



# City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center  
300 S. Church Street  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

## Meeting Minutes City Council

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Tuesday, January 6, 2026

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

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### **SPECIAL CALLED NOMINATING & RULES COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING AT 4:30 P.M.**

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

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR HAROLD COPENHAVER AT 5:30 P.M.**

*Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, all right, everybody, good evening to City Council, Jonesboro, Arkansas. This is January 6th, 2026. Hard to believe the New Year's already here upon us. So last year went by very quickly, and we accomplished a lot, and obviously, we're looking forward to 2026 and being prepared for that year and moving forward.*

#### **2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION**

#### **3. ROLL CALL (ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE) INITIATED AND CONFIRMED BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT**

**Present** 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

#### **4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

#### **5. CONSENT AGENDA**

##### *Approval of the Consent Agenda*

*Councilmember L.J. Bryant asked that RES-25:217 be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion.*

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

**Aye:** 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

[MIN-25:110](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON DECEMBER 16, 2025

**Attachments:** [CC Minutes 12162025.pdf](#)

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

[RES-25:199](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE FY2026 BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT THROUGH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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

Enactment No: R-EN-001-2026

[RES-25:200](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO REALIGN JONESBORO FIRE DEPARTMENT STAFFING TO INCLUDE 2 ASSISTANT CHIEF POSITIONS

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

Enactment No: R-EN-002-2026

[RES-25:202](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1617 RICH ROAD, PARCEL 01-143252-25000, OWNED BY RANDOLPH & JUDITH REYNOLDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

**Attachments:**     [01. 1617 Rich Rd Notice of Violation.pdf](#)  
                              [02. 1617 Rich Rd Billing Request.pdf](#)  
                              [03. 1617 Rich Rd Mowing Invoice.pdf](#)  
                              [05. 1617 Rich Rd Council Notice.pdf](#)

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

Enactment No: R-EN-003-2026

[RES-25:203](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2009 TIMBERIDGE DRIVE, PARCEL 01-143231-17200, OWNED BY BRIAN D. MONDSCHIN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

**Attachments:**     [01. 2009 Timberridge Dr Notice of Violation.pdf](#)  
                              [02. 2009 Timberridge Dr Billing Request.pdf](#)  
                              [03. 2009 Timberridge Dr Mowing Invoice.pdf](#)  
                              [04. 2009 Timberidge Dr Council Notice.pdf](#)

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

Enactment No: R-EN-004-2026

[RES-25:204](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3104 PARKWOOD, PARCEL 01-144281-23800, OWNED BY MICHAEL R. & SANDRA BEELER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

**Attachments:**     [01. 3104 Parkwood\\_Notice of Violation.pdf](#)  
                              [02. 3104 Parkwood\\_Billing Request.pdf](#)  
                              [03. 3104 Parkwood\\_Mowing Invoice.pdf](#)  
                              [04. 3104 Parkwood\\_Council Notice.pdf](#)

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

Enactment No: R-EN-005-2026

[RES-25:205](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 01-144082-05020 ON GRAINGER, PARCEL 01-144082-05020, OWNED BY JERRY DELANY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

**Attachments:**     [01. 01-144082-05020 on Granger\\_Notice of Violation.pdf](#)  
                              [02. 01-144082-05020 on Granger\\_Billing Request.pdf](#)  
                              [03. 01-144082-05020 on Grainger\\_Mowing Invoice.pdf](#)  
                              [04. 01-144082-05020 Grainger\\_Council Notice.pdf](#)

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

Enactment No: R-EN-006-2026

[RES-25:206](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1400 MERRYWOOD, PARCEL 01-144203-16200, OWNED BY TONYA R. HINDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$315

**Attachments:**     [01. 1400 Merrywood\\_Notice of Violation.pdf](#)  
                              [02. 1400 Merrywood\\_Billing Request.pdf](#)  
                              [03. 1400 Merrywood\\_Mowing Invoice.pdf](#)  
                              [04. 1400 Merrywood\\_Council Notice.pdf](#)

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

Enactment No: R-EN-007-2026

[RES-25:207](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2410 WESTACRE, PARCEL 01-144272-22100, OWNED BY MORE UNITS REAL ESTATE, LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$315

**Attachments:**     [01. 2410 Westacre\\_Notice of Violation.pdf](#)  
                              [02. 2410 Westacre\\_Billing Request.pdf](#)  
                              [03. 2410 Westacre\\_Moiwng Invoice.pdf](#)  
                              [04. 2410 Westacre\\_Council Notice.pdf](#)

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

Enactment No: R-EN-008-2026

[RES-25:208](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3806 SCHOOL STREET, PARCEL 01-144272-16500, OWNED BY OLGA HERNANDEZ IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

**Attachments:**     [01. 3806 School St Notice of Violation.pdf](#)  
                              [02. 3806 School St Billing Request.pdf](#)  
                              [03. 3806 School St Mowing Invoice.pdf](#)  
                              [04. 3806 School St Council Notice.pdf](#)

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

Enactment No: R-EN-009-2026

[RES-25:209](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 200 W. WOODROW, PARCEL 01-144073-23600, OWNED BY PRINCE MICHAEL BOBBITT & DONYA IN THE AMOUNT OF \$965

**Attachments:**     [01. 200 W Woodrow Notice of Violation.pdf](#)  
                              [02. 200 W Woodrow Billing Request.pdf](#)  
                              [03. 200 W Woodrow Mowing Invoice.pdf](#)  
                              [04. 200 W Woodrow Council Notice.pdf](#)

