



# City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center  
300 S. Church Street  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

## Meeting Minutes City Council

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Tuesday, June 3, 2025

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

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

### **PUBLIC HEARING AT 5:25 P.M.**

*PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE ABANDONMENT OF AN ALLEY IN BLOCK 3 OF KNIGHT'S FIRST ADDITION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, AS REQUESTED BY FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS*

*No one spoke for or against the public hearing.*

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

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

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

**Present** 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams  
**Absent** 1 - Kevin Miller

### **4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

### **5. CONSENT AGENDA**

#### *Approval of the Consent Agenda*

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

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

**Absent:** 1 - Kevin Miller

[MIN-25:042](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MAY 20, 2025

**Attachments:**     [CC Minutes 05202025.pdf](#)

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

[RES-25:048](#)     A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, AR TO CONTRACT WITH MIRACLE KIDS UNLIMITED FOR SPONSORSHIP OF ONE ATHLETIC FIELD AT THE SOUTHSIDE SPORTS COMPLEX

**Attachments:**     [Miracle Kids Unlimited - Signed Contract.pdf](#)

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

Enactment No: R-EN-064-2025

[RES-25:049](#)     A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, AR TO CONTRACT WITH ALL SCAPES IRRIGATION AND LAWN CARE, LLC FOR SPONSORSHIP OF ONE DOOR AT THE SOUTHSIDE SPORTS COMPLEX

**Attachments:**     [All Scapes - Door Sponsorship Contract and Resolution.pdf](#)

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

Enactment No: R-EN-065-2025

[RES-25:050](#)     A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, AR TO CONTRACT WITH CLINE ENVIRONMENTAL, INC. FOR SPONSORSHIP OF ONE DOOR AT THE SOUTHSIDE SPORTS COMPLEX

**Attachments:**     [Cline Environmental - Door Sponsorship Contract and Resolution.pdf](#)

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

Enactment No: R-EN-066-2025

[RES-25:051](#)     A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, AR TO CONTRACT WITH XPT-EXTREME PERFORMANCE TRAINING FOR SPONSORSHIP OF ONE DOOR AT THE SOUTHSIDE SPORTS COMPLEX

**Attachments:**     [XPT - Door Sponsorship and Resolution.pdf](#)

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

Enactment No: R-EN-067-2025

[RES-25:053](#)     RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO ENTER INTO A JOINT AGREEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE TRAINFO CORPORATION AND THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ARDOT) FOR THE TRAINFO MOBILITY IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT (JOB 101237)

**Attachments:**     [TRAINFO AOU Execute\\_050925.pdf](#)

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

Enactment No: R-EN-068-2025

[RES-25:054](#)     A RESOLUTION TO EXECUTE A TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE AGREEMENT TO

MAINTAIN A CONTROL DEVICE AT THE INTERSECTION OF HIGHWAY 49 AND PARKER ROAD

**Attachments:**     [Traffic Control Device Agreement - 100879.pdf](#)

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

Enactment No: R-EN-069-2025

[RES-25:055](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1411 CURTIS RD, PARCEL 01-143363-03200, OWNED BY WINFORD VAIL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,146.60

**Attachments:**     [01. 1411 Curtis Rd Notice of Violation.pdf](#)  
                              [02. 1411 Curtis Billing Request.docx](#)  
                              [03. 1411 Curtis Rd Invoice Notice.pdf](#)  
                              [04. 1411 Curtis Rd Council Notice.pdf](#)

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

Enactment No: R-EN-070-2025

[RES-25:056](#)

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A CONTRACT WITH TRIPSPARK TECHNOLOGIES FOR JONESBORO ECONOMIC TRANSIT SYSTEM ROUTING SOFTWARE AND SERVICES

**Attachments:**     [Jonesboro Transit System Supply and Support Agreement Streets 22 05 25.i](#)

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

Enactment No: R-EN-071-2025

## **RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED**

[RES-25:062](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO ACQUIRE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 911 MAGNOLIA ROAD FROM THE PROPERTY OWNER, MAGNOLIA ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

