



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Nominating and Rules Committee

Tuesday, July 2, 2024

5:00 PM

Municipal Center

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL (ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE) CONFIRMED BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

Present 6 - John Street; Mitch Johnson; LJ Bryant; Joe Hafner; Anthony Coleman and David McClain

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[MIN-24:032](#) Minutes for the Nominating & Rules Committee meeting on Tuesday, April 2, 2024

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

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

Aye: 5 - John Street; Mitch Johnson; LJ Bryant; Joe Hafner and Anthony Coleman

4. NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

[RES-24:053](#) 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

Sponsors: Mayor's Office

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember LJ Bryant, to Recommend to Council and walk onto tonight's City Council agenda, RES-24:053. All voted aye.

Chairman David McClain said, Brian, I believe, do you guys, is there a preference, I know there was some conversation about trying to walk these on tonight. Is this the only one or do we need to try and walk both so they can meet? Chief Administrative Officer Brian Richardson approached the podium and said, I mean, this is the only one pressing. BZA has a few outstanding items and just to make sure that we're fully compliant. We would like to see them appointed before BZA meets again for minutes and recording purposes. Really, I mean, there's two resolutions but this is the one I

would consider to be pertinent and time sensitive.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, I know the mayor's not here, and I know these are appointments, but I just wonder how does he choose these? Are these people that are recommended to him by city personnel or whatever? I just want to know the process. Chief Administrative Officer Brian Richardson approached the podium and said, yeah, you know, that's actually a good question. Thank you for asking that question because it's an excellent chance to advertise the fact that you can go to the city website and apply to serve on any number of commissions. We don't get nearly enough applicants, and we encourage citizens that if they want to get involved one of the best ways is to let us know that you exist and that you're interested in serving on a committee. So, I would encourage anybody watching at home or may read about this, to please get on there and apply. I'm sure that we're going to make another Facebook post about that before too long trying to encourage people to apply. But, other than that, I know Councilmember McClain sent me some suggestions and some good, interested people on some committees the other day and we just kind of keep a list of people that are interested in serving the City of Jonesboro. As you know, it can be time consuming at times, but it takes community really coming and helping out to make sure we're well represented across the board. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, thank you Brian. That is great and a follow-up question and I think we should explain it for the record. The difference between the re-appointments and then the one like Harold Perrin saying unexpired term. What's the difference between those terms and unexpired? Chief Administrative Officer Brian Richardson said, on the Land Bank term, Drew Waddell was serving on the Land Bank, and he resigned for, I guess, a conflict of interest or I don't know what his exact reason was, or maybe he just didn't have the time to dedicate to it. For any number of reasons candidates, for example, I think Miss Hanrahan is on the next resolution, so she's moved her primary residence out of town so she's going to have to come off of that board. And, you know, health reasons, any number of reasons, sometimes people resign from their commission, and at that point, you appoint somebody to fill that un-expiring term instead of just starting a new term. I'm assuming that's probably legal precedent by the city. That's just the way it's been done since I've been here. So, you don't start a new term, because a lot of times they're staggered and there's a method to the madness as far as when they roll off, so you don't have too much turnover at any given time.

A motion was made by John Street, seconded by LJ Bryant, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 5 - John Street; Mitch Johnson; LJ Bryant; Joe Hafner and Anthony Coleman

[RES-24:069](#)

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

Sponsors: Mayor's Office

Councilmember John Street asked to be recused from RES-24:069 due to his position on the CWL Board.

Janice Porter, 2616 Duckswater Street, approached the podium and said, dear esteemed colleagues, during the summer of 2021 I became aware that our public library placed books with graphic sexual content in locations that allowed a child to inadvertently access them. Since then, I've attended every library board meeting except one. It is my observation that neither the community nor the library has been well served by Mr. Johnson. He has been completely intransigent, refusing to search

for any compromise to address the parents' concerns. This intransigence led to the voters expressing their disapproval by cutting library funding, and even after this very loud signal from the voters, no meaningful compromise has been made. It's time for new leadership which will be responsive to the community they purport to serve. I will be a no vote when it comes before the council. Thank you.