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

Enactment No: R-EN-010-2026

[RES-25:210](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1317 HATHCOAT, PARCEL 01-143121-048000, OWNED BY JOSEPH CLARK AND HELENN SYKES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

**Attachments:**     [01. 1317 Hathcoat Ln Notice of Violation.pdf](#)  
                              [02. 1317 Hathacoat Billing Request.pdf](#)  
                              [03. 1317 Hathcoat Mowing Invoice.pdf](#)  
                              [04. 1317 Hathcoat Ln Council Notice.pdf](#)

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

Enactment No: R-EN-011-2026

[RES-25:211](#)

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

**Attachments:**     [01. 2612 Crawford Notice of Violation.pdf](#)  
                              [02. 2612 Crawford Billing Request.pdf](#)  
                              [03. 2612 Crawford Mowing Invoice.pdf](#)  
                              [04. 2612 Crawford Council Notice.pdf](#)

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

Enactment No: R-EN-012-2026

[RES-25:212](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2020 LATOURETTE

DRIVE, PARCEL 01-144321-08500, OWNED BY PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION SERVICES OF JONESBORO IN THE AMOUNT OF \$465

**Attachments:**    [01. 2020 Latourette Notice of Violation.pdf](#)  
                              [02. 2020 Latourette Dr Billing Request.pdf](#)  
                              [04. 2020 Latourette Dr Mowing Invoice.pdf](#)  
                              [05. 2020 Latourette Dr Council Notice.pdf](#)

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

Enactment No: R-EN-013-2026

[RES-25:213](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2701 CURTVIEW, PARCEL 01-144273-04400, OWNED BY JESSY & JAMES HARRELL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

**Attachments:**    [01. 2701 Curtview Notice of Violation.pdf](#)  
                              [02. 2701 Curtview Billing Request.pdf](#)  
                              [03. 2701 Curtview Mowing Invoice.pdf](#)  
                              [04. 2701 Curtview Council Notice.pdf](#)

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

Enactment No: R-EN-014-2026

[RES-25:214](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1821 BROOKHAVEN, PARCEL 01-143243-04700, OWNED BY REGIONS BANK DBA REGIONS MORTGAGE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

**Attachments:**    [01. 1821 Brookhaven Notice of Violation.pdf](#)  
                              [02. 1821 Brookhaven Billing Request.pdf](#)  
                              [03. 1821 Brookhaven Mowing Invoice.pdf](#)  
                              [04. 1821 Brookhaven Council Notice.pdf](#)

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

Enactment No: R-EN-015-2026

[RES-25:215](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3707 ASHLEE COVE, PARCEL 01-134032-06600, OWNED BY SCOTT WOODS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

**Attachments:**    [01. 3707 Ashlee Cv Notice of Violation.pdf](#)  
                              [02. 3707 Ashlee Cv Billing Request.pdf](#)  
                              [03. 3707 Ashlee Cv Mowing Invoice.pdf](#)  
                              [04. 3707 Ashlee Cv Council Notice.pdf](#)

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

Enactment No: R-EN-016-2026

RESOLUTIONS REMOVED THE CONSENT AGENDA OR TO BE INTRODUCED

[RES-25:217](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH AXON, INC. FOR PREPARED ASSIST COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES FOR JONESBORO EMERGENCY SERVICES

**Attachments:** [AXON Contract E911 Prepared Assist Communications Services.pdf](#)

*Councilmember L.J. Bryant asked, Mayor, could you just have somebody walk us through that little bit, if you don't mind? Mayor Copenhagen said, sure, I don't mind at all. Ronnie, I think he's in the back, but I will also go ahead and speak a little to this. Yeah, he's coming forward. Ronnie, if you would approach and talk about it, but before you do that, council, I actually was very fortunate, obviously, to see this in action real time. It would be, we would be the only city in the state of Arkansas to implement the full impact of what this AI will generate for us. Also, with that, the other mayors in the county and the county judge have also approved this through the commission, 911 commission, and then there are some other things that Ronnie can go into further detail, but it will allow us services that we're currently using, we won't have to utilize anymore because this will implement that. So there'll be an additional savings off the additional investment that we have originally. It was really important for us to be able to do secondary phone calls away from our 911 center from the standpoint of emergency phone calls. Now they can be really delegated quickly. This AI will generate if it says the word shot or anything in the conversation will automatically direct it to where it needs to go for the intended purposes. And so as we're a growing city, as our numbers are showing, that we're having growing calls. And so, to implement this, it's a really neat system, so, Ronnie, go ahead.*

*E-911 Director Ronnie Sturch said, was there a question? Mayor Copenhagen said, he just wanted you to step you through it a little bit, kind of give us an overall summation of the product. Mr. Sturch said, I would be glad to. This prepared system is basically new technology, AI technology. This technology didn't exist probably a year ago. It just came into effect, and into being, but what it's going to do, there's several different features that are associated with this system. What it's going to do is, one of the things we're going to be using is what they call the automated, non-emergency call answering side of it. And what that's going to do is take the non-emergency calls, what we call non emergency calls that come into that center. Right now, we get about 180,000 non emergency calls a year in the center. We're using what I call an antiquated or an old, old fashioned way of handling some of those calls, we're using just a call tree. If you come in, the caller can punch one if you need records. Punch two, if you need warrants. Punch three, if you need the county jail. And that takes about half those calls, so about 50% of them. So we get about 90,000 of those calls that get routed through an automated call tree system. Unfortunately, that still leaves 90,000 something or a little over 90,000 calls that still come into our 911 dispatchers. It's taking them away from being able to handle what they need to handle, 911 calls, work emergency radio traffic. So, that's going to eliminate, because this system will handle 100%, 100% of the non-emergency calls coming in. It will take it as it comes in, it will accept it. It will go to the bot. It will go to that robot. The system will answer the call, and I'm telling you, and the Mayor did get to sit in on some of the demos. I was skeptical at first, when I first heard about it. I started researching AI. I'm tell you, you can't tell that it's not a human being talking to you. It's almost impossible. And it will take that call, the system will, and based on it, ask the questions, it will answer it, start asking the questions, as the caller answers those questions, it will determine*

