



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Thursday, January 3, 2019

5:30 PM

Municipal Center

OATH OF OFFICE TO BE ADMINISTERED TO RECENTLY ELECTED OFFICIALS BY CITY CLERK DONNA JACKSON AT 4:45 P.M.

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

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

3. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK DONNA JACKSON

Present 11 - Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent 1 - Ann Williams

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

Aye: 11 - Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

[MIN-18:124](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON DECEMBER 18, 2018

Attachments: [City Council Minutes 12182018.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

[RES-18:188](#)

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH RITTER COMMUNICATIONS FOR

SPONSORSHIP OF ONE ATHLETIC FIELD SIGN AT THE JOE MACK CAMPBELL SPORTS COMPLEX

Sponsors: Parks & Recreation

Attachments: [Exhibit A](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-001-2019

[RES-18:195](#)

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH INFORMATION NETWORK OF ARKANSAS (INA) TO DEVELOP AN ONLINE PAYMENT PORTAL AND PROVIDE ONLINE PAYMENT COLLECTION SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO

Sponsors: Finance and Mayor's Office

Attachments: [Exhibit A](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-002-2019

[RES-18:200](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO AMEND THE CITY SALARY AND ADMINISTRATION POLICY BY INCLUDING UPDATED JOB TITLES AND GRADES

Sponsors: Human Resources and Finance

Attachments: [Job Titles and Grades - Revised January 2019](#)
[Pay Grades and Steps - Revised January 2019](#)
[Salary Administration Plan - Revised January 2019](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-003-2019

6. NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

[RES-18:198](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO PURCHASE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 827 WARNER AVENUE FROM GUY CREMEENS.

Attachments: [827 Warner - County Information](#)
[827 Warner - Limited Title Search](#)
[827 Warner - Title Search](#)
[827 Warner - Signed Offer and Acceptance](#)
[Staff Summary - 827 Warner Ave.](#)

Mayor Harold Perrin said I know that Land Bank Director Jonathan Smith is on vacation and I would like to get this tabled until the next City Council meeting. Councilmember Chris Moore made a motion to postpone temporarily RES-18:198 until

the next City Council meeting, seconded by Councilmember John Street. All voted aye.

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

Aye: 11 - Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-18:060](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE SELECTION OF PROFESSIONAL ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, AND SURVEYORS AND AWARDING OF CONTRACTS FOR CITY OF JONESBORO PROJECTS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Attachments: [Daniels_email_01042019.pdf](#)
[Daniels_Comments.pdf](#)

Councilmember John Street made a motion to suspend the rules and offer ORD-18:060 by title only, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore. All voted aye.

Councilmember Charles Frierson asked if he could take the opportunity to talk about this particular item. Mayor Harold Perrin said yes sir. Councilmember Frierson said thank you. City Attorney Carol Duncan asked if Councilmember Frierson wanted her to read the title first. Councilmember Frierson said yes.

Councilmember Frierson said when I first encountered this ordinance and read it and also listened to some discussion, it occurred to me that it sounded like and looked like a solution in search of a major problem. Apparently, the problem has to do with, as it states, transparency and responsibility. The problem with the problem is that the solution transfers a major amount of activity from where it has been handled for the last I do not know how long into the City Council's lap, and I think that is an extreme measure. It seems to me that it would be equally effective to concentrate on what the central problem is that Mr. Mike Cameron and others like that company have with what the process has been today rather than taking a huge chunk of stuff and changing the way we allow the city's business to be accomplished. It isn't just that it doesn't make sense to me that this council would be doing what it requires of it, even though I think what's happened in the past through people who deal with this directly is more effective, but that's not as much of a problem as what I came up with next that bothers me. You are probably aware on the council that we operate under a section of the law that gives us two duties and that's it. One is that we have the financial responsibility and the other is the responsibility through ordinances and resolutions of creating a framework for the operation of the city. Nowhere in those descriptions do I find anything that comes close to authorizing us to manage or determine the operations within which that framework exists, and the transfer of those operations is exactly what this ordinance tries to do. I think it's probably illegal and puts us in a somewhat embarrassing position if we try to handle it under those situations and then have to be subject to a lawsuit to determine whether it is or not. I just don't feel like it needs to be handled in this manner. It's too much of a change. It's too much on the council. It is an area that is not covered by Arkansas law as being one of our duties. I hope that we would either do one of two things. Turn the ordinance down as written or postpone it

until we can zero in on the specific problem within the current structure and change that, perhaps, with a lot less movement or overturn of the whole procedure. Thank you.

