chairman Chris Gibson said, just for clarity why don't I entertain a motion to walk both of these items on and let's vote on that. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, do we need to make a motion to reconsider each of them.

Councilmember Joe Hafner motioned, seconded by Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman, to reconsider and walk on RES-24:142: and RES-24:143. All voted Aye.

Councilmember Joe Hafner motioned, seconded by Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman to Recommend to Council and walk onto the next City Council meeting, RES-24:142. All voted Aye.

Councilmember Joe Hafner motioned, seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison, to Recommend to Council and walk onto the next City Council meeting, RES-24:143. All voted Aye.

4. ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 6 - Joe Hafner;Ann Williams;Brian Emison;LJ Bryant;Anthony Coleman and Janice Porter



City of Jonesboro

300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

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MONTHLY UPDATE FROM JETS



City of Jonesboro

300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Text File

File Number: COM-24:041

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MONTHLY UPDATE FROM PARKS & RECREATION