what that call is, and it will automatically reroute it wherever it needs to go. The 911 dispatcher will never have to take a call that they don't need to answer. Never. It handles 100% of the calls.

City Attorney Carol Duncan asked, Ronnie, would you clarify that those are when people call the non emergency number, not when they dial 911. I think that's a big issue. Mr. Sturch said, we not talking about 911 right now. This is the non-emergency side. Ms. Duncan said, I just want to say that again, because I think that freaks people out. Mr. Sturch said, I appreciate that. Now, what it will do is, let me say this, there are emergency calls that do come in on those non-emergency lines. Actually, all of our non-emergency calls that come in from the alarm call taking system or answering services, if you have an alarm at your house, say you have ADT at your house, I'm just using that, that call center that calls us, is not located here in Jonesboro. If they get an alarm, that call center, is located probably in Denver, Colorado, or somewhere else. There's like, each company has a different location, but there's like seven or eight alarm call centers. So, they can't call 911. We have to provide them that non-emergency number by law that they call in on. So, we get all of those calls over this. Now, the thing about it, keep in mind, the system is going to reroute to non-emergency calls. They don't need to go to the dispatcher, wherever it needs to go. But if you flip side of that is, it's going to take the calls that do need to go to that 911 dispatcher and just straight into them. So if we get an alarm call, it will instantly recognize that, send it straight into a 911 dispatcher.

I am trying to think of everything. There's so many things it will do. It will also, um, one of the things talking about savings features, one of the things the call system will also do is it will handle all of our text to 911 calls that come in. We pay a lot of money for a text to 911 system that we utilize. So once this is all installed, it should eliminate that. There's several features that the call tree that we're using, we currently pay quite a bit of money per every month for that. It'll eliminate that system. So there's a lot of cost savings that's going to come into this one system that we're putting in. As far as, then, what the other features, some of them, I'm not going to go in great detail, but the, what they call the call taking assistive or call taking, that will actually help and handle 911 calls that come in. And what it's going to do for the dispatcher or a couple of things. Not only is it helping to answer those calls and handle them, but where it's really going to be a benefit for our dispatcher and a cost savings. Again, is the translation service. It has real time translation, real time. As that call comes in, that dispatcher answers the phone, the system automatically recognizes what language that caller is talking in, and it transcribes it immediately, the call takers looking at the screen, it is transcribing that into English. As they speak back to that caller, the voice detect system kicks in, it takes the English the 911 operator is speaking in, and it translates it for that caller. So they're getting real time translation back and forth. Now, we currently, as you know, use a language line, that we have a service, it's definitely good. It's better than not having anything, but the problem with it is, it's time consuming. We've timed some of them when the call taker gets a language barrier caller, once we hit that button, we connect, by the time we get the correct translator on the line, we go through the questions back and forth with the translator, and then with a caller. We go through that, we timed it, sometimes it takes 8 to 10 minutes before the dispatcher can actually get all the information they need to be able to process that call and dispatch it appropriately. So, again, this will be in real time. It's instantly the call taker can get that information in real time and deal with that problem. So, versus 8 to 10 minutes, you're talking, you know, 60 seconds or, you know, somewhere that range, they can probably be processing that call and getting officers, fire, EMS, whomever in route. Again, that will be some cost savings because we will no longer need that language line. Then there's the call, the assistant dispatch, it comes with this, there's

several different features, where that's going to help the dispatchers, it transcribes everything. All the radio traffic that's coming in from officers and other firefighters, whoever, it will take that and transcribe that. So that if there's a difficulty in dispatchers have to develop what we call radio ear, because they're hearing a lot of background noise sometimes, and it's hard to understand what's being said over the radio. So it eliminates question as to what they're hearing. It's being transcribed exactly word for word what's being said. So that's kind of the call, the call system, the assisted dispatching.

One of the other features and then if I'll answer any questions anybody has, but it comes with an automated QA system. We're required to QA a certain amount of calls that come into our center. We had the QA those. We have to QA, 7 to 9%, and we had to QA 100% of all the CPR medical calls that come in. We had to do 100% of them. That takes time. It requires having to sit down, listen to audio recordings, go through call logs, listen to everything on the radio side, on the phone side that's going on. It can take 30 to 45 minutes, just one person to sit there and QA that call. This system does it automatically. 100% of the calls are automatically QA'd. In other words, we will get with the programmers, they will program in the list of questions, the order that they're supposed to be asked in, and as that dispatcher's going through that, there's a checklist on the side that when they ask a certain question, it checks it green. They see that. They know I've asked that question, and I move on to the next one. And it takes 100% of the calls and QA's them. So at the end of the call, all we got to do is print the report off, and we met a QA'd and know whether that dispatcher meet the necessary standards that they needed to meet. So, anyway, I know this has been lengthy, but I wanted to explain the basic concept of it. There's a lot more features involved with it, but I'll answer any questions if anybody has any. Mayor Copenhagen said, I will say that Little Rock has added the feature, correct? Mr. Sturch said, North Little Rock. Mayor Copenhagen continued, North Little Rock, but they haven't gone to the full capacity of it. Mr. Sturch said, right. North Little Rock is currently using a QA system. They are getting ready to probably launch the entire package. Now, just a QA, they said it worked so great for them, they wanted to move forward with it. So they're going to launch probably this year, the 1st, the full package. With that said, I've told our representative from AXON. I said, and I mentioned this the other night, I said, I want the bragging rights. I want us to be the first in the state that has this technology. So, they pretty much told me as soon as, it's already been improved by you guys and budget through the 911 board. All we're asking for is the resolution for the Mayor to sign to the agreement so we can send it in and get it started. So the sooner we can get that, if you approve it tonight and he can sign it tomorrow, we'll get a p.o. and get it sent in and we'll get those guys over here and get them started to work on the program.