Councilmember Street said I would like to comment on that. We used to do this, so I'm pretty sure it's legal. We did it before doing it the way it's done now. I would be more than happy to defer it, as far as Arkansas law, to the Arkansas Municipal League and let them make a determination on whether or not we have the power to do this or not. I'm pretty sure we do. That's all I have to say.

Councilmember Chris Moore said Councilmember Frierson is an esteemed attorney. We have physical oversight given to the council. Councilmember Frierson, you don't think that includes the review or selection of contracts? That's what we're basically doing when we select them. Councilmember Frierson said you should review that when it is finally worked through and managed by the operations department of the city. When we do decide whether that decision is correct or not and we can turn down their recommendation or ask them to change it, what I'm concerned with is us actually operating the process of being involved in it at that point.

Ms. Duncan said I will say, prior to this ordinance being presented, that when we were discussing this among staff that was one of the things that we discussed at great length. That it's really the Mayor's job to run the city. It's the City Council's job to oversee the spending of the money and the contracts. Councilmember Frierson said to create the framework. I'm all for that. Ms. Duncan said correct. Councilmember Frierson said I'm all for changing the framework if it needs to be changed, but not dramatically like this.

Councilmember Street said I would ask that we hold this for three readings. Mayor Perrin said we will just leave it there. This is for first reading only.

Councilmember Moore said before we leave discussion on this, Councilmember Street recommended we have the Arkansas Municipal League issue an opinion on legality. We're going to read it over three consecutive City Council meetings, over six weeks, so I think that would be a pertinent thing to request. Mayor Perrin said I don't have a problem with requesting that to the Municipal League. I don't have a problem, as it's written, to send that along with Ms. Duncan's assistance. I know that Mr. Mark Hayes is going to want to ask Ms. Duncan specific questions, rather than me. We can do that. Councilmember Moore said I'm just saying, if there is any question of legality, I think it would be our due diligence to check into it. Mayor Perrin said we'll work on that. Ms. Duncan said they are our new liability counsel so they might be interested. I will reach out to them.

Placed on second reading

[ORD-18:094](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL ENACTMENT NUMBER O-EN-074-2018, AND TO AMEND THE JONESBORO CODE OF ORDINANCES, SECTION 117-326, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR THE PROVISION OF LANDSCAPE, SCREENING AND TREE PRESERVATION WITHIN THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS WITH THE INTENT TO PROMOTE LANDSCAPING, BUFFERING, SCREENING, AND TREE PRESERVATION FOR THE GENERAL HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE COMMUNITY, AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF REDUCING PUBLICATION COSTS BY ADOPTING THE BODY OF THE ORDINANCE AS EXHIBIT "A"

Attachments: [Exhibit A.docx](#)

Councilmember John Street made a motion to suspend the rules and offer ORD-18:094 by title only, seconded by Councilmember L.J. Bryant. All voted aye.

Councilmember Gene Vance said I would like to ask a question to make it public record. I had visited with City Attorney Carol Duncan and City Clerk Donna Jackson and there is one sentence on the last page that is not correct. Do we need to amend that or can that be changed as a typographical error? Ms. Duncan said we think it can be changed as a typo. It doesn't change the rules. It references Section 1(a) and it should reference 2(a). I think we can make that change as a typographical error in the exhibit. Councilmember Vance said and that's on the record then. Mayor Perrin said it will be of record.

Councilmember Vance asked if ORD-18:094 could be left on the first reading. Every time I read it, I find something a little different and I think everybody should have the chance to read it for the next meeting. Councilmember David McClain said this is the same ordinance that we just passed. I motion that we suspend the rules and waive second and third reading. Councilmember Charles Frierson seconded the motion. All voted aye, except Councilmember Gene Vance, Councilmember John Street and Councilmember Bobby Long, who voted nay.

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

Aye: 9 - Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Nay: 2 - Gene Vance and Bobby Long

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

Enactment No: O-EN-001-2019

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[ORD-18:081](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 42 OF THE JONESBORO CODE OF ORDINANCES TO ADD ARTICLE VI SHORT-TERM RESIDENTIAL RENTALS AND AMEND CHAPTER 117-138 AND 117-139 OF THE ZONING USE TABLES

Sponsors: Planning

Attachments: [Jonesboro Fire Department STR.pdf](#)
[Short Term Rental Permit Application.pdf](#)
[STRP Affidavit.pdf](#)
[STRP Instructions.pdf](#)
[STRP Notification Template.pdf](#)

Councilmember Chris Moore said I spoke with Mayor Perrin's department head today and I think that he conferred with you, Mayor, also, that due to the holiday season, they have not completed their work and they asked if we could postpone indefinitely for 30 days. I'll make that motion to give Planning Director Derrel Smith and his staff time to complete.