**Attachments:**     [Organiazations.pdf](#)

*Councilmember David McClain said, I had one question Mayor. Are there still activities going on here, and if so, what do we plan to do? Councilmember Ann Williams said, there are three nonprofits that are functioning there. Well, one has been the diaper bank, but Brianna Palmer has started a nonprofit diaper, the diaper storehouse in partnership with Crowley's Ridge and would hope to be located there because of their needed space. So, we're working out and have met with Jeremy Woolridge, representative, who is CEO of Crowley's Ridge, about the possibility of working out a lease agreement with Crowley's Ridge. A triple net lease is being proposed where they take care and maintain the property, pay utilities and insurance, in return for being able to use that building and the organizations that are operating there will be a credit to them for the purpose of them listing those as being under their auspices. And, so, the three, the Friends and Neighbors Network, a food co-op, and North Jonesboro Community Development, the diaper Bank, all of those, Crowley's Ridge Development*

*Council can take credit for sponsoring and assisting those programs, and there's enough space there for them to have some further programs of their own as well. One thing that Representative Wooldridge was real excited about was 100 family initiative which CRDC is starting, which has the objective of helping and assisting families that are struggling and to help avoid homelessness and you know destitution. And, so, by offering or connecting them the services they need. So, it's called the 100 Family Initiative and they were needing a big space for that to function. So, I think they are pleased to have an opportunity and this type of space for not only the ongoing programs that have been there, but programs of their own including the 100 Family Initiative and some other programs they were talking about, sponsoring some scout groups, for example there.*

**A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Gibson, 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;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

**Absent:** 1 - Kevin Miller

Enactment No: R-EN-072-2025

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

### **ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING**

#### **ORD-25:012**

AN ORDINANCE TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO PLACE VARIOUS TRAFFIC SIGNS AT DESIGNATED LOCATIONS

*Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson to suspend the rules and offer ORD-25:012 by title only. All voted aye.*

**Held at one reading**

#### **ORD-25:015**

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

*Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison to suspend the rules and offer ORD-25:015 by title only. All voted aye.*

**Held at one reading**

#### **ORD-25:017**

AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE AND ABANDON AN ALLEY LOCATED IN BLOCK 3 OF KNIGHT'S FIRST ADDITION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

**Attachments:**     [2025.04.28.ATT - abandonment.pdf](#)  
                              [2025.04.28.Release - Summit Utilities.pdf](#)  
                              [2025.04.28.response from Craighead Electric-Empower.pdf](#)  
                              [2025.05.02.let from Engineering Dept. .pdf](#)  
                              [2025.05.15.let from Ritter approving abandonment.pdf](#)  
                              [CWL 20250515 100615.pdf](#)  
                              [Gibson.pdf](#)  
                              [Petition to Abandon an Alley \(FUMCJ\).pdf](#)  
                              [Plat Depicting Alley.pdf](#)  
                              [2025.05.15.Optimum consent.pdf](#)  
                              [2025.05.15.CWL - UPDATED1.pdf](#)  
                              [2025.05.15.CWL - UPDATED2.pdf](#)

*Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman to suspend the rules and offer ORD-25:017 by title only. All voted aye.*

**Held at one reading**

## **7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING**

#### **ORD-25:016**

**AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING A DOWNTOWN JONESBORO ALTERNATIVE TRUCK ROUTE**

*George Gotcher, 308 S. Main Street, said, on the trucks, we have noticed that a lot of them are using the center or they are driving down the middle of the road. They're not stopping at Huntington. There was a cement truck that came through the other day with my wife walking and it just blew right through Huntington, the red light. I don't know if the electric cop is seeing any of this or recognizing these vehicles go through, but they do have the possibility to see those plates and take these individuals that are blowing through these lights. Another issue is I know that the routing, we talked about routing them differently after the last meeting, we talked about. I don't know if their GPS systems still follow the navigation systems that haven't been updated yet, so they're still probably following that old highway route on there and not following the detour signs. But, we're seeing a lot of just blowing through pedestrian areas. They're not seeing it. The left lane sees the pedestrian, the right person and the opposite lane is not, and we've almost been hit multiple times. Other people have passed on the same thing. And, also, I'm thinking maybe we need to lower the speed limit, maybe to 15 mph and maybe get another speed table or so and some flashing lights in the pedestrian areas. They're just not stopping for pedestrians and it's just a matter of time, you know. I think I'll leave it at that and we will go from there. City Attorney Carol Duncan noted, just as a quick point of clarification. Arkansas state law doesn't let us do tickets based upon those traffic cameras. Mr. Gotcher replied, oh, I can understand that. Ms. Duncan said, so, I mean, that's not an option. Mr. Gotch said, I think a presence down there would maybe be. Ms. Duncan said, I just wanted to clarify that because that is confusing to people, but we're not allowed to do that under Arkansas state law. Mr. Gotcher said, I thought that they seen that happening, then they might be bringing somebody out to monitor the situation. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, and with the mapping, George on that as well, then the communication between us and ARDOT, the approval process for some of that is their state highways as well. Some of rerouting of these vehicles on state highways. So anyway, we're going through the right*

channels to get it done, but thank you for your input. Mr. Gotcher replied, I appreciate it. Thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, you bet.