Councilman David McClain asked, so, will you explain QA. You kept referring to QA. Mr. Sturch said, quality assurance. Councilmember McClain said, okay, I thought so. I just wanted to make sure I understood. I got it. Mr. Sturch said, we call it QA/QI quality assurance, quality improvement. It takes every call and looks at did the dispatcher go through all the proper questions and steps and meet the policy requirements. Did they do all that? So we QA it and score it. Councilmember McClain said, okay, thank you. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, I do have one question Mayor, Ronnie. I didn't ask this in finance, so I apologize, but the time, so once it's purchased to implement it, installation or whatever, and then learning curve, I'm sure there's probably that, how long we're saying from now until that would be full. Mr. Sturch said, great question. They are telling us that the first phase of it, which we're going to probably the most critical to us right now is the automated non-emergency to get all those calls off our dispatchers, those non-emergency calls. They told us as soon as they get back, that signature on that agreement, it goes back, he said, within two weeks, I will have a



team there. These 14 that will come in. They're going sit down with us and go through a, obviously, like the QA, they'll want to know what question we want QA to ask and in what order do we want them to ask, and all that, so they can program that into the system. They'll have to come in and program. If we get a call for this problem, where do we want it routed? So they'll have to program that. There estimate is about 30 days to get that portion of it up and running. So basically within the next 6-8 weeks, we should be up and running with that portion of it.

Councilmember L.J. Bryant said, I mean, I think just to summarize what Carol said, I was going be 100% sure I understand it. On the 911 side, there's no robotic feature. I mean granted, I understand there's assistance of the translation, the transcription, a lot of wonderful things, but there's really no robotic feature, just on the 911 emergency side. Mr. Sturch said, no sir. That's a great question. This won't replace any 911 dispatcher. Councilmember Bryant said, yeah, that's kind of what I was thinking. Mr. Sturch said, it will not replace any 911 dispatcher, okay. It's simply going to let them refocus what they're having to look at now, the non-emergency side, it is going to let them focus on what they need to be doing and talking with that 911 caller. Not worrying about somebody calling in. I was just checking to see if I've got a warrant, and, you know, blah, blah, blah, we're having to deal with, we have to deal with that all day. You know, so it will eliminate those calls and just let them focus on what they need to do to take care of those calls. And that's more important even today than it was six months ago. Six months ago, if y'all remember, we implemented the EMD program, which has been very successful. But the EMD program requires a dispatcher to stay on the phone for sometimes 10 or 15 minutes giving CPR instructions. It's been very successful, though. So, I'm well pleased with that program. But yes, it will free them up to give them more time. But it won't answer 911 calls.

Councilmember John Street said, last Tuesday, how many different dialects does this translate? Mr. Sturch said, I think I misspoke last Tuesday. I said 80 something and I think it's 30 something languages that it does. I researched it, and I apologize for that. But it does about, I think they just say 30, approximately 30 languages. I'm not exact to the number, but it will cover all the major languages we have. I would venture to say 99% of our calls are Spanish, what we received, we received from other countries. We've seen Vietnamese, Mandarin, Russian, Arabic. We received several different calls, but it will cover all those, 30 of the major ones.

Hi, I'm Sadie Pugh, 804 Sherwood Oaks Cove, said, so you said that, um, some emergency calls do come in on the non-emergency side, right? Mr. Sturch said, yes, ma'am. MS. Pugh continued, so, how does the AI detect, if it's emergency? And after that, does it go to an actual dispatcher? Mr. Sturch said, what the non-emergency, what happens at the bot that answers that, and we put this through the test, we tried to trick it. We tried to make it fail and couldn't. But when it starts asking certain questions, depending on what the answers are, it will determine that I don't have a resource for what you're asking me. And, if it doesn't, it's going to say, you know, hold on a minute, please. I need you to talk to a 911 operator and it will instantly send it there. As a matter of fact, I used the example today, and this was used Mayor in our test. Y'all may have heard about the caller that called in, it was well publicized about the pizza, that they were ordered pizza, and the 911 dispatcher realized that it was actually not their ordering pizza. They had an issue that need to be addressed. We tried that. And we asked, we asked the representative, what about the pizza? What happened if somebody asked for a pizza? He said let's try that. He said, well, let's see what happens. Called in, he said, the bot answered. And he said, yes, I'd like to order pizza. The bot instantly said that I don't have a resource for that. Let me transfer you to a 911 operator. So it sent them straight to the operator. So, I'm telling you, I was

