



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

PUBLIC WORKS COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING

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

President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore stated, Mayor Harold Copenhaver is not available tonight.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

3. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

Present 10 - Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Absent 2 - Brian Emison and Ann Williams

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

Aye: 10 - Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Absent: 2 - Brian Emison and Ann Williams

[MIN-23:049](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MAY 16, 2023

Attachments: [CC Minutes 05162023](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

[RES-23:096](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE FY2023 AMERICORPS VISTA PROGRAM GRANT FROM THE NATIONAL CORPORATION

OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-115-2023

[RES-23:097](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE FY2024 SELECTIVE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM (STEP) FROM THE ARKANSAS STATE POLICE

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-116-2023

[RES-23:098](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ACCEPT AND TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA) FOR THE EXECUTION OF THE FY2018 SECTION 5307, FTA FORMULA GRANT, FOR THE JONESBORO ECONOMICAL TRANSIT SYSTEM (JET)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-117-2023

[RES-23:100](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ACCEPT THE AGREEMENT AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH BRACKETT KENNERICH & ASSOCIATES, P.A. TO PROVIDE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES

Attachments: [Agreement - Congress Cove Building](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-118-2023

[RES-23:101](#)

A RESOLUTION TO WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND ACCEPT THE BID AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF TWO NEW VEHICLE FOR THE TRANSIT DEPARTMENT (JET)

Attachments: [BUS ORDER 05192023](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-119-2023

[RES-23:102](#)

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH EAST ARKANSAS BROADCASTERS FOR RENTAL OF JOE MACK CAMPBELL SPORTS COMPLEX

Attachments: [JULY 4TH 2023 EAB](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-120-2023

[RES-23:103](#)

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH SAGA COMMUNICATIONS OF ARKANSAS LLC D/B/A JONESBORO RADIO GROUP FOR RENTAL OF SOUTHSIDE SPORTS COMPLEX

Attachments: [JULY 4TH 2023 JRG](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-121-2023

RESOLUTIONS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

[RES-23:099](#)

A RESOLUTION FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO APPROVE THE 2023-2024 CDBG ACTION PLAN THAT INCLUDES THE 2023-2024 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROJECTS, ACTIVITIES AND BUDGET

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

Aye: 10 - Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Absent: 2 - Brian Emison and Ann Williams

Enactment No: R-EN-122-2023

6. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-23:026](#)

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 4603 SOUTHWEST DRIVE AS REQUESTED BY AMY NEWBERRY LOVINS.

Attachments: [Application \(3\)](#)
 [Plat \(9\)](#)
 [Notifications](#)
 [Staff Summary - C.C.](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Mitch Johnson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-23:026 by title only. All voted aye.

Councilmember David McClain said, I have a couple of questions in regards to this property. Derrel, do you mind to just briefly speak to the location and also do you guys feel like we will have any traffic issues in regards to this property with the request? Planning Director Derrel Smith said, the location is on Southwest Drive. It is on the opposite side of the road from that Northeast Fire Protection and I think there is a Church of Christ out there. So, it is kind of across from that. Since it is a rezoning, we really aren't getting into what can go there. Councilmember McClain asked, they haven't said what they are going to put there yet. Mr. Smith said, they have told us that they want to have like a little area for food trailers. We haven't seen any site plans or anything yet because it's too early and so, we are basically looking at the zoning only and it does follow the Land Use Plan for that area and being commercial. Councilmember McClain said, okay.

Held at one reading

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[ORD-23:021](#) AN ORDINANCE TO UPDATE CITY OF JONESBORO PURCHASING GUIDELINES TO REFLECT AMENDMENT TO STATE OF ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE PURCHASING PROCEDURES

Attachments: [ACT435 2021](#)

Held at second reading

[ORD-23:022](#) AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO PLACE VARIOUS TRAFFIC SIGNS AT DESIGNATED LOCATIONS AS DETERMINED BY THE TRAFFIC CONTROL COMMITTEE

Held at second reading

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-23:023](#) AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL AND REPLACE SECTIONS OF THE DOWNTOWN JONESBORO DEVELOPMENT CODE (DJDC) IN THE CITY OF JONESBORO

Attachments: [Exhibit A](#)
[Exhibit B](#)

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

Aye: 10 - Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Absent: 2 - Brian Emison and Ann Williams

Enactment No: O-EN-024-2023

[ORD-23:024](#) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 TO C-3, LUO FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 200 ROYALE DRIVE AS REQUESTED BY HORIZON LAND SURVEYING ON BEHALF OF CURTNER ASSET MANAGEMENT

Attachments: [Application](#)
[Certified Receipts](#)
[Plat](#)
[Staff Summary - C.C.](#)

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

Aye: 10 - Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Absent: 2 - Brian Emison and Ann Williams

Enactment No: O-EN-025-2023

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember David McClain said, I sent an email asking or requesting can we have the Chamber of Commerce come and do a presentation on things that they are working on for this year and maybe next year? I would love to have them come up and give a presentation. Chief Operations Officer Tony Thomas said, I don't know the exact date, but I believe they are going to be here either for the second meeting of this month or the first meeting in July. Councilmember McClain said, perfect, thank you.