Denise Gotcher, 308 S. Main Street, said, my question is, how long would it take to reroute the trucks? We are hoping this is approved. Is it a six week phase, couple of months phase? Mayor Copenhaver replied, that is why we're starting the process. We already have started the process with ARDOT. If I understand it correctly, once that that approval's in place and they get it in, it'll be automatically updated in the GPS system, so the trucks will then at that point have the capability and know where the new route is. Ms. Gotcher said, the peace downtown has been disturbed from these trucks. These semi's, they take up both lanes, whenever they drive down Main. And, of course, we have a huge balcony, so we see all of it. But they just, whiz down Main Street, 30 miles an hour at least. They don't stop at the crosswalks. And, like George said, if they are allowed to continue, the trucks, cement trucks, dump trucks, CWL trucks, I mean they just barrel down Main. And most of the time, it's those trucks that don't stop for pedestrians at the crosswalks. And, so, we suggest at least flashing lights at the crosswalks. Detouring the trucks is a start, but for more safety, we need flashing lights at all the crosswalks, possibly more speed tables and dropping the speed limit down to at least 15 mph, a minimum. And, I think that would help maintain more safety downtown for all of us. Thank you. Mayor Copenhaver replied, if you would do me a favor as well, go ahead and write the recommendations and we will present it to the Public Safety Committee for their recommendation moving forward. Ms. Gotcher said, okay, sure will. Thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, alright, thank you.

**Held at second reading**

#### ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

##### ORD-25:010

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

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

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

**Abstain:** 1 - Kevin Miller

Enactment No: O-EN-015-2025

##### ORD-25:013

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 3305 DAN AVENUE AS REQUESTED BY HORIZON LAND SURVEYING, LLC

**Attachments:**    [Application](#)  
                              [Certified mail receipts](#)  
                              [Plat](#)  
                              [Rezoning Signs Posted](#)  
                              [Staff Summary](#)  
                              [MAPC Minutes](#)  
                              [Publication Receipt](#)

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

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

**Absent:** 1 - Kevin Miller

Enactment No: O-EN-016-2025

[ORD-25:014](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR IMPROVING OTHERS, INC., D/B/A ABE'S PLACE, INC. TO BE LOCATED AT THE VILLAGE COMMONS, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

**Attachments:**    [Application Redacted](#)  
                              [Publication Receipt](#)  
                              [James Elwyn Hinds Handout for 06032025 ORD-25-014.pdf](#)

*James Elwyn Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, said, I hope all of you looked at this thing called we have a crisis. It gives quite a bit of statistics about the effects and all of alcohol. If you haven't looked at it, you really need to. I do want to point out that despite all of this bad, it doesn't even include the Surgeon General's report that was released earlier this year that shows that there are 100,000 new cases of cancer each year caused by drinking alcohol and 20,000 deaths from cancer related to alcoholic drinks. That ought to stagger anybody. I didn't happen to notice this in Thursday's Jonesboro Sun. I don't know if you saw this. Not very far from here, there was an eleven year old girl who was stomped, had her face stomped and received injuries from it. Why would anybody stomp an eleven year old girl's face? Well, I wasn't surprised to find a couple of things in this article, for example, when it says, we use the word about the person who did it, the word intoxicated. I think we know what that means. And, a couple of paragraphs later, it mentions that he was drinking heavily. Now, it doesn't mention whether it was Coke or Pepsi. I doubt that it was either one, I think it was probably something else. Alcohol causes a lot of problems. I was a teenager and my early 20's was back in the 1970's and there was an expression heard quite often back then. If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem. Folks, you're fixing to get to be, to make a decision. Are you going to be part of the solution or part of the problem? Mayor Harold Copenhagen said, thank you for comments.*

*Jim Lyons, with Lyons & Cone, said, I represent Dr. Robert Abraham. He is seated on the front row on my far left when I turn around facing that direction. Dr. Abraham is a neurosurgeon at one of our local hospitals. He is about to retire. He's semi-retired now. He's operating, I believe two days a week. He is not going to be part of the problem. He is putting in a very nice restaurant, and yes, he is going to serve alcohol, but is not going to be part of the problem of that that Mr. James has referred to in this case. And, so, I urge you all to vote in favor of it. He's worked his entire life helping people*

