



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

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;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent 1 - Janice Porter

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

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

Absent: 1 - Janice Porter

[MIN-24:110](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON DECEMBER 5, 2024

Attachments: [CC Minutes 12052024.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-24:165](#)

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE FY2025 REBUILDING AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE WITH SUSTAINABILITY AND EQUITY (RAISE) GRANT

Attachments: [FY2025 RAISE Grant MOU.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-155-2024

[RES-24:166](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO GRANT A UTILITY EASEMENT TO CITY WATER AND LIGHT OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

Attachments: [Exhibit B.pdf](#)
 [Utility Easement.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-156-2024

[RES-24:167](#)

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

Attachments: [2024 Handbook Final Draft 12092024.docx](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-157-2024

[RES-24:168](#)

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, JOURNEY CHURCH

Attachments: [Journey Church Real Estate Contract.pdf](#)
 [MOU with Journey Church_revA.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-158-2024

[RES-24:169](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND AUTHORIZE A CONTRACT WITH PARETO CAPTIVE OF TENNESSEE, LLC AND BLUE ADVANTAGE ADMINISTRATORS OF ARKANSAS TO PROVIDE MEDICAL INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR CITY EMPLOYEES FOR 2025

Attachments: [Legend Implementation Package.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-159-2024

RESOLUTIONS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

[RES-24:154](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 100 West Washington Avenue, Jonesboro, AR 72401; Parcel# 01-144183-42300

Attachments: [100 W Washington Precondemnation Notice Returned Signed Sig Card Hans](#)
[100 W Washington Map](#)
[100 W Washington Inspection Report T Renshaw](#)
[100 W Washington Inspection Report N Delta Engineering](#)
[100 W Washington Hanshaw Precondemnation Notice Affidavit](#)
[100 W Washington Condemnation Resolution](#)
[100 W Washington Burrow Precondemnation Notice Affidavit](#)
[Photos](#)
[Client signed agreement with City.pdf](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - Janice Porter

Enactment No: R-EN-160-2024

[RES-24:155](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 1406 West Huntington Avenue, Jonesboro, AR 72401; Parcel# 01-143133-23400

Attachments: [1406 W Huntington Precondemnation Notice Signed Sig Card](#)
[1406 W Huntington Precondemnation Notice Affidavit](#)
[1406 W Huntington map](#)
[1406 W Huntington Inspection Report](#)
[1406 W Huntington Condemnation Resolution](#)
[Photos](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - Janice Porter

Enactment No: R-EN-161-2024

[RES-24:156](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 1411 Curtis Road, Jonesboro, AR 72401; Parcel# 01-143363-03200

Attachments: [1411 Curtis Precondemnation Notice Affidavit](#)
[1411 Curtis Map](#)
[1411 Curtis Condemnation Resolution](#)
[1411 Curtis 3200 Inspection Report](#)
[1411 Curtis 3200 Inspection Report](#)
[Photos](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - Janice Porter

Enactment No: R-EN-162-2024

[RES-24:157](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 2021 Belt Street, Jonesboro, AR 72401; Parcel# 01-144171-27000

Attachments: [2021 Belt Precondemnation Notice Affidavit](#)
[2021 Belt Map](#)
[2021 Belt Inspection Report](#)
[2021 Belt Condemnation Resolution](#)
[Photos](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - Janice Porter

Enactment No: R-EN-163-2024

[RES-24:158](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 3809 Griffin Street, Jonesboro, AR 72401; Parcel # 01-144272-16400

Attachments: [3809 Griffin Precondemnation Notice Signed Sig Card](#)
[3809 Griffin Precondemnation Notice Affidavit](#)
[3809 Griffin Map](#)
[3809 Griffin Inspection Report](#)
[3809 Griffin Condemnation Resolution](#)
[Photo's](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - Janice Porter

Enactment No: R-EN-164-2024

6. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-24:035](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 9.1 AND 9.2 OF THE STORMWATER DRAINAGE DESIGN MANUAL WITH REGARD TO STRUCTURES IN ZONES AE, AH, AO, AND A