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

Aye: 11 - Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

[ORD-18:082](#)

AN ORDINANCE ABANDONING AND VACATING AN ALLEY LOCATED IN THE 1000 BLOCK OF BURKE STREET AS REQUESTED BY STEVEN CHAPLAIN

Attachments: [notarized petitions from abutting property owners.pdf](#)
[RESOLUTION.pdf](#)
[ORDINANCE NO alley.pdf](#)
[plat.pdf](#)
[Alley Abandonment - Chaplain.pdf](#)
[utility letters.pdf](#)

Councilmember Gene Vance asked if all the notarized petitions had been checked to ensure they are valid. If you remember, we had one that we passed and it came back to us that one of the petitions didn't belong to the person who owned the property. Mayor Harold Perrin said I know which one you're talking about now. That was some months back. Councilmember Chris Moore said that was the one on Washington. Councilmember Vance said I'm just asking if the staff has checked these petitions to ensure they're valid and they cover all of the abutting property owners. Planning Director Derrel Smith said they can be. Mayor Perrin said so you're saying they haven't been. Councilmember Vance said let's leave it on second reading. Mayor Perrin said we'll just hold it at second reading so Mr. Smith can verify that.

Held at second reading

[ORD-18:088](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FOR PROPERTY LOCATED ON THE NORTH SIDE OF U.S. HWY. 49 AND SOUTH OF FLEMON ROAD AND EAST OF HWY. 226 AND WEST OF WILKERSON DRIVE FROM AGRICULTURAL, AG-1 TO SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL, RS-8 LUO AS REQUESTED BY TRAVIS FISCHER WITH TRALAN ENGINEERING ON BEHALF OF CBS REVOCABLE TRUST

Attachments: [COJ Rezoning Ordinance.pdf](#)
[Revised Rezoning Plat.pdf](#)
[Staff Summary - HWY 49, Flemon and Wilkerson Road.pdf](#)
[Application.pdf](#)
[Valley View School Approval.pdf](#)

Ms. Tammy Mays, 5410 Wilkinson Drive, said I am requesting that this be postponed. Our neighbors were not informed in much time to be able to know that this was going on. I would like time to talk to my neighbors. We have a flooding issue and a very severe traffic issue down Wilkinson and Flemon Road that is dangerous. So, putting even more traffic on that is something that I don't feel like my neighbors would be happy with. We would just like time to talk to the neighbors and see if everybody feels the way that we do. Mayor Harold Perrin said this is on for second reading tonight. Ms. Mays said we were sent certified letters that came after this was done. Nobody knew about this. It was the little sign and that's all that anybody knew. I have had several

neighbors contact me today because they found out this was on the second reading already and asked that we postpone it. Mr. Michael Boggs with Tralan Engineering said we sent out all of the certified letters as required by the ordinances meeting the deadlines for that purpose, so they were notified in time. The letters were sent out in time for the meetings before the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission for the initial rezoning application. Mayor Perrin said this went through the MAPC. Ms. Mays said I actually spoke to my postal carrier and she said she had a lot of trouble getting people to sign these because it was in the middle of the day, of course. So, a lot of people didn't get theirs. Mayor Perrin said again, it's on the agenda for the second reading tonight. I'm going to assume that they are probably going to hold that there until the third reading, which will be two more weeks. So, that should give you plenty of time, Ms. Mays, to check on that.

Held at second reading

[ORD-18:089](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE APPROVAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR A LARGE EVENT FACILITY PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR THE GARDEN AT HARMONY

Attachments: [application.pdf](#)
 [Mission Statement 2019 Jan 04.pdf](#)
 [Perrin Mayor Letter 2019 Jan 07.pdf](#)

Held at second reading

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-18:076](#)

AN ORDINANCE ABANDONING AND VACATING UTILITY EASEMENTS LOCATED AT 2324 RED WOLF BLVD. AS REQUESTED BY GEORGE HAMMAN OF CIVILOGIC ON BEHALF OF NORTHEAST BORDER, LLC