*rather than injuring people and it is not his intent to start doing that at this point in time. Thank you. Mayor Harold Copenhagen said, thank you for your comments.*

**A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Gibson, 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;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

**Absent:** 1 - Kevin Miller

Enactment No: O-EN-017-2025

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

*Mayor Harold Copenhagen reported on the following:*

*I want to congratulate our employee of the month sponsored by First Security Bank. That's Juliana Truitt. She works at JETS and so congratulations, Juliana. She does a wonderful job in transporting and takes firsthand notice of the individuals that she takes care of through the transportation system that we provide here in Jonesboro.*

*Also help me congratulate Fire Captain Barry Riggs. He officially retired last week after 34 years of service, I believe. Thursday was his last day. Was that correct Chief, 34 years? It was just a few years ago, but it goes by in a hurry. We appreciate his service.*

*I'm pleased to announce that Melrose Street Walkway is very near completion. Melrose Street now has a sidewalk from Cedar Heights to Marshall Street.*

*Also on the pedestrian front, you might notice some additional pavement markings popping up around downtown. Now, these are meant to raise awareness for pedestrians and cyclist activity.*

*As summer kicks into full gear, I just want to take a moment and emphasize that we all need to keep an extra eye out for kids, adults, who are enjoying the summer and the weather.*

*This weather is certainly an improvement over the last few months, as well, due to flooding and tornadoes in northeast Arkansas. The Arkansas Red Cross and FEMA headquartered several hundred workers right here in Jonesboro. Our Parks Department, along with Danny Kapales, was able to assist in that mission. And by the way, it's important to remember that our community centers were equipped to be Red Cross shelters whenever needed. I think the Red Cross fed over 33,000 meals. Most of the individuals came to our community were from Indiana and Wisconsin. They really appreciated the kindness and the overwhelming hearts of our community. And, so, that was really nice to hear people from other parts of the country talk about our fine community.*

*This past weekend was extra ordinarily busy. The A&P Commission held its first annual Skirmish Event. Now, who participated on council on the skirmish event? Councilmember Joe Hafner said, I came in the first on council. Mayor Copenhagen asked, how many miles, Joe? Councilmember Hafner said, 65. Mayor Copenhagen replied, 65, okay. I think the longest route was, what, 100 or 130. Councilmember Hafner said, it ended up being like 107. Mayor Copenhagen replied, 107. But, so, we*



*had approximately 210 riders from all over. We had 16 different states, I believe, were represented, one as far as Wisconsin. So hopefully they enjoyed our community and got a lot of positive response back. It started downtown, and the event was featured for two days, and it had various race links. So, as you heard, Joe participated in one, and there were many others for all ages of family. So, we appreciate the vendors and music that happened on Main Street that weekend.*

*In addition, Joe Mac Campbell Park hosted a baseball tournament that brought in 78 teams and we had 70 soccer teams in town for a three versus three tournament. Obviously, there are a lot of kids. That means there are a lot of parents. There were a lot of family members. They came along with them to Jonesboro this past Saturday and Sunday. They mainly stayed the night. They shopped and supported at our local businesses. Joe Mack looked great. I've got to say, I called Danny today. I was very impressed. I was out there last night for a baseball game and got a lot of compliments as well on the conditions of the facility. So, congrats to the park staff and all their hard work on what they're doing out there Danny, good job.*

*Coming up this weekend, it's the Mountain Dew Classic Softball Tournament at Southside. This is a big one. It's been around for a lot of years. That's also this Saturday and Sunday. So, let's keep those visitors coming. Obviously, that's going to be the focus of the sports complex and I'm looking forward to that, hopefully in 18 months, that we can open those doors.*

*So, if you're more interested in getting some more chores done this weekend, our monthly neighborhood cleanup is this Saturday at Fisher Street United Methodist Church from 8:00 a.m. to noon. So, read all about it on Facebook and get all your junk out and clean up the community.*

*Now I want to turn your attention to a matter we've been discussing for quite some time, and most important issue. It's important tonight because I want to emphasize the transparency in which this administration is approaching the mission critical issue of funding improvement projects. Several of these projects have been discussed for almost 15 years. On September 2024, the council authorized a resolution to move forward with the revenue bond proceedings. And to make sure we were all clear about the details of the revenue bonds, we brought in two experts, several weeks ago, including our bond counsel from the Friday Firm, Ryan Bowman and our financial advisor from Crews and Associates, Paul Phillips. Realizing a couple of councilmembers were not present then, I'm going to go ahead and ask that we replay what Paul had to say, two weeks ago. (Partial video of the Public Hearing on Capital Improvement Revenue Bonds that was held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 was played at this point in the City Council meeting on Tuesday, June 3, 2025.)*

*Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, we do have in the room with us, Paul Phillips, our financial advisor from Crews and Associates. We have Ryan Bowman, who is legal bond counsel from the Friday Firm, and we also have Michael McBride from Stephens, who is the bond underwriter. So, I would like them to come up at this present time, if you would, Paul, please give us a summary again of the process of the revenue bond and where we are at this point. Thank you, Paul. Paul Phillips of Crews and Associates, said, glad to be before you again. I thought I would take a couple of minutes and kind of start this off with an overview of the timeline and kind of our goals and objectives for execution here. And then, if there are additional questions or comments or if there is anything that I need to address, I would be glad to do that too. So, obviously, there is a public hearing here tonight. Hopefully these aren't all here to speak for it, but if they are, bring them on I guess. So, anyway, our goal in this*

transaction is to start working the documents, getting the documents together, and dealing with the bond insuring rating agencies, similar to the discussions we've had before in terms of trying to get the appropriate credit rating. I've already initiated some of those discussions. I feel real confident that we'll will get a AA credit rating by virtue of a credit enhancement from assured guarantee. So, that will allow for a very efficient and effective transaction. And, then what we're going to ask for the commitment on the insurance to get that by June 3rd assuming they can meet that timeline which I have been given some assurance that they will. Then on June 9th, what we'll do is we'll have an offering document. It'll be the final document that we'll utilize and distribute to potential investors, solicit feedback for roughly a week or so regarding structure, potential interest rates, any type of feedback we can get that helps us deliver the city the best deal we can do. And, so, then our goal will be to be back before this body on June 17th with a bond ordinance that will have the final terms and conditions, interest rates, call provisions, everything in the bond ordinance. And, that will result from the sale of the bonds by Stephens that morning. So, just to kind of frame that a little bit, we might have an order period if you will for the bonds from 9:00 to 10:30. At that particular point in time, we kind of assess where we're at, maybe we've got more sales than we do bonds. We'll ratchet down interest rates, if that's the case, we restructure. You never know. We're just trying to deliver the best deal we can. Once that's put in place and those numbers are finalized, we'll then place those numbers into the final bond ordinance. So, backtracking just a little bit. So, when you get your council packet for the meeting on the 7th, I think that goes out the Thursday prior to the meeting, right? In that packet will be the bond ordinance as drafted, but it will have blanks everywhere there is a reference to an interest rate or a number or anything else. We can't fill that in until the sale of the bonds has been made official. So, historically, what Ryan Bowman has done is, you'll have, like I said, you'll have the blank one, he'll provide you with a black line copy and address the additions that have been made, and we'll be here, of course. I'll give an overview of the sale of the bonds. He'll go through the changes to the ordinance, so that's very transparent to everyone. So, then what would you be asked to do on that evening? Because clearly the volatility in the market, we can't sell bonds and then wait multiple weeks to finalize the terms. We've got to finalize the terms that day. The only way to do that is to ask this body to do all three readings plus an emergency clause on the evening of the 17th. Backtracking again, we just talked a little bit about this in the past. That's customary, that's common. That's virtually whatever every other city does to lock in the rates that they do that. Now, it's up to you, whether y'all read the whole ordinance. It'll be 30 pages probably, or you just want to discuss or you want to have Ryan discuss the blanks and take it from there. But, we will need three readings and the emergency clause. And, so, with that, we can then publish that ordinance. We'll have to get some closing documents and insert the final numbers and provisions in every one of the bond documents. And, all that being said, then we would close the transaction on July 22nd. And, at that particular point in time, you've got a construction fund with the monies in it and you're ready to move forward with each of these projects. I'll pause to see if there are any questions. Mayor Copenhaver asked, do you have any questions for Mr. Phillips? I don't see any. Well, thank you Paul very much. I appreciate that.

After the partial video was played, Mayor Copenhaver said, okay, Council, I thought that was very important to play that again, especially for the two members that were not present. I hope that was helpful. And I, you know, this is about protecting lives and saving lives in the community, and it is a priority. And as I've said it before, it's a moral responsibility that we have prioritized these projects, because it will save lives. And again, we've also done at a level of transparencies you've seen over here by the board. More than mandated by public meetings. I was very pleased with the last public meeting that we had, which full council was there outside of two members. So, again, that's the end of my comments. Thank you.