*skeptical at first, but I was so impressed with the system. Yeah, I wish everybody could see the demo. It was just amazing what it can do. But yes, it will recognize a non-emergency call. Ms. Pugh said, that's great, thank you. Mr. Sturch said, thank you. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you very much.*

**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:** 10 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and Ann Williams

**Nay:** 2 - David McClain and LJ Bryant

Enactment No: R-EN-017-2026

[RES-25:170](#)

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO REQUESTING APPROVAL OF THE BUDGET FOR THE CRAIGHEAD COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL AUTHORITY (CCSWDA) AS OUTLINED IN ACT 677 OF 2021

**Attachments:**     [2026 Budget Cover Letter--CCSWDA.pdf](#)  
                              [2026 Budget for CCSWDA.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:** 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Enactment No: R-EN-018-2026

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

*ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING*

[ORD-25:041](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD

**Held at second reading**

[ORD-25:045](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 TO PD-R LUO FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT CORTE BELLA

**Attachments:**     [Application](#)  
                              [Plat](#)  
                              [Publication Receipt](#)  
                              [Staff Summary RZ 25-18](#)  
                              [MAPC Minutes 12.09.2025](#)  
                              [Receipt ORD 25.pdf](#)

*Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road said, on this ordinance for rezoning is that I noticed that when it went to the MAPC, that it did not have the certified receipts to notify the neighbors. Um, I did email Derrel, and that was on the 9th when I went to the MAPC, and on the 15th. I got a message back from him saying that it was a new rezoning and the letters were mailed out to the adjacent property owners. Usually, those letters are listed on the resolution or the ordinance right here, for the people to see. When I went to the city site, talking about the procedures to make sure that this is something that we do on a regular basis, which it is. And I know I brought out this rezoning process right here. It says that they have to put the pretty blue signs out there, but it doesn't say anything about mentioning, providing a public notice, but we all know that it's there, because I decided that I was going to Google it. And Google says that, for all zoning changes in Jonesboro, Arkansas, you provide public notice, which includes publishing in a local newspaper, and providing due notice to the parties of interests, also requiring a certified mail or similar proof of notification to ensure that it's part of the official record and meets legal requirements for the hearing. We don't have it for that, even though that Derrel says that it is, it needs to be listed. And the only thing that I'm saying to all of you is that until those notices are published, whether they are or not, their receipts, that they were sent out, they usually are, listed on that. One, it's not fair to those residents, if, by chance, if they weren't, because they don't know whether to come in here and say I'm for it or I'm against it. And so it's just part of the procedure that we do. So I hope that we can follow that procedure. So I hope we can maybe table this until we get those receipts listed, because that's only fair to those people that live around there. So thank you.*

**Held at second reading**

### ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

#### ORD-25:037

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117 ARTICLE VIII, SECTION 117-324(g) TO REMOVE THE REQUIREMENT TO HAVE A VALID REGISTRATION OR LICENSE ON A BOAT, TRAILER, OR RECREATIONAL VEHICLE PARKED OUTDOORS ON RESIDENTIAL LOTS IN THE CITY OF JONESBORO

*Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore that ORD-25:037 be passed. The item passed with the following votes: AYE (10)- Porter, Emison, C. Coleman, Moore, Williams, Gibson, Street, Miller, Hafner, A. Coleman; NAY (2) - McClain, Bryant.*

*Councilmember David McClain said, Mayor, I just want to make a quick comment. I think removing the registration requirement will eliminate accountability. We've seen some dilapidated trailers throughout the city. I know we've seen them on the north side, and I know, Scott, I could be wrong, but I believe there's one on Race Street, close to the Race Street Market. But I think this is going to cause us to have some unhealthy problems in terms of people living out of these. We've seen that. And so I don't think this would be a good decision, but I just want to let that be known. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, yeah, I have one quick one question. What are we hoping to gain by this? What's the benefit to the city? Chief Operations Officer Tony Thomas said, first of all, the overriding purpose is current state law does not require registration of vehicles that are not utilized on public streets. And so, right now, we have just some minor conflict that if I want to store a vehicle, or I want to store a trailer, then our city code requires that it's registered, where state law does not require that it's registered. And it just causes some burdens when it comes to the enforcement, relating to this provision as well as just as unnecessary red tape that's a part of the process for code enforcement. So, again, current state law, if you're going to utilize a vehicle on a public street, it requires that you register it. If you're going to not utilize a vehicle on a public*

street, then it does not require that registration. So, we do have instances where vehicles are operational, but they may be in our repair state or they may be in just a storage state. People never want to put them on a roadway, but they're stored and they are operational, and it just gives them the ability to not be forced to register a vehicle when the law does not require them to register, state law is not required to register the vehicle.

Councilmember Janice Porter said, I'd like to make a comment. I applaud Director Roper's efforts to simplify our city code and remove unnecessary restrictions. He stated that he has the tools he needs to achieve his objectives without this, and I have no reason to doubt his ability to assess that situation. Thank you.