Robin Martin, 5005 Lamb Lane, approached the podium and said, I'm here tonight to speak against the reappointing of Mike Johnson to the Craighead County Jonesboro Library Board. During the last five years of his term as board member, which includes Mike's appointment as the Vice-Chairman and Chairman of that board. The board has failed to lead our library in a way that meets the needs of our Jonesboro citizens. In the last five years, the library board approved a purchase of a bookmobile and the garage to store it in at a cost of \$490,000. That bookmobile carries 750 books, that's all. They also approved expanding the children's section of the main branch on Oak Street at a cost of over \$750,000. Jonesboro has seen a large amount of growth over the last several years in the number of citizens, number of retail establishments, number of restaurants, number of medical facilities, etc., but we still only have one library in our Jonesboro city limits. It is very exclusive to our residents to continue expanding the one location rather than adding other locations in Jonesboro to meet the needs of our residents, and to be more inclusive by making the library usage more convenient no matter what part of the city you live in. Fort Smith Arkansas is very similar to Jonesboro in population. Their library system consists of four locations in their city limits. They brag that they have a library within every two and a half miles of every resident. Convenience is how you increase usage. The Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library is only convenient to those who live or work downtown and is very exclusive to those who live in Nettleton, Valley View, Westside or the Hilltop areas. It is time to put some people on the library board who are forward thinking visionaries who will help make great decisions for the future of our library and the citizens that might use it if it was made convenient to use. Please do not reappoint Michael. Thank you.

Chairman David McClain said, it does not pass. We only have three yes and we need four. Correct? I think that's correct. City Clerk April Leggett said, it would be a majority. Chairman David McClain said, could we get Carol to confirm? Councilmember John Street said, you can vote to pass it. You can't vote to oppose one, but you can vote to pass it. But I would ask Mr. Chairman, if these appointments could be separated when they go to council. Chairman David McClain said, we would have to make an amendment to the original motion. Councilmember LJ Bryant said, Mr. Chairman, you don't think we would need to make an amendment now to separate them. Chairman David McClain said, yes. Number one we would have to, whoever voted for would have to... City Attorney Carol Duncan said, the chair votes to pass the measure. Chairman David McClain said, but it has to be four, correct? It's only three right now. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, you can vote to pass the measure. How many are on the committee? Councilmember Joe Hafner said, there's six, but the second thing was Mr. Street asked that when it goes to council that it be split into two different resolutions. Councilmember John Street said, City Water and Light appointment is the second one and then you have the library board appointment. Can we separate those and have two separate appointments? City Attorney Carol Duncan said, are they together? Councilmember John Street said, yes. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, why? Councilmember John Street said, they're just lumped in. Chief Administrative Officer Brian Richardson said, that's how they always are. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, yeah that's true. Councilmember John Street said, can I move that we amend that to separate those before it goes to council? Chairman David McClain said, we've already voted. Councilmember John Street said, can it be amended when

it comes to council? City Attorney Carol Duncan said, you can make a motion, I guess. Chairman David McClain said, so you need me to vote and if I vote... City Attorney Carol Duncan said, let me think about that before council. Councilmember John Street said, we're not doing it tonight. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, it's going to have to have a new number. Chairman David McClain said, it takes four, I just want that clarity, that it has to have four votes to pass to go to council. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, yes. Chairman David McClain said, well I will be a no. City Clerk April Leggett said, just for the record, you're voting no. Chairman David McClain said, correct. City Clerk April Leggett said, and so this does not pass. Chairman David McClain said, correct. The measure does not pass to full council.

Councilmember LJ Bryant said, Mr. Chairman, maybe a question for Mr. Richardson. Any urgency on the City Water and Light Board appointments? They have a large board and are probably fine. Mr. Street would know best on that too. Councilmember John Street said, yes, it's not urgent, urgent. One of them is just appointing someone, Susan Hanrahan, because she moved off, so Deana Osment was going to be appointed to fill her unexpired elected term, and then someone to replace her. But no that's not critical. The only thing that was holding up the last time was officer elections and that's why that was kind of front and center. It could still operate but that was the urgency on that.

A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Joe Hafner, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion FAILED with the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Mitch Johnson;LJ Bryant and Joe Hafner

Nay: 2 - Anthony Coleman and David McClain

Abstain: 1 - John Street

5. PENDING ITEMS

6. OTHER BUSINESS

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 5 - John Street;Mitch Johnson;LJ Bryant;Joe Hafner and Anthony Coleman