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison to suspend the rules and offer ORD-24:035 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

[ORD-24:036](#)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING LAS BRISAS BAR AND GRILL TO APPLY FOR A PRIVATE CLUB LIQUOR LICENSE PERMIT WITH THE ARKANSAS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL DIVISION FOR THE OPERATION OF A RESTAURANT LOCATED WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Attachments: [Application Redacted](#)
 [Publication Receipt](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Mitch Johnson to suspend the rules and offer ORD-24:036 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[ORD-24:031](#)

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

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-24:033](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 TO C-3 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5715 AND 5719 EAST JOHNSON AVENUE AS REQUESTED BY SCOTT BRIDGER

Attachments: [Application](#)
 [Certified Mail Receipts](#)
 [Deeds](#)
 [Plat 5715](#)
 [Plat 5719](#)
 [Rezoning Signs Posted](#)
 [Staff Summary](#)
 [Surveys](#)
 [MAPC Minutes](#)
 [Publication Receipt](#)

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;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent: 1 - Janice Porter

Enactment No: O-EN-035-2024

[ORD-24:034](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 TO I-1 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3732 INDUSTRIAL DRIVE AS REQUESTED BY HOYT+BERENYI, LLC ON BEHALF OF SHIRLEY BARNETT

Attachments: [Application](#)
 [Certified Mail](#)
 [Deed](#)
 [Letter to Neighbors](#)
 [Property Owner Notification](#)
 [Rezoning Information](#)
 [Rezoning Plat](#)
 [Signs posted on site](#)
 [Staff Summary](#)
 [MAPC Minutes](#)
 [Proof of Pub](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - Janice Porter

Enactment No: O-EN-036-2024

ITEMS THAT HAVE BEEN HELD IN COUNCIL

[RES-24:108](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS
TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 1101 French St. Jonesboro, AR 7240;
Parcel # 01-144073-12300; OWNER: Christopher B. Posey

Attachments: [1101 French Inspection Report](#)
 [1101 French Map](#)
 [1101 French Pre-Condemnation Notice Affidavit](#)
 [1101 French Pre-Condemnation Returned Certified Letter](#)
 [WIN 20220524 12 10 35 Pro](#)
 [WIN 20220524 12 11 33 Pro](#)
 [WIN 20220524 12 12 08 Pro](#)
 [WIN 20220524 12 12 34 Pro](#)
 [WIN 20220524 12 13 09 Pro](#)

*Councilmember Chris Moore said, Mr. Mayor, I make a motion to postponed indefinitely due to the property selling and it has already been closed on.
Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman seconded the motion. All voted aye.*

**A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Moore, seconded by
Councilperson Charles Coleman, that this matter be Postponed Indefinitely.
The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

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

Absent: 1 - Janice Porter

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported on the following:

Since our last city council meeting on December 5, 2024, we have experienced some heartwarming events, but also some sorrow. We lost a member of our city employee family Michael Hottel. Michael Hottel was a long time employee in the Parks & Recreation Department and also on baseball fields at Joe Mack Campbell Sports Complex since March 2017. So, please keep his family and friends and coworkers in your thoughts and prayers. And, obviously, this was Tonya Hottel's nephew. So, it has been a trying time for many people during the holidays.

Josh Hicks was named the December Employee of the Month. He is a senior computer technician in the Information Systems Department. Josh has worked for the city for almost six years. He began as a seasonal part-time employee in the Parks & Recreation Department while a student at ASU-Newport. He graduated with his degree in Information Technology and Josh started with the Information Systems Department and has been a wonderful asset ever since. So, thank you Josh for your commitment to the city and your dedication to helping those around us.

Congratulations to Ronnie Sturch and the E911 Department for being inducted into the nationally recognized Thin Gold Line Foundation supporting 911 dispatchers. Recommended by Wes Holt, due to the 911 peers support groups, our 911 center is the first in Arkansas to be inducted into this foundation. We are grateful for the mental health support of our 911 dispatchers providing the resources they need to be to help keep serving the community. Thin Gold Line Foundation's mission is to raise

awareness of mental health in the 911 call taker and emergency dispatcher community. Not just for our community at large, but for our employees, supervisors, and employers. So, Ronnie, thank you very much for your commitment and congratulations to you and your team on that award. Great job.