Mr. Thomas asked, can I add to that Councilwoman? Yeah, our rules currently tells you where you can store the vehicle, when you can store the vehicle, and it also addresses those properties that are nuisance, and that's in another section of our code. This section of code solely has to do with parking, of the where a vehicle can be parked and how a vehicle can be parked at the part of zoning law. But as far as habitability, livability, you can't live in a trailer in the City of Jonesboro. That's the current law. All right, our rules say that you can't inhabitate a trailer, an RV, or a vehicle that's on your property. And they have tools in order to deal with that. Our current code has a standard for what a property should look like, though, what a trailer should look like, or an RV should look like, all right? It tells us that that RV has to be operational. I have to be able to crank it. I have to be able to move it. All right? You don't have to move it onto a public street. But you have to be able to move and store it on your property. It changes nothing. I know we got a couple of calls in regards to where individuals can store their RVs, their boats, and their trailers. And this does nothing to change that. This only has to do with being consistent with state law, which says that if I opt to only use my four wheeler on my property, and not put it on public street, then I don't have the ability. I don't have to register it via the state. So again, we're just trying to be consistent with state law, and we're going through a process right now with all of our building processes where we're trying to reduce duplication and reduce the burden that some people think is out there. So we're doing our new diligence and going through all of our sections of code in order to ensure that we're doing the things that we need to be doing, but there's no, there's no burden to the taxpayer in that regard. This is just at the beginning of that. I think you'll see some other things that will come about, as we complete our study, in regards to areas of code that can be streamlined, areas of code that can be revised, in order to be more user friendly.

Councilmember L.J. Bryant asked, Mayor, could the city attorney sort of weigh in on the living in an RV thing? I mean, you can live in RV Park, but, like, what does it look like if you want to live in RV in Jonesboro? City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I think you can. I think there's, I don't know what section it is off the top of my head, but there's a code section that says you cannot do that. Councilmember Bryant said, correct, we've got an RV park on the interstate. Ms. Duncan said, well, but that's different. I mean, if it's zoned as an RV Park. Mr. Thomas said, it is zoned for that purpose. But your single family home is not zoned for that purpose. Ms. Duncan said, your single family home cannot have an RV where someone lives. They can't live in it. Mr. Thomas continued, and that's why, again, this is zoning. This is in the zoning section of our code. This is not, this is not dealing with property maintenance. This is not dealing with those type of things. This is in the zoning section in regard to where you can park and how you can park a vehicle in certain zoning sections.

**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:** 10 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and Ann Williams

**Nay:** 2 - David McClain and LJ Bryant

Enactment No: O-EN-001-2026

[ORD-25:040](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORD-17:026 RELATING TO TOWING SERVICES IN THE CITY OF JONESBORO

**Attachments:** [CityJboroMayor 20251112 135058.pdf](#)

[CityJboroMayor 20251112 135317.pdf](#)

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

Enactment No: O-EN-002-2026

[ORD-25:042](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM I-1 TO C-2 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 213 N MAIN AS REQUESTED BY SHAMIM WILKINS.

**Attachments:** [Application](#)

[Neigh notification](#)

[Staff report RZ 25-15](#)

[MAPC Minutes 11.12.2025](#)

[Publication Receipt](#)

*Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road, said, I was wondering if Derrel could tell me from what I remember at the MAPC, is that this building is going to be converted into six, six rooms and a couple bathrooms, and it fall under the C2 rezoning. I was wondering if Derrel could say, Is this going to be considered an apartment, or is this considered under a hotel? Planning Director Derrel Smith said, right now, we are just looking at zoning. So, I don't know, because they haven't submitted anything yet. Both are allowed in C2. So, we'll just, we'll make the decision once we actually see plans on it. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you.*

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

Enactment No: O-EN-003-2026

[ORD-25:043](#)

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-1 SINGLE FAMILY MEDIUM DENSITY DISTRICT TO C-3 GENERAL COMMERCIAL FOR PROPERTY LOCATED

AT THE 2000 BLOCK OF W. MATTHEWS/WASHINGTON, JONESBORO, AR AS REQUESTED BY ROHN CRAFT

**Attachments:**     [Application](#)  
                              [Rohn Craft letter](#)  
                              [Certified Mail Receipts](#)  
                              [Staff report RZ\\_25-16](#)  
                              [MAPC Minutes 11.12.2025](#)

*Jim Gramling with Gramling Law firm, I represent the Craft family for this and the next application. I want to take a lot of time, but some of you know that I'm a big fan of the neighborhood meeting to try to gauge if people in agreement or if there's any objection. We did that in this case, and nobody showed it up. And I have not since then, I invited people in the letter to contact me if they weren't able to attend. I haven't heard anything from anybody. I'm happy to answer any questions. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you.*

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

Enactment No: O-EN-004-2026

[ORD-25:044](#)

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-1 SINGLE FAMILY MEDIUM DENSITY DISTRICT TO C-3 GENERAL COMMERCIAL FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT THE 2000 BLOCK OF W. MATTHEWS/WASHINGTON, JONESBORO, AR AS REQUESTED BY ANDY CRAFT

**Attachments:**     [Application](#)  
                              [Certified Mail Receipts](#)  
                              [Staff report RZ\\_25-17](#)  
                              [MAPC Minutes 11.12.2025](#)

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

Enactment No: O-EN-005-2026

## **8. MAYOR'S REPORTS**

*Mayor Harold Copenhagen reported on the following:*

*So Happy New Year everybody. Let's all pull together and greet opportunities with enthusiasm and optimism.*

*I want to start by congratulating our employee the month, who was just named yesterday. It's Chris Petty, out of the Human Resources Department. Again, saying thank you to First Security Bank sponsors, as they donate a nice goodie bag to the*

winner. Chris plays a vital role in our HR department and we're glad he is with us.

Speaking of personnel, all city emails have now migrated to the required address of @jonesboroar.gov. The city website was officially transitioned to jonesboroar.gov last year and our IT department has been working tirelessly to complete the transition of employee email accounts to the new domain.