[COM-25:017](#)

MARCH 2025 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

Filed

**9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

*Councilmember Brian Emison said, yes, I just wanted to let everybody know that earlier this evening, the Capital Improvement Bond Task Force met for their initial meeting and I just wanted to let everybody know that we were going to be coming back with more information at a meeting that's going to be scheduled in the future once we're able to gather some more information and compile a list of additional experts that we're going to bring in for questions and answers once we've had time to review that information. Also, I just wanted as a point of clarification to remind everybody that the Capital Improvement Bond Task Force, we are simply making a decision on where the future E-911, the proposed E-911 Center, will be going and that no decisions that are made by that committee is necessarily a referendum or an action item voting upon the bond itself. Thank you, and that's all that I have this evening. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you councilman.*

*Councilmember Chris Moore said, Mr. Mayor, have we got the final figures on what the cleanup on the Citizen's Bank building will be or do we have an idea? Mayor Copenhaver replied, we are about two-thirds home on that. So, as soon as we have those figures in, I'll immediately put them out to City Council as well. And, then, also on the rest of that project, we have been looking judiciously on the value of the property in hand. And, so, we have asked for an appraisal, the downtown property, as well as, I've got open communication with one of the owners and we are negotiating where we might be, and so I'll bring that forward to City Council as well.*

*Councilmember Moore said, good deal and that would lead me to my second point. I'd like to see a presentation by your office on what our options would be. I mean, obviously, we have the option of paying the bill and doing nothing and moving on or we have the option to purchase the property, and we also have an option to litigate for the cleanup charge. So, I'll be interested in seeing your presentation. Mayor Copenhaver said, I'd be happy to do that, thank you councilman. Councilmember Moore said, thank you Mayor, that's all.*

*Councilmember Chris Gibson said, yes, just one thing. I'm sure there are announcements coming in the next few days, but on the 14th of this month, the Anheuser Busch Clydesdales will be in town and there will be several activities around that. Councilmember Moore asked, where would that be? Councilmember Gibson stated, I know that there are going to be some activities downtown. They will be here for a week is my understanding. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you for your comments.*

*Councilmember Joe Hafner said, I will say, thank you for getting the share rows down. That's really cool to see. As far as the Skirmish, I was very proud of our city. You know, all the city staff that participated, the vendors, the citizens that came downtown, everybody, and the police department was first class getting us in and out of town. So, this is pretty big to me, but it was really neat seeing a first class race in our city. So, I'm looking forward to next year and how much it grows. So, Jonesboro should be proud. So, thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you for your participation.*

*Councilmember John Street said, we had three firemen who placed nationally, who broke some records in competition in Louisiana I believe. You'd know better than that. I don't have their names in front of me, but I was very pleased to see it. I think it's a big plus and speaks well for the department. Mayor Copenhaver joked, I showed them the technique, I believe, Chief. Councilmember Hafner asked, can you show us? Mayor Copenhaver said, sure, come on out. Again, thank you Council for your comments.*

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

*George Gotcher, 308 S. Main Street said, I would like to second Mr. Hafner's comments. It was an outstanding event. We enjoyed it. The last three events were spectacular. Officers have been great. Everything downtown has been awesome. I would like to find out how do I find out the ordinance for downtown? like for sidewalks and such? Is there a way that there's ordinance that I can look up. Mayor Copenhaver replied, you just contact us, George and we will help you through that process. Mr. Gotcher said, well, I noticed that the FOA has signage that there's no skateboards, no motorbikes, nothing motorized in that area that where people are walking, but on our sidewalks, we're having tractors, lawn mowers, motorcycles, motorbikes, motorized bicycles, skateboards, the whole gauntlet. And, I don't want to make anybody mad. I know the young guys like to get out there and scoot around, but our elderly likes to walk down the sidewalks as well. It's just a matter of time before one of them gets hit. I have customers coming out all of the time. I mean there's a bike flying by or a lawnmower or a minibike. It's just not safe. It's not a safe area for them to be riding. So, if there is an ordinance, how would we go about enforcing it, you know? I would like to see something about that if possible and I thank you for your time. Mayor Copenhaver replied, thank you, sir.*

#### **11. ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Gibson and 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;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

**Absent:** 1 - Kevin Miller

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

**Harold Copenhaver, Mayor**

**Attest:**

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

**April Leggett, City Clerk**