



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, April 5, 2022

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING AT 5:00 P.M.

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

3. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

Present 12 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

[COM-22:013](#)

PROCLAMATION TO THE JONESBORO HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPIONS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, Good evening council and I stand before you once again. This is quite an honor. I think we had them here last year, but to achieve it the second year in a row is pretty amazing especially in the parameters and atmosphere of state basketball competition in the State of Arkansas. Well, gentlemen, it is a true honor to stand before you as the Mayor of this community, but not only, I am a JHS alum. I am a little bit proud as well. I have seen you guys before, but this is a great representation. You are outstanding young men. Your character is extremely high in this community and you represent this community everywhere you went and I was aware of it. So, today, I'm before you for the City of Jonesboro to read a proclamation that you all so deserve.

Whereas, Jonesboro High School Hurricane boy's basketball team defeated Marion 55-28 to win the State 5-A State Championship last month and; Whereas, the team was rated best in all classifications in Arkansas by the State Arkansas State Media and finished among the nation's top 25 basketball teams in high school by three publications; and, Whereas, with the 28-3 record, the team finished 14-0 in 5-A East play and won its fourth state title in 6 years and the 15th in the school history; and, Whereas, Mr. Williams was named tournament MVP and joined teammates Mr. Washington and Mr. Wilson on the all tournament team and Mr. Harrell joined Williams and Washington in the all state selections while all of the above, Mr. Pointer and Mr. Wesson were also all conference choices; Whereas, Coach Wes Swift, his team continues to represent Jonesboro with class, integrity and honor; So, now, therefore, I, Harold Copenhaver, Mayor of the City of Jonesboro by the virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas do hereby proclaim JHS Hurricane Day in the City of Jonesboro. Thank you gentlemen and congratulations.

Read[COM-22:011](#)**YOUTH ADVANCEMENT COUNCIL PRESENTATION TO PUBLICLY ANNOUNCE BIKE-A-THON DETAILS**

Mayor Copenhaver said the Mayor's Youth Council has an announcement that they would like to make to the community and to the council. Lonnie Erwin, Valley View High School Senior said, thank you Mr. Mayor. Good evening council. I currently serve as the Health and Safety Chair for the Mayor's Youth Advancement Council. Judy Kim, Valley View High School Sophomore, said, I am the Chairperson for Community Outreach Taskforce on MYAC. Mr. Erwin said, the primary mission of the Mayor's Youth Advancement Council of Jonesboro is to involve youth in the community issues and decisions, to advise the Mayor and City Council of the youth perspectives and to empower the future leaders to become engaged within the community and within their community. The Council currently has six taskforce committees, all of which are doing service projects within the community each year. Miss Kim said, through the partnership of two MYAC taskforces, Health and Safety and Community Outreach, the idea for a spring bike-a-thon was born. In an effort to bring awareness to the importance of healthy living while injecting a little fun and also making this event a fundraiser, we are excited to announce the first ever MYAC annual bike-a-thon. This year we will split any proceeds with the Make-a-Wish Foundation so that local children who are not afforded perfect health might see a small wish come true. Mr. Erwin said, we will meet at Craighead Forest Access Road One, Pavilion One, the trailhead of the bike path on Saturday, April 23, 2022. The race will commence at exactly 9:00 a.m. and the riders will complete two laps equaling a 10k cycling event. We hope that you will join us by either riding in the event, becoming a ghost rider, or simply by donating. Together, we will have the power to make wishes come true and support our vision of service within our own community. Miss Kim said, our participants can choose their category based on age and availability while the regular bike-a-thon will be a 10k ride with first, second, and third place winners. Cyclists 12 years and younger will compete in the 5k or one lap race. First, second, and third place winners will also be given as well as participation awards for every youth rider. Cyclists 62 and older will also compete in a 5k or one lap race. First, second, and third place awards will be given for this category as well. Ghost riders will receive a shirt and recognition just as regular participants without the hassle of even being present. So, why not show your support virtually and relax on event day. Online registration will close on April 22, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. Online registration with the t-shirt guaranteed in your size will close this Friday, April 8, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. Those who register after this date will not be guaranteed a t-shirt. Mr. Erwin said, please consider joining us or donating to our cause. You can find our online registration at www.raceroster.com or fill out the paper form in front of you and return it to Mrs. Shelly Anderson in the Mayor's office. Miss Kim said, we cannot be successful without the help of our community. Please invite all of your friends and loved ones. Mr. Erwin said, thank you so much for your time this evening. Miss Kim said, yes, thank you and we hope to see you on April 23, 2022. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you so much. We appreciate your presentation.