Councilmember Chris Gibson said, I have a quick follow-up question that is probably for the Chief or for Craig. I brought up a couple of weeks ago or maybe a month or so ago that I had received some emails in regards to speeding on Winged Foot. Has that gone before Traffic Control as of yet? I don't know if there is a whole lot we can do out there. Engineering Director Craig Light said, I believe that it has. I think the recommendation was, part of it was a stop sign on the cul-de-sac itself, but I think that may have been in the resolution tonight that was approved or one that is coming forward. But, stopping the traffic on Winged Foot was not recommended by the committee so far. Councilmember Gibson said, okay. Mr. Light said, we do meet again this Thursday so we can talk about it again. Councilmember Gibson said, there are two of the neighbors that reached out that said they would be willing to put the speed limit signs in their yard. I don't know if that deters any speeding or not, but we have got a couple of volunteers.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I want to thank Scott Roper and Code Enforcement. This weekend, they came out and did a cleanup. What were we at 6 tons or 7 tons? Code Enforcement Director Scott Roper said, 7.33 tons with 89 tires. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, 89 tires and that was probably the most that had been picked up lately. I already have calls from people asking for us to pick up more tires. The second thing I want to address and I am not sure, maybe this needs to go to Brian or Bill. Have we made decisions about the plastic bags that goes out to be taken care of because I am thinking that is an issue or have we really made a decision on how to tackle that issue or what? Chief Administrative Officer Brian Richardson asked, are you referencing plastic yard waste bags? Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, yes. Mr. Richardson said, we have started a pretty aggressive program in conjunction with Keep Jonesboro Beautiful on trying to get paper bags out to people to encourage them to use them more. Obviously, every bit helps as far as just a logistical difference between how the city handles yard waste in plastic versus paper bags is a pretty fundamental change in collection efficiency. For those that don't know, federal regulations no longer allow for plastic bags and yard waste to go directly into landfill. So, when there is a plastic bag at curbside, a sanitation worker, actually multiple sanitation workers have to cut and remove those and empty them into a hopper because plastic bags are not allowed to go into an incinerator. So, we have kind of got a double whammy. What the paper bags allow is for one person driving one machine to pick them up with a knuckleboom, throw them into the back, and move

onto the next. Holistically, it is a more efficient and faster approach. But, there is also the understanding that there is going to need to be a lot of education with that before it is really kind of expanded. I do thank the Beautification Committee for working with us on that to help kind of get some of that out there. I would just say that having recently, personally switched to using paper bags for lawn waste, it is a lot easier and less frustrating when I pull up on the tab and it tears off the top of it and have to completely reload another bag. That can get a little irritating. But, I actually find them easier to work with. We are about to start another program where we have purchased some more through some beautification allocated money to help, kind of redistribute those. I am sure that Mrs. Parker and the members of the Beautification Committee would be happy to help supply some of the Council people, paper bags too, if you have an outlet where people can come pick them up. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman asked, is that going to require more personnel? Mr. Richardson said, it requires more personnel to handle plastic lawn bags as it is right now. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman asked, do we have the personnel or do we need to get more personnel? Mr. Richardson said, that is an open-ended question. We always need more personnel. I would say that these strains on what is asked of our sanitation workers has increased with the regulatory changes that kind of have forced some of these additional requirements upon us. They work a lot. They will end up doing special shifts on the weekends to try to catch up with the plastic bags, but that is a lot of work whenever you look out there and you see 40-50-60 plastic bags piled up because those can't go anywhere except in a truck and in their raw form. And, somebody has got to remove the yard waste from the plastic bags. Breaking Bonds has been really helpful with that. Sanitation Director Patrick Courtois has been really helpful with coordinating those efforts. But, it is absolutely very taxing and it is a lot of work. We have a great staff out there and they are happy to do it, but it certainly increases extra work. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, with District Court, we have been sending some public service workers out there on Saturday's to help.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, okay. The last thing, your family is still, we are still in prayer for your family because of the passing of your father. So, I want to make sure that you know that we did put that on a list. So, I hope everything goes well and if you need us, give us a call. Mr. Richardson said, I appreciate that Dr. Coleman.

Councilmember Janice Porter said, I also want to offer my condolences to Mr. Richardson in the passing of his father. Mr. Richardson said, thank you.

President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore said, thank you Brian.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

(Becky Goza, 1330 Flint Street, spoke about the problem of not addressing homelessness and offering the homeless a place to stay.)