Attachments: [email requesting date change 11082018.pdf](#)
 [signed abandonment petition.pdf](#)
 [sh1-esmt abandonment.pdf](#)
 [sh2-esmts remaining.pdf](#)
 [CITY CONCURRENCE ABANDONMENT.pdf](#)
 [ATT ABANDONMENT LETTER.pdf](#)
 [CWL ABANDONMENT - RED WOLF.pdf](#)
 [RITTER ABANDONMENT LETTER.pdf](#)
 [Suddenlink and Altice Easement Abandonment - Red Wolf Blvd - Jonesboro](#)

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

Aye: 11 - Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

Enactment No: O-EN-002-2019

[ORD-18:078](#)

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING BY REFERENCE THE JONESBORO QUALITY OF LIFE AND CONNECTIVITY MASTER PLAN

Attachments: [ORDINANCE.pdf](#)
[17-006_ONEJonesboro Masterplan Document_100818.pdf](#)
[Jonesboro Unlimited Letter 12182018 bike and ped.pdf](#)

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

Aye: 11 - Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

Enactment No: O-EN-003-2019

[ORD-18:080](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR 514 HOLDINGS, DBA YESDOG GRILL OF JONESBORO

Attachments: [AN ORDINANCE FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT.pdf](#)
[Application_Redacted.pdf](#)

Councilmember Bobby Long asked if the person from Yesdog Grill was in the audience. Mayor Harold Perrin said yes. Councilmember Long said I have a couple of questions. The private club is for the alcohol ordinance. Is that correct? Ms. Jeannie Martin, 5004 Highway 351, said yes. Councilmember Long asked what is the mission statement of the non-profit organization. Ms. Martin said are you talking about who we are going to concentrate on donating to. Councilmember Long said like the mission statement of your non-profit. Does your non-profit have a mission statement? Mr. Jason Willett said Ms. Martin can go ahead and obviously read to you the two paragraphs that we have here that was also in our application and can talk about the charities that it's going to support and she's more than happy to read that to you. Councilmember Long said please do.

Ms. Martin said 514 Holdings, which is the name of the non-profit doing business as Yesdog Grill of Jonesboro, is a non-profit private club and exists for the purpose of common recreational, social, community hospitality and benevolent purposes. 514 Holdings will support Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and the Make a Wish Foundation. The club will also focus its support on benefiting the Craighead County Chapter of the American Cancer Society and the Disabled American Veterans Organization.

Councilmember Long said the non-profit had to have been in existence for over a year. So, what was the charitable giving that you all had done previously? Mr. Willett said the non-profit was formed on August 1, 2017, so under state law it has to be in existence for over a year, which it has. So, it will now just be beginning that process. It's a brand new non-profit. It's not been associated with any other restaurants. It's never been in existence in Jonesboro and has nothing to do with the previous occupier of this location, which I think many of you realize that if you look at it, it's Godsey spelled backwards, Yesdog. We're excited to bring it back to downtown.

Councilmember Long said that's all. Thank you. I think the importance of this is first of all to establish that as a non-profit and with the benefits and privileges that are associated with a non-profit, it's behooved to us to make sure that those businesses that are applying for those privileges and getting those privileges are actually operating

as they should. Because, as you know, many do not. I just wanted to make sure that it's on the record as what you're going to be giving to so that you can be held accountable to do those things. It's very important to me to make sure that if you're going to get the privileges of a non-profit that you act and operate as such. Mr. Willett said the other thing to go with that, too, is that Ms. Lisa Godsey has been an operator of the restaurant business here for a long time, but I also will step forward to say that this non-profit, this entity, this private club is a restaurant, and it is first and foremost. It will serve food every day. They're not just trying to get an application for a license to be only about alcohol. They are a full-service restaurant with a great menu.

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

Aye: 11 - Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

Enactment No: O-EN-004-2019

ITEMS THAT HAVE BEEN HELD IN COUNCIL

[ORD-18:072](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH STANDARDS FOR SMALL WIRELESS FACILITIES TO BE PLACED IN CITY RIGHTS-OF-WAY IN THE CITY OF JONESBORO

Sponsors: Planning

Attachments: [Small Cell Tower Examples.docx](#)

Councilmember David McClain said I have been talking with City Attorney Carol Duncan and we feel there is still some work to be done, so I'd like to make a motion to postpone ORD-18:072 indefinitely.