Read[COM-22:014](#)**PRESENTATION BY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & GRANTS DIRECTOR REGINA BURKETT**

Attachments: [powerpoint for council](#)

Mayor Copenhaver said, as we move on into special presentations this evening, I asked Regina Burkett to give a presentation on grants and the process we go through so many times on grant applications. And, I think sometimes, we get lost in what we

can do and what certain grants are used for. So, I have asked Regina to kind of give us an overview for the community and council of what particular grants can be used for and which ones and which avenues we use them for.

Community Development and Grants Director Regina Burkett said, good evening council. This is my pleasure. I would like to kind of give you a little bit of what we do in our Community Development and Grants Department. There is one thing first of all that I always want you to remember when we write a grant that comes to you all in a resolution. There are no grantsmanships that will turn a bad idea into a good one, but there are many ways to disguise a good idea. So, always, kind of think outside of the box when we turn all of that in. So, the first thing is what is a grant? I don't know if we have ever just sat down and really talked about what is a grant. A grant is a way the government or private donors help fund ideas and projects to provide public service and stimulate the economy. So, grant funding is always working to benefit the community and its residents. A grant is one of the many different forms of financial assistance from the federal and state governments. The funds from a grant will hopefully save the city money by subsidizing a project with awarded funds. The lifecycle of a grant is first of all we have to identify the project and the way we do that is we work through different departments here throughout the city. We work with the administration and we also look in the community and see what kind of phone calls we are getting, different things like that to determine what we need to go for our funding projects. So, once we identify the project, we go after the funding. We will start doing research on that and the way that we find that is we look for it at different agencies we think would connect. Sometimes, you have to think outside of the box because there may be some agencies that you really don't think will fund that, but if you really look, let's say, at clean air, you might be surprised at what they might find. So, when you start looking at that, you pull up their notice of funding information and once you fill that out, see if you are going to meet the criteria, and if so, then we know we can move forward and develop that proposal and submit that grant. Once we are waiting, are we going to get it or are we not going to get it? So, finally, the award phase comes about. If we got it, its wonderful. We celebrate and have a party. If not, we call and we have a debriefing. And, the debriefings are awesome because that tells us what we did wrong. It helps us with other grants and it helps us if we apply for that grant again. So, then we have to manage the award and on that, it is usually just a quarterly report. We have to work with all of the other departments from Police to Engineering to any others that helped us or there was a partnership in that grant. And, then usually, we get a letter and people want our grants and want to see how we wrote it, so we share our research with others around the state and other states.

So, the funding sources that we have right now are the federal government. There are several different funding sources and right now AmeriCorps is one that we are applying for in which we have our VISTA workers. But, I hate to say we didn't have any this past year because no one wants to work. So, we are reapplying again this year, looking at other avenues, and forms to get people to come in and work because we really need them for the research. Then, we have got the U.S. Department of Commerce which is our rail grant. You all have had past sewer and water grants through that. We have got the U.S. Department of Justice which is our Police, Fire, E911. The U.S. Department of Energy, that is going to be somewhere like our clean air, some of our parks, different things like that. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, we have had a few grants with them, but they are really hard to work with so we kind of stay away from those unless we think it is going to be something that we can take care of because we don't want something that we get into that might cause the city any kind of problem. So, the U.S. Department of Treasury, right now, that is your CARES Act and ARPA money that we are working on with them. All of the reporting on that money has