Meantime, many of us will be attending the Arkansas Municipal League Convention next week in Little Rock, where we hope to learn all about the trends in the state and tips on how we can continue improving our service to the Jonesboro residents. But I must tell you, we already know of several awards we will receive one of which we are just announcing tonight, the 1st place in the Trend Setter Award for Infrastructure. This achievement is specifically for Jonesboro's connectivity plan, with the goal of connecting all the city through pedestrian and bike paths, as well as public transit, as well as making the streets and intersections safer. The other 1st place award is our E-911 Emergency Response program in the category of Technology and Security. Now, I'm sure you are all proud of these programs as I am. We've also received an honorable mention in the unique City Park Ranger program in the category of tourism, development, and creative culture. Plus, Jonesboro has been named the Volunteer City of the Year for the Mayor's Advisory Youth Council. So, again, this is a wonderful month in December and I appreciate everybody and their activities this past year. And especially through the holiday activities. I want to say thank you to many of the volunteers in the community as well as our paid staff who made the events safe and fun.

A special thank you goes to the Brookland Jr. ROTC for generously donating a large amount of food to the Jonesboro Animal Services. Winter can be rough on these furry friends who have been kicked out of their house, sometimes abandoned or neglected. Our Animal Control personnel worked tirelessly to help those puppies that may have seemed like a great Christmas gift, but all too often end up in the animal shelter. On a happy note, I'm glad to report, we have nine new firefighters hired. We're looking forward to seeing them through the academy and keeping our department staffed and well equipped as we prepare for the future growth in the most safe and secure way.

Next, I want to provide an update on our Park System. And I'm going to ask Interim Director Jim Stearns to go into detail about some upcoming events and programs. But before I do so, I want to add that I have talked to several members of our Parks and Advisory Board. And I know Jim has talked with most of them, if not all of them, as well about our youth sports programs. There are some great folks on this committee, including Dr. Coleman. And they're looking forward to increasing their role as a committee in serving as oversight of our newly incorporated youth sports programming formerly managed by City Stars Organization. Jim, if you would, please go ahead with your comments. Interim Parks Director Jim Stearns said, thank you, Mayor. Thank you, Council, for this opportunity. Just real quick, we have our Advisory Board Meeting tomorrow at noon at Parker Park. If any of you are interested in attending, give the park office a call so we can make sure we have lunch for you. But it's at noon tomorrow at Parker Park. Welcome anybody from the Council to come and attend. Real quick, I've been on board with Parks since May of this past year. So I'm about as new as you get. My responsibilities include youth sports, the community centers, miracle league, full operations, and shooting sports complex. And the parks team would tell you that I challenge them every day to be a little bit better. I question a lot of stuff because I'm new and I really wanted to challenge them every single day to make improvements. Our goal is to meet the needs of the customers, the people that use our parks, the citizens of Jonesboro and everybody that visits our city. And so that's

really our focus in parks at this time. With that, that means assuring the restrooms are in great shape. The property is well maintained and improved and then we continue to develop inclusive spaces, so everyone, regardless of ability, can play, walk, run, cycle, or just simply enjoy the outdoors. Our plan is to continue to grow youth and adult sports, recreation programs, and quality of life opportunities for anyone that wants to participate. As we move away from the City Stars model, the entire park staff is really focused on growing with the existing programs that we have currently, and also developing new ones, and I'll mention some of those in a bit. Our goal is simple, every child who wants to play should have the opportunity at no cost, low cost, chance to play whatever sport that they choose. And that is going to be our focus going forward. From the moment December 2nd occurred, the park's admin team has met and began planning. Our immediate focus was to ensure there's no interruption in youth sports. We gather feedback from staff, working closely with the city's finance and administration, and legal teams to create a process that aligns with existing HR and city policies while still meeting the operational needs. Multiple city administrators reviewed drafts, provided revisions and feedback throughout this process. Our objective was to operate youth sports programs that are fully transparent to this council and to the taxpayers of Jonesboro. In the midst of all this, our team did more than persevere, they thrived. In 2025, we had 7,772 kids who participated with us in youth sports. And we're going to be greater in 2026. Our focus is to grow those programs. Some of the highlights, since December 2nd, we had Miracle League Disc Golf Day. We had a Miracle League Christmas party, with activities and games. We had the Dr. Troy Bartel's Basketball Tournament with over 100 teams here in Jonesboro. We have winter soccer academy going on currently with over 190 kids. We had recently, we had the JHS-Nettleton Basketball League, with 23 teams. We have the JHS-Nettleton Basketball Tournament this past weekend with 63 teams across five gyms, and we're hosting currently the NEA Future Elementary Basketball Tournament that has started tonight with 107 teams over the next six days. Upcoming programs and events. We have the icebreaker, Junior Olympic Volleyball Tournament on January 17th with 19 teams registered. We have the We Care Junior Olympic Volleyball Program, February 7th, with 60 teams registered, and registration is still open for that. We have the NEA Volleyball Academy Spring season with 302 already signed up. Registration is open for the rest of these events. Winter basketball currently has 750 signed up. We have flag football, spring cheerleading, Miracle League Basketball, the Winter Soccer Academy. Spring soccer registration currently has 432. Junior high soccer has 32 teams signed up. Junior high softball has 23 team signed up. That's a lot. Adult and youth recreation softball league is open right now. First softball tournament this year will be January 17th. And so those are the things we currently have going on. We are also working this year at youth track and field, this spring, early summer. We're also going to add a Miracle League Pickleball this spring with final details should be completed in the next couple of weeks now that Arkansas State is back in session. With that, I just wanted to summarize and say that youth sports makes up a significant portion of what we do in parks. Well, I cannot say today that we have a perfect final solution for our youth sports operation. There's always room for improvement. I can say this with confidence. My team is rallied. They have worked tirelessly. They have done everything asked of us. And continue to do everything they can to serve the youths of the community. I mean, our focus is the kids. We wanted to get out, play, if anybody wants to play, we want to provide an opportunity, and if we need to add additional sports and programs to do so, we're up to that challenge. Our team is committed to being accountable, transparent, and deliver safe, accessible, high quality programs, to the citizens of the Jonesboro. We want you guys to trust us and be proud for doing our due diligence. And I would be certainly glad to meet any committee with more details. If so interested or want to, I'd be glad to do that for you. Mayor Copenhagen said, Jim, thank you very much to you and your staff as we move forward, and I appreciate your comments this evening. Thank you. Mr. Stearns said, your welcome. Mayor Copenhagen said, you bet.