Ms. Duncan said we have been working on this for some time and had come up with an ordinance that we thought was a good one. Then, at the last minute, as you all will recall, AT&T came in and had some requests for changes. I think other utility companies looked at it, but we also reached out to the Arkansas Municipal League and asked what other cities were doing. First of all, I think there may be a push to try to do something on a statewide basis where not everybody would be doing something individually, but the second part is that the Arkansas Municipal League has a sample ordinance that it thinks is fairly consistent with what would be approved statewide, if such happens. We want to take a look at that. The reason I say indefinitely is because I think it will be substantially different and I don't want to keep confusing people by saying it's still a small cell ordinance, but it's not that one, it's this one. I would just rather have this one go away and we'll come back with the one that we think the Municipal League is recommending, with maybe a few changes to make it local to Jonesboro, but primarily what they are recommending. We just got that information right at the holiday. They felt comfortable sharing it and finally sent it to us. We just didn't have it ready for today. Councilmember Mitch Johnson said I just wanted a little clarification. Mayor Perrin said I think you will find that that is probably going to be in the legislative session. Ms. Duncan said it might be. It's a big topic around the state. Mayor Perrin said it is.

A motion was made by Councilperson David McClain, seconded by Councilperson LJ Bryant, that this matter be Postponed Indefinitely. The

motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 11 - Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Perrin said the equipment to do the demolition for the Ice House is on the premises now and they will start working with the two houses on both sides of the Ice House before starting with the Ice House. They have moved the trailers to get everything out of the way so they can go ahead and get started.

As you all know, the Roundhouse had a fire. Demolition is complete. Clean up has not been completed, yet, but they are in the process. They have it taped off and hopefully, we'll get that cleaned up. I did send a letter to Union Pacific to make sure they get that cleaned up pretty quick.

I will be giving the State of the City address on February 5, 2019, in the City Council Chambers. Next week, I will be attending the Highway Commission meeting on January 9. This will be the last meeting of Chairman Dick Trammell from Pocahontas. We're going to be offering him a small token of our appreciation from Jonesboro on his departure.

CDBG will have public hearings on Wednesday, January 9. One is at 9 a.m. in the City Council Chambers. The other is at 5:30 p.m. at the E. Boone Watson Community Center, 1005 Logan Street. This hearing is being held to get ideas from citizens on what we need to do with the money that we did get from HUD for our CDBG programs. It's very important and they do have some great ideas. That's what we usually vote on when Director of Community Development Tiffny Calloway gets those put together and looks at the percentage that would go to each one of those programs. So, I encourage any of you all in the audience, if you have any ideas to assist any organization in the City of Jonesboro, please try to attend those meetings on January 9 in the Council Chambers, or at 5:30 p.m. on January 9 at the E. Boone Watson Community Center.

There has been a lot of talk about the federal shutdown and I just want to tell the citizens and the City Council that in our grants division, the only grants that would be affected would be JET, CDBG and the COPS program, which is the Department of Justice. What actually happens is that we would fund those grants ourselves, if anything needed to be funded, and then get reimbursed from the federal agencies when they start back in the operation. Everything is going to be fine. We're going to go ahead with every one of our operations. As you can see, CDBG hasn't even been allocated yet. We only have one hanging out there from the Department of Justice on the COPS program, but I think we've already been paid in November. We're waiting on December. So, everything is fine on the federal shutdown.

I would like to have Chief Rick Elliott make a few comments and then I want to address the citizens, as well. Chief Elliott said thank you Mayor and members of the City Council. This year, 2019, did not start out very peacefully. In the past two days, we've had five people shot and two have died. The latest shooting last night left a young man dead and three others in the hospital. Both of these cases are still active and ongoing. The problems the police department faces is a lack of cooperation from the victims and witnesses. This is not only a problem here in Jonesboro. It's a problem

across the country. Even the editor of the Jonesboro Sun pointed this out several months ago in one of his editorials. Until victims and witnesses work with police, gun violence will escalate. We go to a lot of expense investigating these crimes only to hit resistance from the victims and witnesses. It is unfortunate for the city and families of the victims that we have this kind of resistance when trying to bring the perpetrator to justice. The police department and the prosecuting attorney's office have realized that there is organized criminal activity within the city. Our street crimes unit was reactivated in 2017. That year alone, they made over 2,000 arrests, seized over \$500,000 in street drugs and seized \$250,000 in assets. This unit has continued its hard work in 2018. I'm expanding this unit this year by three more officers. Their work has paid off. Over the past several years, we, as a department, have taken a more aggressive approach in dealing with the criminal element in our city. I have turned to our federal partners in prosecution of these cases. I now have officers credentialed as federal officers. I have officers tied in as an FBI agent, an Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agent, a Deputy United States Marshal and officers tied in with Homeland Security. Any chance that we get to take a criminal to federal court then we have done so. This helps alleviate some of the caseload of our local prosecutors, but more importantly, it gets this person off the street for a longer period of time. As I have said in the past, I will not tolerate this in our city, and I will continue to be aggressive in our approach of dealing with crimes in our city. We have a great city that we live in and I'm not going to see it turn into something bad.