to go through the U.S. Department of Treasury. We have got the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. We used that one for the Veterans Cottages. We have got the U.S. Department of Transportation and that is where our rail, our transit systems such as our JET, airport, trails, and our roads is where that money comes from. And, right now, they have more money than anyone, any other agencies. So, everything is under the U.S. Department of Transportation right now if you want your funding. So, the U.S. Department of Environmental Protection Agency, that is like our Brownfields if we need to clean something up. Our U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that is where we received the funding for the Veterans Cottages. That is a federal grant that came through the state. And, as I move into the state, you will see which area we are working with there with the state. The U.S. Department of the Interior which is the Shooting Range. It is one that we got. The U.S. Department of Home Land Security that goes back to our Police and Fire Emergency, but it is also our FEMA grants like the tornado. The FEMA from the Covid-19 where we got reimbursed for some of that went through there. The Delta Regional Authority is our rail and workforce development.

So, one form of funding we get normally, we get it every year and that is the CDBG, the Community Development Block Grant. And, that is for our low and moderate income areas of Jonesboro is what that is for right there. And, that, we have several different projects that we work for in an entitlement city. Since we are an entitlement city, our allocation is determined by a formula that is based on the census. So, this funding must address housing and community development needs of Jonesboro, low-to-moderate income and residents in those areas. Right now, the programs that we have with it is Homeownership which is our most popular program that we have. We have the Homeownership Rehabilitation Assistance program, that is probably our second. We are starting to get more calls on demolition and clearance. Public Services is once we receive the application for those grants are \$20,000 and the deadline was March 31, 2022. We have Public Facilities and Improvement grants which is like our YMCA, sidewalks, and parks. There are 14 other Community Development cities in the State of Arkansas. They are Little Rock, Springdale, Fort Smith, Fayetteville, North Little Rock, Pine Bluff, Jonesboro, Conway, Rogers, Hot Springs, Texarkana, Bentonville, West Memphis, and Jacksonville. So, we call them quite a bit if we ever have questions on some of our funding. We call them to see how they are spending some of their funds and that makes it a little bit easier when you have got people you can talk to about all of it. And, so the state funding is like the Arkansas Department of Transportation which is our ARDOT grants. I think that you all know that we have many projects with them that we use right now. The Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism which are our Park grants. We want to look into some historical grants. We haven't done that in the past, but we do want to move forward with that. Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration, there are several different grants there like opioid projects, safe neighborhoods, different things like that we do there. Arkansas Department of Development Finance, Arkansas Attorney General, which I need to thank them or thank her because she gave us \$250,000 for the Veterans Cottages to finish that project up. I want to thank the Mayor for arranging that. Arkansas Department of Energy and Environmental, we don't do a lot with them, but we do a little bit that goes back to the Brownsfield Assessment. Arkansas Department of Human Services, we refer a lot of people to them for rental assistance and different things like that. You all have had grants with them in the past, COC, ESG, different ones like that. Arkansas Department of Public Safety, that goes back to our Fire and Police. And, the Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs which is our Veterans Cottages.

We also have several private funding sources that we use, but really, it is easier for non-profits and individuals to apply for the private funding because a lot of times they