[COM-25:058](#)

NOVEMBER 2025 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**Attachments:** [November 2025 Financials.pdf](#)

Filed

**9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

*Councilmember John Street said, yes, Mayor, in accordance with our procedures and organization at the first meeting, we have to nominate a Mayor Pro Temp, and I would nominate Chris Moore. Councilmember L.J. Bryant seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken with all members voting AYE. There were no verbal NAY's. Mayor Copenhaver said, all right, thank you, Councilman.*

*Dr. Anthony Coleman said, Happy New year, everybody.*

*Councilmember Chris Gibson said, yes, Nominating & Rules met or some of Nominating & Rules met this afternoon, just enough to have a quorum. So those of you that are on that committee, please be a little more attentive and try to be here in time to do business. We did decide this evening that we are going to reinstate the Public Services Committee as a standing committee of this council to meet quarterly. April, I think we probably need to get something on the schedule probably within the next few weeks in order to organize. We also just discussed to build on the Mayor's comments as well as Jim's comments to enhance the involvement of the Parks and Recreation Community Advisory Board, so that both the Public Services Committee and the Community Advisory Board are actively and structured resources for the Parks and Recs Department to help you in whatever you may need as we move forward. And I would ask that every member of this council email me in the next couple of days, which committees you want to be a part of, there will be Finance, Public Works, Public Services, and Public Safety, and we need to get those organized as quickly as possible. That's all I have. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you for your comments. Thank you. All right.*

*Councilmember Ann Williams said, yes, I just want to mention because I've been an advocate for, a push for, providing plenty of swimming opportunities, public school expansion, and importance of children growing up learning how to swim and have an opportunity to do so. And I don't want us to neglect, in the focus on sports to involve ball, the importance of children learning how to swim. For safety and health reasons, and I wish that we would stay focused on that, as well as these other sports involving ball. Mayor Copenhaver said, well, and I'll just add to that, Councilman, you know, with the Hawk Light that we're going to be adding at Parker Park, that's going to allow the youth to access that pool to greater accessibility. And then obviously with the new sports addition, in a year or so, then we'll have additional opportunity for the youth entirely in this community for swimming opportunity. Mr. Stearns said, so we have a brand new pool coordinator, and our plan next year going forward, we have swim lessons available at both pools, and they're going to be available a lot. There will be a lot more opportunities. He's already working on his water safety instructors, lifeguard. And so our plan is to have swim lessons available at both facilities, the entire summer. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you. Councilmember Williams said, another benefit of having lessons for kids is that you train future lifeguards, and I know it's always been an issue, as far as having enough lifeguards, it's been mentioned in the past, and the side benefit of starting swimming lessons early, in the communities, is that then you will have a generation of lifeguards. Mr. Stearns said, yes, ma'am. Mayor Copenhaver*

said, thank you, Councilman.

Councilmember Chris Moore asked, Mr. Mayor, could you have somebody from the A&P Commission give us an update in the next meeting or two, about a new Aquatic Sports Center on the bypass? Mayor Copenhaver said, sure. Councilmember Moore said, I've had several people call lately to ask where we're at and how it's going. I think a little presentation to the Council might be just what we need. Mayor Copenhaver said, absolutely. It'd be good to see it from the inside, wouldn't it? Councilmember Moore said, yeah. That's all I have sir. Thank you.

#### **10. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road, said, and I agree with you, Chris, is that we need to move forward. And, I know last week at the finance meeting, I bring up again, that we need to go cashless or at least 90% cashless. I think just the benefits of all that is handling little to no cash, less waiting in lines reduces the crime, lowers the operational costs, and adds transparency, and I think all of us are interested in the importance of checks and balances. Um, I say mostly cashless because they're so seniors like myself that carry cash. We are probably not real efficient at using the computer. But I did a little bit of homework and I'll give this information to Donna. Um, you know, the systems that are out there is the GoFan page that, uh, most of the schools and all that, but also to a lot of the community, um, and cities use. And then there's also core cashless, and so I've gotten all the emails and questions and all that that they can go to. And I think it's really important that we go toward that, because I think eventually everybody is. But I started thinking about this, and I think the benefit of having the Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee with the youth, is that they are smart. They are smart at computers. Have them have this as a project. That would be great. They know computers. They know how it is because in high school they use it and that would be a great project for them to do. So, I think we need to do it sooner versus later, and eliminate any type of question, and just keep on that transparency. So, I'm going to give this to Donna, and I hope that we can eventually go to it sooner versus later. So thank you.

#### **11. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Aye:** 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

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

**Harold Copenhaver, Mayor**

**Attest:**

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

**April Leggett, City Clerk**