Chief Elliott said we are currently working with Prosecuting Attorney Scott Ellington and his staff in creating a special task force to deal with the ongoing violence and threats to our community. We are looking at putting together a Second Judicial District Organized Criminal Activity Task Force. A lot of this deals with gang activity. There will be a press conference on this upcoming task force here in the near future, so I won't elaborate much more on that tonight, but it is coming very soon. I want to bring up to you and the citizens of Jonesboro that the police department has been and will continue to take a very aggressive approach in dealing with crime in our community. Too often, this crime is fueled by the drug culture and the overwhelming desire for people to use and abuse the drugs that have plagued this country. Every city in this country has seen an increase in crime due to the drug culture. The gang culture in many communities is also growing and must be recognized by each community as we have done. It must be dealt with in a more aggressive manner as which we are doing. It not only has to be recognized by the police department, but as a community, we must look to each other and figure out what we can do for our youth to prevent them from being involved in such gang activity. It is going to take a community working together to help combat this problem. It is not a police problem. It is a community problem. It will take this community to help solve this problem and help curtail this problem. The police department cannot do it alone. As I have said many times, crime prevention is not a spectator sport. You must get involved. Those are my comments for what has taken place in the past few days and I want to assure you as a council and to the people watching tonight that the Jonesboro Police Department will take this matter, and has always taken this matter, very serious and we will deal with it very aggressively. Thank you for your time.

[COM-19:003](#)

Mayor's Statement on shootings in Jonesboro in January 2019

Attachments: [Mayors Statement.pdf](#)

Mayor Perrin said Chief Elliott, thank you very much. I just want to read a statement that I have and let it be a part of the record. Chief Elliott did state that obviously none of us like the way 2019 started in the City of Jonesboro. My thoughts, first and

foremost, are with the families. Innocent loved ones are always impacted by the actions of those who engage in illegal activity, and that is a tragedy. But, my concern, too, is with the God-loving hearts in this community. This was an act of evil, and the city is filled with too much love to let evil prevail. I am grateful to the dedicated officers of the JPD and all our first responders. There is no place in our city for gangs or the violence that they bring. I am confident and appreciative that we have the leaders, both within our police force and our community at large, to prevent this violence from escalating in our wonderful city.

Read

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember John Street motioned to nominate Councilmember Chris Moore as Mayor Pro-Tempore, seconded by Councilmember L.J. Bryant. All voted aye. Councilmember Street said I would just like to say I appreciate the comments by Chief Rick Elliott and I have full faith and confidence in the Jonesboro Police Department and the wonderful men and women who make up that department. They give us 110%. It's just a constant battle, but I just echo what he said. It's a community problem and everybody needs to take some responsibility in ensuring our safety.

Councilmember David McClain said now that it's the first of the year, the Nominating and Rules Committee will switch back to the left side so, with that, I will no longer be chair. We'll need to vote on a chair for this year so I'll let it switch back over. Councilmember Chris Gibson said as acting chair, I'll open the floor for nominations and appointment of a chair. Councilmember Chris Moore nominated Councilmember Chris Gibson as chairmember, seconded by Councilmember Gene Vance. All voted aye.

Councilmember Chris Gibson said Councilmember David McClain has been working with Chief of Staff Bill Reznicek, Communications Director Bill Campbell, Mayor Harold Perrin and City Clerk Donna Jackson regarding procedure changes and I would like for Ms. Jackson to distribute those to the City Council. Please take a few days to review those and I'd like to have a working session Thursday, January 10, at 5 p.m. in the fourth floor conference room for those of you who have any input. The only other thing I have is I was wondering if there was any way we could reach out to the highway department regarding the stoplight at Stallings and Red Wolf. I have personally experienced two major accidents at that intersection because there's not a flashing yellow light going north and south on Red Wolf. It's a standing green. Mayor Perrin said we will get Traffic Engineer Mark Nichols to look at that tomorrow.