will not fund cities, but they will non-profits. So, right now, we work with people like Delta Dental, Walmart, the Walton Foundation, Hunger Alliance, Bass Pro Shop, Bloomberg Grants, Blue and You Foundation Mini-Grants, State Farm, Dr. Pepper, Sunderland Foundation, Keep American Beautiful, the Elks Lodge, the ASU Honors College, Lowe's, Home Depot, Sam's, and Jonesboro Residential Housing Board. And so, the future funding or what we are pursuing for the City of Jonesboro is safety which is Police and Fire. Broadband, which I have been told will soon be included in Infrastructure. Infrastructure grants which is for streets, roads, and drainage. Transportation which is for airport, rail, trails, and JET. Also, within this includes community assistance, homelessness, recycling, emergency mitigation, demolition in the blight areas, home rehabilitation, first time home buyer program and Veteran's Housing and Supportive Services. In the future, we are seeing a lot of change as we move forward with the future in writing grants and what they are looking for. Most agencies are looking to move toward the future. So, everybody needs to get ready for change. They no longer want to fund outdated projects. We have had a couple of grants where they have come in and let's just take our low-emissions grant for our transit and they don't even want low-emission anymore. They don't even want that mentioned in there. They want no emission. So, everything is changing for the future so we have to be ready to change with it as we move forward. Also, the Community Development Block Grant, we did receive a little newsletter that stated that they may be reducing our funds for the upcoming year. I don't know if that is going to happen because we don't know yet what we are allocated on that one. And, we have got more applicants applying than ever before so we have got more competition when we go after the funding and the grants. The agencies are a little bit different. They are a little bit stricter than what they have been in the past on the guidelines and awarding the funds. You have some that have really just, you talk to one person and its okay and you talk to someone else and it is not okay. So, really, you don't know what to do on some of the information that you have got to send to them so you really have to research. It is really best if you build relationships with the agencies that you are working with so you can kind of get that all figured out. And, then the timeline on submitting a grant has changed. You used to have 2-3 months and now you may have 45 days. Technology is our key for tomorrow. It is the key to the future. And so, that and one other thing that they are really looking at is quality of life and they want to know what you have in your communities to produce quality of life to your residents. So, it is all changing and as I said earlier, we are all going to have to change with it. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you Regina. I appreciate your efforts in putting forward this presentation to council and the City of Jonesboro. I think that it is important that we realize what we are going to have to do moving forward, but it is important too I appreciate the job that you are doing and your entire staff as you continue to think outside of the box. Thank you for that time council.

Read

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

Aye: 12 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

[MIN-22:025](#) Minutes for the City Council meeting on March 15, 2022.

Attachments: [MINUTES PB](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-22:054](#) A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH THE JONESBORO BASEBALL BOOSTERS

Attachments: [JBB 2022 Agreement 2-23-22](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-053-2022

[RES-22:055](#) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A FACILITY USAGE AGREEMENT WITH CHRISTMAS ATTRACTIONS, LLC FOR JOE MACK CAMPBELL PARK

Attachments: [Christmas at the Park Agreement](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-054-2022

[RES-22:058](#) RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE FY22 RAISE GRANT FOR THE UPPER HALF OF THE JONESBORO QUALITY OF LIFE AND CONNECTIVITY MASTER PLAN

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-055-2022

[RES-22:059](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2215 Wood Street, PARCEL 01-143251-07200, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY INGRAM WILLA TRUST

Attachments: [2215 Wood](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-056-2022

[RES-22:060](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3016 HWY 141 N, PARCEL 01-154311-00800, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY RKC INVESTMENTS, LLC.

Attachments: [3016 HWY 141 N](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-057-2022

[RES-22:061](#) RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ENTER

INTO AGREEMENT WITH THE BLUE AND YOU FOUNDATION 2022 TO RECEIVE FIVE MINI GRANTS

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-058-2022

[RES-22:062](#)

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO UTILIZE FEDERAL-AID RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM FUNDS AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE FY22 RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM (RTP) FROM THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-059-2022

6. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-22:017](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF LICENSE PLATE RECOGNITION EQUIPMENT AND SOFTWARE FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Attachments: [Vigilant](#)

Councilmember Chris Gibson motioned, seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-22:017 by title only. All voted aye.

Councilmember Joe Hafner mentioned that ORD-22:017 has an emergency clause in it.

Police Chief Rick Elliott stated that this is the analytical piece of the software that goes along with our video management software that we already have in place. We need this moved forward as quickly as possible because we are already utilizing the software and we need to get the formal licensing done.