Meantime, Airport Road, Highway 351 is scheduled for nightly closures which began last night and they go through December 20, 2024. The purpose is to install girders on the railroad overpass on East Nettleton Avenue south of the Jonesboro Municipal Airport.

We mentioned that this might be the last city council meeting so in the last city council meeting so as a reminder we have the holiday patrols throughout the busy holiday season. I hope many of you have seen them. I have. Our goal is to reach 1,000 hours of additional police presence. If you have seen the patrol cars and the solid blue lights turned on, just think of them as extra Christmas lights, right, going through. We appreciate the work that JPD is doing.

Don't forget Christmas at the Park Sunday through Thursday and the final night is Monday, December 23, 2024. This Saturday, December 21st, is Trolley night. Hop on the brand new JET Trolley at Jonesboro Winter Wonderland and take a stop on Madison as they go down to Christmas at the Park. The trolley will take you through the light displays and then will return downtown to keep the fun going at Winter Wonderland. \$5 includes fare admittance to the lights and children under 12 are free.

So, speaking of Parks, Danny, would you like to come forward. I think you might like to make council aware of an award that we received today and I want you to announce it. Parks & Recreation Director Danny Kapales, said, absolutely. I had the pleasure of getting a call from Grants Director Jeremy Biggs. I want to give him some credit because his department actually wrote the grants. So, I am very, very proud of what they did. The Outdoor Recreation grant, the grant that we have unfortunately not received for the last few years, we got that call today that we did receive it. It is \$190,000 grant that is going towards an all inclusive playground being built at Allen Park which is part of the Master Parks Plan, part of the Accelerator Plan. So, that is going to be the first step in that park to make it all inclusive. Basically, the playground will have play equipment similar to the Miracle League. The surface will be similar to the Miracle League and make it where anybody with all different types of needs will be able to get on that playground and play on it. Along with that playground, we are also working towards the splash pad as well. You will be seeing that come in this spring right along with the playground. It's going to get opened up to a point where someone in a wheelchair will be able to access that with no problem whatsoever from the playground. So, it's going to be from the playground itself to the splash pad completely inclusive. One of the really nice things about this grant was that we got to go to down to Little Rock and present and one of the questions that they were asking other folks that were there was do you have a Master Parks Plan and we got to answer yes which was one of the key elements that got us back in the running to get this grant. And, so, this is just one more step. If you want to look at it from a perspective, this \$190,000 already paid for the plan that we put into place. So, thank y'all so much. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Danny. I appreciate that. It's good news you bet'cha always moving forward.

On December 6, 2024, we rebranded the Jonesboro Christmas Parade and it was a spectacular success. I want to say thank you to Heather Talley and the Parade Planning Committee for all of their hard work and investment to produce the "Movies on Union" Parade which was a hit. We had about 100 entries. It was also the same time

that we opened Winter Wonderland. So, I want to say thank you, I can't go amiss without saying thank you to the Police, Fire, Streets, Sanitation, Parks & Recreation Departments for your time and effort to help facilitate the event. Without you, it wouldn't be possible.

On December 8, 2024, the Mayor's Youth Council held our Holiday Drop right here in City Hall. We had about 80+ students who are the future of our city and I was happy to have the opportunity to meet their families and offer tours of City Hall. Thank you to the city staff for all of your hard work to host the MYAC for an evening of celebration.

The final neighborhood cleanup was December 7, 2024 at Fox Meadow Elementary School and we hauled in 5.67 tons of trash and 29 tires. The city's neighborhood cleanup totals are for 2024: 106.06 tons of trash and 849 tires collected. That outpaces both 2022 and 2023 years. Thanks to Code Enforcement, Sanitation, and our Keep Jonesboro Beautiful Commission. Our next neighborhood cleanup will be January 11, 2025 with the location to be determined.