Councilmember Chris Moore said I think I speak for most of the council when I say that if there is anything that the council can do as individuals to aid you or Chief Elliott in this problem, just reach out to me or the rest of the council, because I think every single one of us would be interested in helping. I don't think any of us like what has happened in the last couple of days. I think we're a pretty strong voice amongst the 12 of us. You let me know or have Chief Elliott let me know whatever we can do to help. Mayor Perrin said I'd be happy to and Chief Elliott did mention that there would be a press conference going on in the next week or two. I think the conference will be very well attended. Councilmember Moore said we're at your disposal. Mayor Perrin said thank you very much.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said I think there is a minister who comes to your office every Thursday. Mayor Perrin said yes. Councilmember Dr. Coleman said I think a lot of this needs to be laid into their laps, too. I think the churches need to get

involved and where we need to do this as a community at the same time. Also, I have asked before about Highway 141 across from Parker Park. Are they going to put some type of light there? I have talked about that before. Mayor Perrin said you mean a crosswalk. Councilmember Dr. Coleman said there needs to be some type of caution light there or something because cars speed through there. Have you checked on that before? Mayor Perrin said I know Traffic Engineer Mark Nichols has been working on this. Councilmember Dr. Coleman said you mentioned something, but I just don't remember what you talked about.

Engineering Director Craig Light said the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is working with the highway department on a grant. I think they are trying to get the contracts executed. There's a firm out of Little Rock that is going to do a study and make recommendations on what we should do at that location. There's not an actual physical installation of anything planned right now. We are waiting on that study. I don't believe the contract has been executed, yet, on the highway department's side. Mayor Perrin said I can check on that Wednesday when I am in Little Rock. Councilmember Dr. Coleman said please do because I've had different individuals contact me several times and I told them that I have asked about it once and this is the second or third time.

Councilmember John Street said from the MPO standpoint, the only one that they have approved up to now is the one on Johnson Avenue, as you know from the last meeting. The contract should probably be out on that pretty soon, but it's going to be probably a year based on the highway department's stuff before they even get to one and if one goes out. Councilmember Dr. Coleman said it seems like every time we do some things and I understand it takes some time, but we've also had a couple people almost hit there. Councilmember Street said that's not the city. That's the Arkansas Department of Transportation, so we're kind of at their mercy. Mayor Perrin said I will check with them when I'm there Wednesday, January 9, because Mr. Nichols and I normally meet with several of the departments while we are there after the commission meeting. Councilmember Dr. Coleman said I just want to make sure that it's on record that we understand that a lot of people think the city does a lot of these other things, but places like Highway 141 are state highways and we have to wait on them, but citizens don't understand that. It needs to keep being knocked on until we do something about it.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road, said I just want to start out and say that my parents taught me never to give up on something and that holds true for not supporting the recommendations that we have proposed for Harrisburg Road because that project is coming up at the end of this year. We, the residents of south Jonesboro, live in this area and we have a big difference of what we think should go on in that spot. I've kept this issue alive because on August 31, there was a bunch of citizens and residents of south Jonesboro who wrote a letter and I stated that we needed a lot of help because our voices were not being heard. It was a nine-page letter. It seemed a lot, but it was intended to be that way because we have been involved in preserving this area because we live in this area. A certified letter went to Governor Asa Hutchinson, Congressman Rick Crawford, Paul Sims, Alec Farmer and Scott Bennett, Director of the Arkansas State Highway Commission. On October 8, I received a letter from Governor Hutchinson stating that he appreciated my work with this situation and appointed a representative that I have been in touch with since then. On October 8, I also received a letter from Mr. Bennett. This letter stated that Harrisburg Highway was 80% federally funded and 20% state and city funded. That's something we did not

know or was not understanding and we were never corrected with that. It has several implications with that. Mr. Bennett provided information from the traffic study on Harrisburg Road. We've always been told that the traffic is heaviest north of Forest Hill Road, and it is, because in Mr. Bennett's study it states that at the intersection of Harrisburg Road and Parker Road there are 17,000 cars. At the intersection of Harrisburg Road and Forest Hill Road, there are 12,000 cars. There's a difference of 5,000 cars. Now, what's at the intersection of Harrisburg and Parker roads? It's called Walmart. That's where the traffic is located. There are 5,000 more cars there. I asked Engineering Director Craig Light to get the report that the city did and I just put these pages together and it's 99 pages. It basically says the same thing. There's a lot more traffic at the intersection of Harrisburg Road and Parker Road. In the last year, when talking about Harrisburg Road, Mr. Light and all of you have told us that it doesn't justify a traffic signal at Gladiolus Dr. or at Forest Hill Road. Mr. Bennett agrees with that, but in his letter, it says that if a traffic signal does become warranted in the future, the city may apply for funding through the department's Intersection Improvement Program. So, there's possibly a different option that we can use in solving the congestion on Harrisburg Road instead of spending \$2 million for traffic that occurs twice a day, which is busy everywhere else in Jonesboro and on Sunday. The next thing Mr. Bennett said, and this is very important, was that it's important to note that the department has no intention of widening Harrisburg Road south of Forest Hill Road either now or in the foreseeable future. So, why are we doing .3 miles because I don't know how that's going to help our situation? Once again, the traffic is at the intersection of Harrisburg Road and Parker Road.