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Ann Williams, to suspend the rules and waive the second and third readings. All voted aye.

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Ann Williams, to adopt ORD-22:017. All voted aye.

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Ann Williams, to adopt the emergency clause on ORD-22:017. A roll call vote was taken and all voted aye.

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

Aye: 12 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Enactment No: O-EN-020-2022

[ORD-22:018](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR CLASSIC HOSPITALITY DBA AS DON JOSE LOCATED AT 2200 WILKINS AVENUE

Attachments: [Don Jose DO NOT USE_Redacted](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Charles Frierson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-22:018 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[ORD-22:016](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, FROM C-3 GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT TO I-1, LIMITED INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT FOR PROPERTY LOCATED ON SERVICE ROAD AS REQUESTED BY JEREMY BEVILL OF FISHER ARNOLD ON BEHALF OF A&J DELIVERIES

Attachments: [Staff Summary - City Council](#)
[Rezoning Ordinance](#)
[Plat](#)
[Application](#)
[22103-01](#)
[Charge Sheet](#)
[Charges - Paid](#)
[Cover Letter](#)
[Directional Rezoning Sign](#)
[Location](#)
[Map View](#)
[Notification Letters Certified Mail Receipt](#)
[Rezoning Sign](#)

Held at second reading

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-22:013](#)

A ORDINANCE TO VACATE AND ABANDON A DRAINAGE EASEMENT LOCATED ON PART OF LOTS 8 AND 11, HILL PARK ADDITION, PHASE 1 AS REQUESTED BY CRAFTON TULL ON BEHALF OF ANDREA PANNECK

Attachments: [Crafton Tull](#)
[Hill Park 1770 Mayfield Drainage Easement Abandonment Plat](#)
[Hill Park 1770 Mayfield Drainage Easement Abandonment](#)

Patti Lack, 4108 Forrest Hill Road, said, I know two weeks ago there was a gentleman

that came here and was talking about this ordinance, but he also talked to something about a daycare center, that it was going to be on the property and he is not here. And, I am just wondering why is that not mentioned in this? Does this have to be first adopted and then the daycare needs to be approved? I was kind of confused as to why he was here? Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, if I am thinking of the individual that you are talking about, I think he was on the wrong legislation at that point. He was on the wrong ordinance. He wasn't discussing this ordinance. It was a different ordinance. Councilmember Chris Moore said, the gentleman that came and discussed this ordinance was from the engineering firm and he came to see if we would waive the second and third readings and try to speed the process up. That was his comments on that. Mayor Copenhaver said, there was no motion on that. Councilmember Moore said, there was no action on that, that is correct. Ms. Lack said, okay, thank you.

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

Aye: 12 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Enactment No: O-EN-021-2022

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported on the following:

I want to commend Councilmember Dr. Coleman for attending yet another State of the City address. He has attended three so I commend him. Thank you. Thank you Councilmember.

Yesterday, Michael Edwards was deservedly named First Security Non-Uniformed Employee of the Month in April. Michael has dedicated more than 40 years of service to our great city and I can't think of anyone who exemplifies the commitment to the city employees more than Michael and our community. So, thank you Michael for all you do and I want to thank Brad, Haley, and the First Security Bank team for sponsoring this program.

The process for researching and advancing our efforts to make citywide broadband options a reality continues on. We have recently closed out the period for interested vendors to submit a letter of intent and we will be moving forward now with the next phase which will be an RFQ (Request for Qualifications) process. We had multiple companies apply and I want to thank each and every one of them for their interest and we look forward to the next steps as that unfolds as we keep it updated and keep you all updated.

We are continuing to have discussions with our Police and Fire Departments about addressing uniform pay. I can't say enough about how hard our first responders work each day to keep us all safe. I look forward to bringing to council some pay incentives that would help keep competitive in this market.

I would like to congratulate Captain Greg Johnson on his recent retirement from the Fire Department. Greg retired after 31 years of dedicated service to the Jonesboro Fire Department. Greg, you are a good man. You are a friend and I salute you and I wish you all the best in the next chapter of your life.

