



# City of Jonesboro

900 West Monroe  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

## Meeting Minutes - Draft Public Works Council Committee

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Tuesday, October 20, 2009

6:00 PM

Huntington Building

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### Special Called Meeting

#### 1. Call To Order

*Mayor Perrin and Operations Director Gary Harpole from the Mayor's Office were also in attendance.*

**Present** 6 - Gene Vance; Jim Hargis; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson and Darrel Dover

#### 2. New Business

**COM-09:143**

Discussion concerning privatization of residential sanitation services

**Attachments:** [Request for Proposals for sanitation services](#)

*Chairman John Street explained the City considered the privatization of residential sanitation services in August and a committee was formed to consider every option available.*

*Councilman Chris Moore motioned, seconded by Councilman Darrel Dover, that the Public Works Committee reject the privatization of residential sanitation services and stay with in-house sanitation service. All voted aye.*

**This item was Read.**

Review findings of Administration and Engineering Departments on Charlotte and Randal Gerdes house located at 510 E. Thomas Avenue

*Operations Director Gary Harpole explained Charlotte and Randal Gerdes contacted the Mayor's Office concerning flooding around their house. He added they petitioned the Mayor's Office to let them contact the Council concerning what could be done.*

*Mr. Gerdes explained they have lived at 510 E. Thomas Avenue for 22 years. He stated they had no flooding problems until the City paved the ditch next to their property in 2002, which caused their house to flood 3 times that year. He added the flood on May 24, 2009, came through the doors and ruined the floors. He noted the flooding in May caused mold throughout the house, which they have been living in since the flood.*

*Mr. Gerdes stated he would like for this matter to be expedited to tonight's City Council meeting.*

*Chairman Street explained the City has acquired the last piece property to build the detention pond, which will alleviate the flooding unless it is over a 100-year event.*

Chairman Street asked if they want the City to buy their house because it flooded. Mr. Gerdes answered yes, because it will flood again and is the lowest point in that area.

Chairman Street explained the properties the City acquired were necessary for detention ponds to be built. He added the City bought Councilman Dover's house due to the house being where the detention pond needs to be placed. He stated there are places that are lower than Mr. Gerdes' house.

Councilman Moore questioned if the City Engineer has reviewed the property to see if the City needs to purchase it to alleviate the flooding issue in the area. City Engineer Craig Light answered a detention pond does not need to be located in that area. He noted the property was not included in the two previous engineering studies and does not need to be purchased to fix the flooding problem. He added the one criteria for building the detention ponds is no water be allowed to enter into livable space, but the yards will flood in a 100 year flood. He noted a 1 foot buffer was added to the elevation of the basin. He stated if the City decides to purchase the property then the Engineering Department will use the land to add another detention pond to that basin.

Mr. Gerdes inquired if this matter could be presented at tonight's Council meeting. Councilman Moore answered they are welcome to stay till the end of the meeting and present their case.

Mrs. Gerdes stated realtors have declared their house unsellable.

Chairman Street inquired if they have flood insurance. Mr. Gerdes answered they did not have flood insurance for the 2002 flood, but were given a grant from the State to help offset the costs. He added they did have it for the May 24, 2009, flood and were reimbursed for approximately \$21,000 for flood damage.

Chairman Street explained everyone needs to be treated the same. He added the City has not bought a house that was not needed for a detention pond. He noted no house has been bought just because it had water in it.

Discussion was held concerning the purchasing of homes to build detention ponds.

Mr. Light explained the detention pond located near Saint Bernard Village's is currently under construction and could be completed within the next 8 to 10 working days if the rain subsides. He added the pond located on Wofford Street is currently under construction and the detention pond that will be located on Councilman Dover's old property will be constructed last and is downstream from the Gerdes' house which will not keep their property from flooding.

Councilman Dover asked if paving the ditch contributed to the flooding at the Gerdes' house. Mr. Light answered two engineering studies were done and showed the paving of the ditch did have a significant impact on the amount of water getting to Nettleton Avenue.

Councilman Dover questioned if the City contributed to the flooding at the Gerdes' house by paving the ditch. Mr. Light answered the City didn't help matters at all.

Chairman Street inquired if the water backs up at Nettleton Avenue. Mr. Gerdes answered yes. Chairman Street stated the City is fixing the problem.

Councilman Moore asked if the Gerdes' received an insurance settlement to fix the house. Mr. Gerdes answered yes.

*Councilman Hargis stated he would like a display showing where the City is concerning this matter and where the equities are before voting on what to do with the Gerdes' home.*

*Councilman Moore stated he would like to see a report from the Engineer stating if the City has caused the problem.*

*Mayor Perrin explained he has met with the Gerdes' on three different occasions. He added research has been done concerning the flooding and he can provide a full report on the cause and location. Councilman Dover stated he would like for the Mayor, the City Engineer and the Gerdes' to compile the report and present it to the Public Works Committee before the next meeting.*

*Councilman Moore stated the report from the City Engineer on the cause of the flooding at the Gerdes' house will determine how the matter will be handled.*

*Chairman Street asked that a report be presented by the City Engineer by the next Public Works Committee meeting.*

#### Dismissal of the Sanitation Privatization Ad Hoc Committee

*Chairman Street thanked the Sanitation Privatization Ad Hoc Committee for their work on the privatization of residential sanitation services.*

*Councilman Mitch Johnson motioned, seconded by Councilman Chris Moore, that the Sanitation Privatization Ad Hoc Committee be dismissed. All voted aye.*

### **3. Adjournment**

**A motion was made by Councilman Chris Moore, seconded by Councilman Mitch Johnson, that this meeting be Adjourned. The motion CARRIED by a Voice Vote.**

**Aye:** 5 - Gene Vance; Jim Hargis; Chris Moore; Mitch Johnson and Darrel Dover