Mr. Bennett thanked me for the letter and asked if I had any other questions. I asked where and when was the traffic study done. Mr. Bennett stated that this study was done in July 2017 and September 2017 at Parker and Harrisburg roads and Harrisburg and Medallion. I'm not opposed to widening Harrisburg Road and Parker Road. What I'm opposed to is widening where it's not needed, and it's not needed all the way. The last question I asked Mr. Bennett was who is the person to call off this project. He told me that there was not an individual who could call this project off, but he said that if there was going to be a removal of the funding for this project that was included in the STIP program, it would require four areas to be involved. The first is public involvement with the coordination and consulting of the City of Jonesboro. Well, this is kind of like the public involvement. The second is the Northeast Arkansas Regional Transportation Planning Commission. Their next meeting is on February 19 at 10 a.m. in Bay, Arkansas, and we plan to be at that meeting. The third is the Federal Highway Administration and they are closed right now because of the government shutdown. The fourth is the Arkansas Highway Commission and like Mayor Perrin said, there is a meeting Wednesday, January 9, at 9:30 a.m. So, it takes all four of those areas to either remove or cancel this project. I hope you, as community leaders, and the state leaders can listen to the wishes of the people that this project is going to directly affect, and we'd like to either postpone or cancel the Harrisburg project. Thank you.

Sondra Essman, 1107 Medallion Drive, said my husband, Jim, and I have lived on Harrisburg Road for the past 36 years as property owners, along with Mr. and Mrs. Ishmael and Mr. and Mrs. Brown. We are extremely concerned about the impact the five lanes from Parker Road to Forest Hill Road will have on our property. We feel this project will force some of us to sell at fair market value, in which case we lose or this project will greatly depreciate the value of our property. We have not been told why this project is being done when there are much greater needs in the city. According to Mr. Scott Bennett, the department has no intention of widening Harrisburg Road south of Forest Hill Road in the foreseeable future and then there are other projects in town that have priority over this project. Ms. Lack commented that the Harrisburg Road project is

being funded 80% through federal funds and 20% state and city funds, when we thought it was reversed. Why is this important? In order for this project to be eligible for federal aid funds, the department is required by the Federal Highway Administration to demonstrate how the proposed improvements will accommodate traffic volumes projected 20 years into the future. We feel this is why the five lanes has been determined to be built to cover projected traffic volume 20 years into the future and receive money at the federal level. If you remember on May 1, 2018, that 10 of you as City Council members voted against moving \$2 million from the general fund reserve to capital improvement fund for the STIP project from Forest Hill Road to the fire station past Central Baptist Church. Here are the original signed citizen's petitions. We have done everything we know to do to try to stop or postpone this project. We also shared our proposal and the advantages of our proposal, along with maps. So, the tree ordinance was passed tonight, which I was very glad to hear, because Highway 1B is a scenic highway and should be preserved and not become a sea of concrete that takes all the trees in the process to complete the project. If you were in our shoes, hopefully you would be fighting for your property and your family. Please remember that we have to live with your decision for the rest of our lives. I would like to ask for a show of hands from those who are here who are against the widening of Harrisburg Road from Parker Road to Forest Hill Road, and now those who are for the widening. Thank you for your time.

Ms. Anna Williams, 604 Mardis Drive, said I would just like to respectfully ask that Mayor Perrin and all the council members go back and review the City Council meeting of May 1 regarding ordinance 18:019 and the public comments by the local residents in this area. If you will review what Ms. Beverly Parker, Mr. Paul Teague and Mr. Joe Brown had to say about this area, they all spoke with very valid reasons regarding public safety, the schools, the preservation of the scenic highway and to eliminate this five-land project because it is not necessary. I would ask you to please review that. Thank you.

[COM-19:002](#)

Communication letters provided from Patti Lack on Harrisburg Road

Attachments: [Patt Lack 01032019 Other.pdf](#)

Filed

11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilperson Mitch Johnson, seconded by Councilperson LJ Bryant, that this meeting be Adjourned. The motion PASSED with the following vote:

Aye: 11 - Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

_____ Date: _____

Harold Perrin, Mayor

Attest:

_____ Date: _____

Donna Jackson, City Clerk