On Friday and I wouldn't recommend an announcement of a hire on April Fool's Day, but we did so and I was excited to announce that Captain Scott Roper will become our next Director of Code Enforcement. Scott has a wealth of experience working Jonesboro neighborhoods as a police officer for 33 years including valuable leadership experience as a Captain for 20 years or more. I think Scott's experience at JPD and his ability to see the needs of our city holistically can make him a great leader for what already is a great team in our Code Enforcement Department. Folks, I have tasked Scott with getting our city cleaned up. He is serious about it and I am too.

Tomorrow at 1:00 p.m. at Allen Park, Nettleton and Jonesboro High School students in conjunction with Keep Jonesboro Beautiful and our Parks Department will be holding a tree planting ceremony. They will also be doing together a cleanup tomorrow morning. It's great to see people getting involved at such a young age and I want to thank everyone involved.

A few weeks back, I met with Ms. Mary Housewright with St. Bernards on how we could increase support and awareness of our local special needs population. As a result, we have created project CARE which stands for City Administrators Ready to Engage. We plan to work with caregivers, teachers, therapists and other community leaders to find ways to create opportunities for special needs individuals. This effort really touches my heart because I believe that all people regardless of their personal challenges deserve the chance to inspire and to be proud of their accomplishments.

This past weekend, Larry Rogers, the Animal Control team, and 22 volunteers hosted a low-cost shot clinic at Earl Bell Community Center. All said, they were able to provide shots and vaccines to more than 250 dogs and cats that they treated. More than 500 doses were distributed. Thank you to Animal Control crew and each and every volunteer that gave up their beautiful Saturday to make the difference.

On an interesting note that I bet you didn't know, ASU and our Parks Department hosted a concrete canoe contest at Craighead Forest Park in which our own Craig Light was the judge. ASU came in 3rd and Craig and I both witnessed U of A sinking at the finale. Concrete can float. Congrats to the teams. We had competitors from multiple states, many in Tennessee as far as Knoxville. These are all engineering. They also did bridge building as well. They were right here in our community. They spent all weekend in our community as well. So, I want to say thank you to Craig for stepping up to the plate.

Last week, Regina Burkett, Tonya Hass, Brian Richardson and Tony Thomas attended the annual Delta Regional Authority Conference in New Orleans to learn about new federal programs, funding, and best practices from other communities. We have already talked about how we can implement some of those ideas here and I am confident that they will be doing so in the next couple of days. We are glad to have everybody back and I am glad to have them.

[COM-22:009](#)

JONESBORO AIRPORT COMMISSION FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE MONTH ENDING JANUARY 31, 2022

Attachments: [JAC Jonesboro Airport Financial 01_22](#)

Filed

[COM-22:010](#)

JONESBORO AIRPORT COMMISSION FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE MONTH ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2022

Attachments: [JAC Jonesboro Airport Financials 02_22](#)

Filed

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Mitch Johnson said, he needed to pass along information to the Mayor's office regarding a gentleman that had contacted him regarding erosion issues and drainage concerns.

Councilmember David McClain said, we had a Special Called Nominating & Rules Council Committee meeting earlier this evening.

Councilmember David McClain motioned, seconded by Councilmember Mitch Johnson, to suspend the rules and walk-on RES-22:053. All voted aye.

Councilmember John Street asked to be recused from discussion and voting on this matter because he is a board member for City Water and Light.

Councilmember Charles Frierson asked to be recused from discussion and voting on this matter because he is legal counsel for City Water and Light.

Councilmember David McClain motioned, seconded by Councilmember Mitch Johnson, to adopt RES-22:053. All voted aye except Councilmember John Street and Councilmember Charles Frierson who were recused.

[RES-22:053](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS AS RECOMMENDED BY MAYOR HAROLD COPENHAVER

Councilmember David McClain said, we had a Special Called Nominating & Rules Council Committee meeting earlier this evening.