Becky Goza, 1330 Flint Street, said, I am speaking to you all tonight on something that is dear and kind to my heart so please bear with me if I don't have tears in my heart and tears in my eyes. I am speaking to you tonight council and I was hoping Mayor Copenhaver would be here tonight, it is on the homeless and this community. I drive around this community every day and I see so many homeless in our community. And, I understand that the homeless in our community is upon their own fault sometimes, but sometimes it is not their fault. Sometimes, it is out of their own circumstances. Day by day, we do not know what brings homeless in our community, in our cities. We may have circumstances that may bring homeless to our communities. We don't know from day to day that what brings homeless to our

communities. Myself, I am without a job and without my family and the support of my family and friends, I would be a homeless person myself probably today. And, we need to stop and think what we would do if it was ourselves. What would we do if we didn't have a job? If we didn't have a home to live in. If we didn't have the support of our family and friends. I have seen numerous times that I have seen, I have helped homeless in our community. I know and I understand that it may be against the law, but I don't care. I don't care if I am locked up. Here a while back, I seen two ladies walking down the road in freezing timid temperature degrees weather and I was on my way to work. I stopped and asked these ladies where they were going. They said they had come from NEA Hospital where they were asked to leave. I asked them where they were going. They said they didn't know because they didn't have a place to go. I asked them without knowing them. I asked them to please get in the car and I would try to take them where I could find them somewhere to go. I called the police department to ask them where a place they could go. The officer told me to take them to the Salvation Army. At that time, I knew the Salvation Army was closed and it was full. I said where else can I take them? He goes I do not know. I said, why does Jonesboro not have a homeless shelter? He said we are not equipped to having a homeless shelter. That brought tears to my eyes because 15 miles up the road, there is a homeless shelter. 30 miles up the road, there is a mission outreach who helps people get back on their feet. I am aware of that because I have taken people to that mission outreach in Paragould where they help them get jobs and help them get back on their feet. There is a nursing home here in Jonesboro. I have spoken to the Mayor's office and yes, I understand that it is in bad shape, but why can we not get a grant? And, there is grants out there. Why can we not get a grant to update this building, to make this into a homeless shelter? Then, I got to thinking, is it because we can't get a grant? Is it because the community doesn't want a homeless shelter? And, I understand people don't want a homeless shelter. But, come to a conclusion people, these people are just like me and you. They get up every morning and they put their pants and shirt on and they walk around here just like we do. Some days, they may not have the best looking clothes to wear, but they are only human just like me and you today. Here, a while back, I helped a young mother with two small children. She called me and she said had nowhere to stay because a friend of hers took all of her money and kicked her out on the street with her two small children. She had nowhere to go. I asked her, I will call around to all of the churches and see if I can get you a place to stay. I called all of the churches and they quit doing it. And, I understand why they quit because of all of the past things that happen in the past, but I found one church that gave her a night in the hotel with her two small children. The next day she called me and said she had nowhere else, what could she do? I spent the whole day. I went to Memphis with my husband. I spent the whole day, from the time I left Jonesboro to I got to Memphis, trying to find her a place to stay and until I left Memphis trying to go back to Jonesboro trying to find her a place to place to stay. When I got back home, me and my sister gathered up the money and paid for her three more nights to stay in the hotel out of our own pocket. We didn't have it, but I was not going to have that young mother and her two small children staying out on the streets. I drive across the overpasses and I see tents underneath trees that these people live in. I see people living under bridges. I see people living in cars. I see people living in ditches and I can't stand it. And, I can't stand the fact that people are telling me that this town is not equipped for a homeless shelter. And, I can't handle the fact that we are putting bars on benches and we are running these people off because they are not good enough to be seen on Main Street. One day, me and my daughter was waiting for a business to open and we were walking down Main Street and we walked down in front of a business and we stopped and talked to two people that were homeless and they were eating their sandwiches. We stood there for ten minutes talking to these people and they were as friendly as they could be. We walked into the business. Five minutes later the police

pulled up. I asked the young girl what was going on. She said the police were called because they were smoking marijuana. I said, no, they were not because if they had been smoking marijuana, I would have been put into an asthma attack because I have asthma. I said they were not smoking marijuana. They were sitting there eating their sandwich and minding their own business. The officer came in and talked to the owner. He said I have taken care of it. We are moving them away from the bench and on down the road. I walked by that owner and I told that owner of that store, I said you ought to be ashamed of yourself for telling such a lie. I said those people were not doing nothing except sitting there eating their sandwich and minding their own business. I said they were doing anything except minding their own business. I said, sir, I will pray for you. All I am asking is that we come together as a community and show these people that we care because I know we care. I have called the Mayor's office and I know that he is a busy man and I understand. Let's show these people we care because I know Jonesboro cares. I have lived here since 2017. When my house burned over there on Mitchell Drive, our house was on the news. The police department here in Jonesboro and several citizens here in this town came together and brought things to my family to help us when our house burned to the ground. So, I know this community cares. And, all I am asking, I am here to help. I have gave my number to the Mayor's office several times. I am here to volunteer to be on a committee. I am here to help what I've got to do. All I want to do is help these people because my mother and my grandmother, God rest their soul, taught me no matter who you are, you are just human and you are not rich and you are not poor. God gave us the God given rights to show us that it don't matter who we are, we are human. And, it don't matter what kind of car you drive and what kind of house you live in, you are the same person no matter who you are. And, that's all I've got to say. Thank you. President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore said, thank you ma'am.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 10 - Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Absent: 2 - Brian Emison and Ann Williams

_____ Date: _____

Harold Copenhaver, Mayor

Attest:

_____ Date: _____

April Leggett, City Clerk