



City of Jonesboro

Meeting Minutes

City Council

900 West Monroe
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Thursday, February 7, 2008

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING AT 4:30 P.M.

1. Call to order by the Mayor at 6:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by President Pro Temp Judy Furr who was presiding in the absence of Mayor Doug Formon.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

3. Roll Call by the City Clerk

Present 10 - Judy Furr; Darrel Dover; Faye McCall; Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Cecil Province; Jim Hargis; Harold Perrin; John Street and Mitch Johnson
Absent 2 - Chris Moore and Tim McCall

4. Special Presentations

5. Consent Agenda

Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Perrin, seconded by Councilman John Street, to Approve the Consent Agenda. A motion was made that these files be approved by consent voice vote.

Aye: 10 - Judy Furr; Darrel Dover; Faye McCall; Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Cecil Province; Jim Hargis; Harold Perrin; John Street and Mitch Johnson

Absent: 2 - Chris Moore and Tim McCall

MIN-08:013 Minutes for the City Council meeting on January 15, 2008.

Attachments: [011508](#)

A motion was made for the adoption of the Minutes. The motion passed BY VOICE VOTE.

MIN-08:015 Minutes for the special called City Council meeting on January 30, 2008.

Attachments: [013008](#)

A motion was made for the adoption of the Minutes. The motion passed BY VOICE VOTE.

RES-07:2552 A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT BID NUMBER 2007:54 FOR 2 ADA PARA-TRANSIT MINI VANS

Sponsors: JETS

Attachments: [Bid 2007-54 MiniVan Tab](#)
[MiniVan](#)

A motion was made that this Resolution be Passed . The motion passed BY VOICE VOTE.

Enactment No: R-EN-015-2008

RES-07:2567 A RESOLUTION REQUESTING FREE UTILITIES AT 2212 Brazos Street, 8461 C. W. Post Road, and 6119 Highland Drive FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO.

Sponsors: Mayor's Office, Fire Department and Animal Control

A motion was made that this Resolution be Passed . The motion passed BY VOICE VOTE.

Enactment No: R-EN-016-2008

RES-07:2577 A RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH US ABLE TO PROVIDE A \$40,000 LIFE INSURANCE POLICY FOR ALL NON-UNIFORM EMPLOYEES VESTED IN THE DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN

Sponsors: Human Resources

Attachments: [contract](#)

A motion was made that this Resolution be Passed . The motion passed BY VOICE VOTE.

Enactment No: R-EN-017-2008

RES-07:2585 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO AUTHORIZE THE SALE OF THE VALLEY VIEW FIRE STATION (5416 MAPLE VALLEY DRIVE)

Sponsors: Mayor's Office

Attachments: [Maple Valley Drive Warranty Deed](#)
[Bids--Valley View Fire](#)

A motion was made that this Resolution be Passed . The motion passed BY VOICE VOTE

Enactment No: R-EN-018-2008

RES-08:010 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO APPROVE A CHANGE ORDER WITH NABHOLZ CONSTRUCTION FOR THE ANIMAL CONTROL FACILITY;

Sponsors: Animal Control

Attachments: [Animail Control Change Order #1](#)

A motion was made that this Resolution be Passed . The motion passed BY VOICE VOTE

Enactment No: R-EN-019-2008

6. New Business

Ordinances on First Reading

ORD-07:3164 AN ORDINANCE TO PROHIBIT THE SALES OF NOVELTY LIGHTERS WITHIN CITY LIMITS OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO:

Sponsors: Public Safety Council Committee and Fire Department

Attachments: [Consumer Product Safety Comm examples of novelty lighters](#)

Councilman Dover offered the ordinance by title only.

Councilman Street moved, seconded by Councilman Perrin to suspend with the second and third readings. All voted aye.

Councilman Johnson moved, seconded by Councilman Dover for the adoption of the emergency clause. A roll call vote was taken resulting in all members voting aye.