Councilmember David McClain motioned, seconded by Councilmember Mitch Johnson, to suspend the rules and walk-on RES-22:053. All voted aye.

Councilmember John Street asked to be recused from discussion and voting on this matter because he is a board member for City Water and Light.

Councilmember Charles Frierson asked to be recused from discussion and voting on this matter because he is legal counsel for City Water and Light.

Councilmember David McClain motioned, seconded by Councilmember Mitch Johnson, to adopt RES-22:053. All voted aye except Councilmember John Street and Councilmember Charles Frierson who were recused.

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

Aye: 10 - Ann Williams;Chris Moore;Mitch Johnson;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Recused: 2 - Charles Frierson and John Street

Enactment No: R-EN-060-2022

Councilmember Chris Gibson said that he had a gentleman that had contacted him about erosion issues at 4525 Peter Trail. He said he has already shared that information with Brian and he wanted to ask them to look into it.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, Mr. Mayor, I commend you on hiring Captain Roper. He started in the Police Department about the same time that I started on the City Council. He is an honorable man and I think he will bring a level of professionalism to Code Enforcement that they need. Just as a chuckle, I think U of A was claiming that they were sabotaged out there at Craighead Forest by the Red Wolves, but they offered no proof. Also, just for a chuckle, we were talking about interest in providing broadband and other cable services. There was a full page apology letter on the back of the Jonesboro Sun today by Suddenlink. Apology not accepted, I'm sure. I look forward to those discussions.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said starting on April 16, 2022, we will start our cleaning program, the community cleanup program so we hope we can get some councilmembers and the community involved with it. Also, I think that Judy Casteel is doing one on May 7, 2022. We are also doing one on May 21, 2022. So, we are going to be pretty busy trying to clean up the neighborhoods this year. Mayor Copenhaver said, the Code Enforcement Department is also working on cleanups in our community that have never been. So, the south part of town and east part of town as well, we are going to be looking at addressing future cleanups.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kimberly Chase, 204 E. Nettleton, said, good evening. Thank you for giving me time. I am the Executive Director of the HUB Homeless Resource Center. It has been a while since I was here and so I thought I would come and give a brief update about what has been going on at the HUB. So, yesterday was our fifth anniversary of being opened. And, if you do the math in that time about half of it was spent dealing with Covid. And, I was hired about two years ago so the entire time that I have been at the HUB, I have been dealing with Covid and kind of how to reinvent ourselves and figure out how we can best serve our homeless population. So, we have since fully reopened and I am very excited about that. Some of the new services that we have started is our locker program where our homeless can store some items in there. We started a shower referral program and then the two newest things is a street outreach program. Every Wednesday we are taking a vehicle out loaded with supplies looking for our homeless. For those who cannot make it to the HUB, we are going out there and looking for them. So, if anybody knows of any homeless person, please let me know. You can just call the HUB office. And, then, we are starting a partner day where our agency partners are coming to the HUB one day per month and they are meeting with our guests instead of trying to get them to go to out because traveling for them requires them walking across town sometimes. And, so we are having all of our partners in our office one day per month to make it easier for our homeless. The existing services that we have continued to provide obviously is our lunch program. And, at least for the foreseeable future, we are going to continue that because that has really been the biggest part of our Covid services that we provided. And, then, of course, we still do help them get ID and birth certificates. We still have Goodwill come to our office to meet with our guest for employment related things and then we closely work with CRDC (Crowley's Ridge Development Council) for rental assistance and housing assistance. Those are two

things that we don't offer. So, anyway, that is our update and thank you for giving me this time. Thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, absolutely, thank you for coming forward.

Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road, said, I know Regina said something about getting the grant to finish up the Veteran's Village. I was wondering if she could give some information of just how the Veteran's Village is doing. Is it full and just some information because we haven't heard very much from it lately. Mayor Copenhaver said, I will reiterate too and I have said all along, you know we are working with four federal agencies here. Senator Boozman specifically said that they are very difficult across the country and many of these facilities don't make it. Ours is going to make it and it is doing a fine job, but it takes resources within the community. It takes partnerships within the community as well. And, so I do commend Regina and her efforts, Arkansas State University, and she can give you an update on individuals in the property. Community Development and Grants Director Regina Burkett said, so currently we have four residents within the Veteran's Cottages here in Jonesboro. We do have to change the name. I need to let you all know that because evidently there was a problem with Veteran's Villages of America and the trademark that they have so we have had to change the name to Veteran's Cottages of Jonesboro. I am working on that now. I will let you all know as soon as it is official. So, the only place where the name is Veteran's Villages is on the grant with ADFA. So, that is really the only thing that we have to change. The project is closing out with ADFA right now. They have changed a lot of the documentation that they had on the project from the beginning. So, some of the forms that we have sent in, we have got to resubmit to close it out. It is just like a HUD program. Therefore, anyone that is placed there, it is not, you can't just go there. We have to have three different verifications of your income before we can put you there so when they call I have to get that third verification before I can say yes. So, that is why we are not full currently right now because we are working with the ones wanting to move there considering that they are veterans and they have no income, this third verification is kind of difficult, but I have to have it when we are audited by HUD. So, we want to be sure that when they come to audit, that we have all the forms in place. Lynda Nash with the Beck Pride Center is doing the intake on everyone that is placed there right now. She has a social worker that goes out and meets the ones that are there three times a week. Students that she has and I do know that she is taking food by one a week to the ones that are there. We do have one, he was homeless. He is a little bit older than what we would normally have, but he did not have any place to go. He was in the hospital. He had been in ICU for a month. He had nowhere to go afterwards. So, he is staying there right now. He is looking for a place. He didn't have any of his benefits started, his veteran's benefits. Therefore, Lynda has got that started so he has the financial resources now to move out into his own apartment or house. We are working with him on them right now. We have had a couple of issues there that we are addressing right now. The ADFA lease is a little bit different than what you would really put at a homeless center so we are trying to get that all straightened out too right now, but as soon as we get the ADFA forms into them and they give me the okay that we are finalized on that, it will be full as soon as I get that done. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, you probably already know, but I had to go through the Veterans Administration at the county the other day and I think a lot of Veterans don't know that they need to file their DD214 at the county. I am not sure of some of these guys know that or not. But, even if they don't have their DD214, the young man at the county is really good about helping. He helped me get some of my information the other day too. Even my records that he can go back and help me get so I am not sure if you guys know, but I had to make sure that I say that because I know a lot of veterans have misplaced their DD214 and that piece of paper is probably the biggest piece of paper that they need to have. Ms. Burkett said, Lynda

usually does the intake on all of the paperwork, but I am going to have to get involved because we have got some things that are missing that we will need to have for our audit. So, I went to JURHA and they gave me a form for the third verification that we will have to send. And, I will probably send it to the county. We are working on that right now on where to send it since they are a veteran. Councilmember Coleman said, well, I am glad you said it because the gentleman said exactly what you got done just saying. He mentioned to me the other day that a lot of forms have been lost. At the same time, I know that Ms. Nash is doing a lot of work, but I think the total in-depth work is done at the county and so he kind of mentioned that. And, so, I have had to go back and forth. I thought I would tell you that. Ms. Burkett said, I need to meet him. I haven't met him yet so I need to go up and meet him. Councilmember Coleman said, he is really good. Ms. Burkett said, I just want to make sure that we are in compliance. I don't want to have any red flags on us with the Veterans Cottages. Therefore, I want to be sure that I have everything in order before we start letting people move in because we don't want any red flags. Because it may, if something happened, it could be other federal grants that we have issues. Councilmember Coleman said, thank you. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you Regina.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 12 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

_____ **Date:** _____

Harold Copenhagen, Mayor

Attest:

_____ **Date:** _____

April Leggett, City Clerk