



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Nominating and Rules Committee

Tuesday, July 16, 2024

4:45 PM

Municipal Center

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

Present 5 - John Street; Mitch Johnson; LJ Bryant; Joe Hafner and David McClain

Absent 1 - Anthony Coleman

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[MIN-24:065](#) Minutes for the Nominating & Rules Committee meeting on Tuesday, July 02, 2024

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

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

Aye: 4 - John Street; Mitch Johnson; LJ Bryant and Joe Hafner

Absent: 1 - Anthony Coleman

4. NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

[RES-24:076](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS AS RECOMMENDED BY MAYOR HAROLD COPENHAVER

Sponsors: Mayor's Office

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

Aye: 3 - Mitch Johnson; LJ Bryant and Joe Hafner

Absent: 1 - Anthony Coleman

Recused: 1 - John Street

5. PENDING ITEMS**6. OTHER BUSINESS**

James Elwin Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, approached the podium and said, I understand that among the nominations that the mayor has made is to reappoint a member to the library board to which I have very, very strong objection. We are talking about Mike Johnson. I don't attend most of the library meetings; however, I have attended several of them. There have been a lot of problems with the library. Now, I want to say most of them were under a former director, not the one we have now. I don't want to impugn her because of bad things that have happened in the past. But I have heard Mike Johnson, a lot of times when there were things about needing to oversee the library more, on multiple occasions point out that that is not a paid position. Now I understand that; but even when another member of the board who was paid exactly the same thing he is, which is nothing, pointed out the need to do this, he would repeat it on multiple occasions he did not have the time to do the job. The people of Jonesboro and Craighead County deserve somebody who will do the job with due diligence, whether they are paid or not. And if he doesn't have the time to do it, let's get someone who does have that time.

And by the way, I will go ahead and say this. Some of the things that I know, and I could testify before a grand jury if one were to be called, that went on at the library, really do need to be looked at to see if they were legal or not. I don't know what the best format of that is. Maybe it is a grand jury.

Vanessa Adams, 1614 Roleson Lane, approached the podium and said, good afternoon. I am the director of the Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library. I am here today to speak to you on behalf of library board nominee, Mike Johnson and to clear up some misinformation you received at your July 2nd committee meeting. First of all, at your July 2nd meeting, it was stated by a member of the public that the library paid \$490,000 for its bookmobile. The library actually paid \$313,492. I have a copy of the invoice here if anyone would like to see it. I will happily give you a copy. Second, it was stated that Mr. Johnson voted to approve the purchase of the bookmobile. I would like to clarify that Mr. Johnson was reappointed to the library board after sitting out for ten years in July of 2019, and attended his first meeting on August 12, 2019. The bookmobile purchase was approved at the September 10th, 2018 library board meeting, a year before Mike Johnson served on the board.

Mike Johnson served on the library board for a partial term of three years, and then two five-year full terms, then returned ten years later to serve a full five-year term before coming up for reappointment this year. When I asked Mr. Johnson if he would be willing to serve another five-year term on the library board after having already served a total of nearly 20 years, he did not hesitate to agree to serve. Mr. Johnson was the assistant superintendent of Nettleton Public Schools for 20 years and has served on numerous community boards dedicated to the aid of children and others in our community. He has called Jonesboro his home since 1976. Clearly, Mike Johnson has the financial experience and the philanthropic experience needed to serve our library for five more years. I am therefore asking you to please vote yes to reappoint Mike Johnson for another five-year term to the Craighead County Library Board. Thanks for your time. I appreciate it.

Dean McDonald, 5555 Macedonia Road Apartment A2, approached the podium and said, hi there. Good afternoon. Thank you for your time. I am just here as a citizen of Jonesboro, and I live in the Sage Meadows area. I just wanted to say I stand here in

strong approval of Mr. Mike Johnson. I think he is a very commendable individual. I've regretfully been to three years' worth of library board meetings, and I have seen a gentleman that shows up on time every time, and is always willing to take questions after, and is the last person outside of the room. I understand Mr. Johnson is a retired educator. He is a great French horn player, and he is just a very well-educated man, and I enjoy his company. I think Mike Johnson has served our library board incredibly well. I appreciate the continuity that is being offered by Mayor Copenhaver by reappointing him. I hope that he is moved to the full city council and that there is a vote, and the full city council can vote on him. Because I think they will find that he is a great guy, and I hope we keep him there. I hope that we can avoid controversy where controversy just clearly doesn't exist. He's a good man. He serves his community well. Let's keep him on the board. Thank you for your time. Thank you.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 4 - John Street; Mitch Johnson; LJ Bryant and Joe Hafner

Absent: 1 - Anthony Coleman