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Perrin, seconded by Councilman Jim Hargis, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED by an unanimous vote

Aye: 10 - Judy Furr;Darrel Dover;Faye McCall;Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Cecil Province;Jim Hargis;Harold Perrin;John Street and Mitch Johnson

Absent: 2 - Chris Moore and Tim McCall

Enactment No: O-EN-006-2008

7. Unfinished Business

Ordinances on Second Reading

ORD-08:002 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TITLE 14 KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE CHANGE IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM RESIDENTIAL R-1 TO COMMERCIAL C-3 LUO LOCATED AT 1803 OLD GREENSBORO ROAD AS REQUESTED BY PEGGY SHAW

Attachments: [MAPC Report Plat](#)

Councilman Dover moved, seconded by Councilman Hargis to suspend with the third and final reading. The motion carried.

Councilman Dover moved, seconded by Councilman Frierson for the adoption of the emergency clause. A roll call vote was taken resulting in all members voting aye with the exception of Councilman Johnson who voted nay. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Mitch Johnson, seconded by Councilman Jim Hargis, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED by an unanimous vote

Aye: 10 - Judy Furr;Darrel Dover;Faye McCall;Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Cecil Province;Jim Hargis;Harold Perrin;John Street and Mitch Johnson

Absent: 2 - Chris Moore and Tim McCall

Enactment No: O-EN-007-2008

ORD-08:004

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TITLE 14, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES LOCATED ON THE SOUTHSIDE OF JOHNSON AVENUE BETWEEN ORIOLE DRIVE AND OLD BRIDGER ROAD AS REQUESTED BY C & O ENTERPRISES

Attachments: [Plat](#)
[MAPC Report](#)

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Perrin, seconded by Councilman Darrel Dover, that this matter be Held at second reading . The motion PASSED with all members voting aye with the exception of Councilwoman Furr who abstained from voting.

Aye: 9 - Darrel Dover;Faye McCall;Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Cecil Province;Jim Hargis;Harold Perrin;John Street and Mitch Johnson

Absent: 2 - Chris Moore and Tim McCall

Abstain: 1 - Judy Furr

Enactment No: O-EN-010-2008

8. Mayor's Reports

COM-08:014

Attachments: [attorney general opinion. boards and commissions](#)

City Attorney Crego provided an Attorney General's opinion regarding questions raised by Alderman Frierson about a previously adopted ordinance which requires two council members to serve on various boards and commissions. Attorney Crego explained Councilman Frierson thought the ordinance was improper specifically pertaining to the Airport Commission and the Solid Waste Authority and requested an opinion from the Attorney General. Attorney Crego stated he felt the ordinance was proper however the Attorney General concurred with Councilman Frierson.

9. City Council Reports

Eric Woodruff introduced the new Street Superintendent, Mr. Tony Davis who gave a report on street projects.

Councilwoman Furr reported the auditors with Crow Chizek and Company LLC tentatively plan to have a preliminary report for the March 4th City Council meeting.

COM-08:013

Attachments: [Tornado Sirens - Lester Barrett](#)
[Siren Documents](#)

Councilman Province provided a letter from Mr. Lester Barrett who requested the letter be read to the full council. The letter was read into the record by Attorney Crego, and pertained to concerns stemming from malfunctioning tornado sirens. Discussion followed the reading of the letter. Councilman Province stated if we have a system and something is wrong then please repair it. He explained it is owed to the public that we do all that can be done to address this safety issue. Councilwoman Williams asked about the status of