I want to say congratulations to Jonesboro Unlimited. We are thrilled to celebrate Jonesboro Unlimited's achievements in securing \$2 million through the Arkansas Site Development Program. The incredible funding was announced by Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders and the Arkansas Development Commission will provide industrial water service to over 600 acres in the Craighead Technology Park. This investment strengthens Jonesboro's reputation as a center for economic growth and job creation paving the way for exciting new opportunities for our community.

So, in conclusion, I want to remind you that our invitation to join us for our open house meet and greet. It is at City Hall on Thursday, December 19, 2024 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. We will have some appetizers. We will tour City Hall and a little behind the scenes view of what we do here at City Hall.

The last request that I have is item #11 when we get to that. We have a city councilmember that this will be his last meeting. I would love for him to take over at that point and make sure that we adjourn the meeting correctly. Is that alright with you Mitch? Councilmember Mitch Johnson joked, if I can remember how to do that. Mayor Copenhaver said, okay, okay.

[COM-24:062](#)

OCTOBER 2024 FINANCIALS

Attachments:

[October 2024 Financials](#)

[23 American Rescue Plan Fund October 2024 REVISED.pdf](#)

Filed

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember John Street said, I just want to say that it has been a pleasure to serve with Mitch the last 20 years and he's got my number and he knows where I live. I'll stay in touch.

Councilmember Mitch Johnson said, well, I guess I spoke most of my stuff at the meeting before last, but it has really been an honor Mayor. I appreciate the opportunity to work with your administration. Council, y'all have been terrific. I think when I leave here tonight I'll probably take a little of each one of you with me. But, it has been enjoyable. I think we've accomplished a lot together and I'm proud to have been

serving with you. I think I will stop at that point. Mayor Copenhagen said, it's our honor.

Councilmember L.J. Bryant said, thanks for your service Mitch.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said, we started something about four years ago where we temporarily name a street in honor of a councilmember who has served as long as Mitch has. So, I would like to make a motion that we come up with a street, maybe Huntington, right out here that we temporarily name in Mitch's honor. Councilmember John Street and Councilmember Brian Emison seconded. All voted aye. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you councilman.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, good job Mitch. Councilmember Mitch Johnson said, thank you very much.

Councilmember David McClain said, the only thing that I have is that I need to call a Nominating and Rules meeting. I think I was given instructions for Nominating and Rules for January 7, 2025 at 4:45 p.m. I guess I have to be there to open it. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, you have to be there. Councilmember Chris Gibson said, you will have to call it to order. Councilmember McClain said, okay. Ms. Duncan said, and it will transfer to this side. Councilmember McClain said, other than that, congrats Mitch on your retirement, I guess if that is what you want to call it from the council. Councilmember Mitch Johnson said, thank you. I appreciate that. I was kind of thinking that my last meeting might be a little bit longer than it has been, but apparently not. I was remembering back to my first Planning Commission meeting that was four hours and I thought, my gosh, what have I gotten myself into here?

Councilmember Chris Gibson said, Mitch, it has been a pleasure.

Councilmember Ann Williams said, it's been great Mitch.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I thank you Mitch, but I know it has been hard sitting next to John. Councilmember Johnson said, I know where you live too.

Councilmember Brian Emison said, Mitch, thank you for your service to the City of Jonesboro and Merry Christmas to everybody.

Mayor Copenhagen said, I tell you what Mitch, I think it is perfect timing. Ms. Krissie Holmes came in the room and I believe we have some young ladies that maybe would like to do a little singing for us. So, maybe that will bring some cheer to put you out so to speak.

Ms. Krissie Holmes said, I am the JHS Choir Director. These fine ladies are members of the Cane Carolers. They are a choral ensemble that just travels around and tries to bring a little Christmas joy and Christmas cheer. So, we certainly appreciate our invitation tonight and we hope that's exactly what we do for you all. (The Carolers sang several Christmas Carols.)

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilperson John Street, seconded by Councilperson Brian Emison, that this meeting be Adjourned. The motion PASSED with the

following vote.

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

Absent: 1 - Janice Porter

_____ **Date:** _____

Harold Copenhaver, Mayor

Attest:

_____ **Date:** _____

April Leggett, City Clerk