the tornado sirens. Chief Yates stated he believed the upgrading and repairing of existing sites was brought before the City Council in April of 2007 however he did not believe the decision was made to replace all of the equipment that is in an antiquated condition. Chief Yates stated they knew one of the towers was malfunctioning, because they had already ordered parts, but because of the make and model the parts are hard to find. He stated there were two other sites that were malfunctioning and Motorola is checking on them today to find out the cause. Chief Yates explained there is a FEMA standard that calculates tower sites needed for a given number of square miles. He stated if you go strictly by that formula the City of Jonesboro has enough with 26 functional sites, but logic and reason says they need a few more. Chief Yates stated he and Eric Woodruff have determined they need three more. Chief Yates stated the problem is made up of multiple issues: mechanics, malfunctioning sites, and additional needed sirens to cover the recommended FEMA standards. Chief Yates stated warnings are not repellants but are tools used to inform the public. In surveying other places, Chief Yates stated in comparison most do not set warning sirens off just because the county receives a warning from the National Weather Service. He explained Jonesboro uses a combination of storm spotter information, officers in the field, and information from the weather satellite to help make the decision. He explained they want to make sure when the sirens go off, it is a real danger. Councilman Hargis stated the Jonesboro City Council is wanting to make the right solution, but decisions made in a rush may not be the right solution. He stated from information provided the City of Jonesboro has 26 sirens, but it is unclear what the procedure is for checking to make sure they are working properly. Councilman Hargis expressed confusion over the number of sirens being shown on various maps that were provided to council members. He stated if there is a 70% probability of a tornado, citizens should be notified. Chief Yates responded saying it is a policy decision. Mr. Eric Woodruff, City Planner, referring to a packet of information that was provided to city council members stated it recommends a G-5 Siren Controller which monitors sirens to tell if they are working or not. He explained today he had 26 individuals go to 26 different sirens, and discovered 5 that did not work, stating the one on Neely Road and Neely Lane was not working. Mr. Woodruff stated he was unsure of the cause but assumed it had been struck by lightening. He stated the radio has been taken off this particular siren and sent to MoArc. Councilwoman Furr explained she heard the first siren three minutes (minimum) after being warned by Channel 3, Memphis. She stated she heard a siren but not the one located in her neighborhood, and therefore could barely hear it, but then the one in her neighborhood went off sometime later. Councilwoman Furr complained that was far more confusing than if there had been no sirens at all, stating they were undependable. Mr. Woodruff explained the map provided shows an overlapping in some locations, so if one malfunctions you will still be able to hear a different siren. He made a distinction between Omni Direct sirens and the old sirens saying parts are hard to find and the old sirens must be rotated and cannot be heard inside. Mr. Woodruff explained he was unsure why Councilwoman Furr did not hear the siren located at Harrisburg Road and Stroud Street because it was working today. Councilman Dover questioned how to get a policy in place to make sure they are working, short of sending 26 employees out to test them. Mr. Woodruff responded saying the survey stated they needed to purchase a G-5 Controller for each siren estimating the cost at \$86,000 dollars. Councilman Perrin stated the May survey showed the City of Jonesboro was covered well, however recommended (6 to 10) additional sirens in addition to the G-5 Controller. Councilwoman Furr stated everyone on the city council considers this a priority and requested a proposal be developed and brought back by the next meeting. Councilman Johnson stated he felt with regard to siren notification, it should coincide with the National Weather Service, a watch means conditions are favorable, and a warning means a tornado is there. Chief Yates stated there are a lot of warnings when there is no imminent threat, but they could do it either way. Chief Yates stated this was just as much a priority in May of last year. Councilman Johnson responded saying at that time he recommended

increasing the dollar amount for additional sirens to be used for back up. Chief Yates questioned should they explore the other layer of warning, and was told yes, absolutely. Councilman Hargis recommended an authoritative study on the subject of notice of similarly exposed areas, such as Oklahoma and Kansas. Chief Yates stated they have already requested the solution, but can not help it that they do not have it. Misty Micenhamer summarized what has been requested by the City Council: Prepare a report to replace all the old sirens with Omni Directional sirens, include the G-5 Siren Controller for all the sirens, include additional sirens as specified in the survey, and other options (Reverse 911 or secondary level warning). Councilman Johnson questioned if there is any in stock to replace the ones that are malfunctioning now. Mr. Woodruff responded saying they have one that can be used as a replacement right now, and the ones that did not work can be fixed. Councilman Johnson stated if there is no quick fix, then an ordinance needs to be prepared to replace those particular sirens. Councilman Dover asked about a time frame for ordering and installation. Misty Micenhamer and Eric Woodruff stated the three that were ordered in January are all installed. Mr. Woodruff stated he would call and find out the exact time tomorrow. Councilman Hargis requested a specific list of where the sirens are located. Councilwoman Furr questioned Mr. Woodruff if the three sirens that were ordered were the ones which were authorized in April of 2007. Mr. Woodruff concurred that they were all the Omni Directional sirens and are all installed.

10. Public Comment

Dr. Charles Coleman addressed the Jonesboro City Council stating consideration should be given regarding the elderly citizens who may have a hearing disability and unable to respond in emergency situations when warnings are provided through the media. It was explained this will be addressed through the Reverse 911 and Code Blue as alternative mechanizims.

11. Adjournment.

Adjourned

_____ **Date:** _____
Doug Formon, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____ **Date:** _____
Donna Jackson, City Clerk