



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Monday, October 2, 2023

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

NOTE: DATE CHANGE APPROVED BY COUNCIL

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

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

3. ROLL CALL (ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE) INITIATED AND CONFIRMED BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

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

Absent 2 - Mitch Johnson and Ann Williams

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

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

Absent: 2 - Mitch Johnson and Ann Williams

[MIN-23:091](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

Attachments: [CC Minutes 09192023](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-23:211](#)

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO UTILIZE 49 U.S.C. SECTION 5307 URBANIZED AREA FORMULA FUNDS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (USDOT), FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA); AND, AUTHORIZE THE CITY OF

JONESBORO GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE FY2020 49 U.S.C SECTION 5307 URBANIZED AREA FORMULA GRANT, FOR THE JONESBORO ECONOMICAL TRANSIT SYSTEM (JET)

Attachments: [FY2020 5307 Budget Excel](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-192-2023

[RES-23:212](#)

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO UTILIZE 49 U.S.C. SECTION 5307 URBANIZED AREA FORMULA FUNDS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (USDOT), FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA); AND, AUTHORIZE THE CITY OF JONESBORO GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE FY2021 49 U.S.C SECTION 5307 URBANIZED AREA FORMULA GRANT, FOR THE JONESBORO ECONOMICAL TRANSIT SYSTEM (JET)

Attachments: [FY21 5307 Budget](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-193-2023

RESOLUTION TO BE INTRODUCED

[RES-23:240](#)

A RESOLUTION SCHEDULING A HEARING ON THE APPROVAL OF A REZONING REQUEST FOR 312 E. NETTLETON, JONESBORO, AR

Attachments: [Rezoning Appeal Letter](#)
 [312 E Nettleton Rezoning Application_signed](#)
 [312 E Rezoning Plat](#)
 [Staff Summary - C.C.](#)
 [Staff Summary](#)
 [Rezoning Property Owner Notification Letter 9.7.2023](#)
 [Rezoning Property Owner Notification](#)
 [312 E Certified Mail Reciepts](#)
 [Receipt](#)

City Attorney Carol Duncan said, do you want to ask if 4:00 p.m. is okay? Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, on that Council, we are looking at 4:00 p.m. that afternoon at the next meeting since we do have prior meetings and would that be okay with Council? Councilmember David McClain asked, 4:00 p.m., what day is that? Is that the 17th? Ms. Duncan said, October 17th. Councilmember Chris Moore asked, it is a Tuesday? Ms. Duncan said, yes. Mayor Copenhaver said, it will be on Tuesday at 4:00 p.m., October 17th. (Resolution Read by City Attorney)

Councilmember Chris Moore said, I would remind people in the council chamber that our rules state that we are only to speak on the item before us and that is strictly whether or not to set a hearing, not to debate the item. Mayor Copenhaver said, correct. Councilmember Moore said, thank you Mr. Mayor. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Councilman.

Jim Burton, 320 E. Nettleton, said, I am not here to debate it and I am not here as an

attorney for any of the parties, I am here as a property owner in that neighborhood. I just wanted to be sure of the time and date of the hearing and that is all. Greg and Bridgette Arnold live in between me and the house in question. We live at 320, on the north side of Nettleton. So, that is 4:00 p.m. on the 17th? Mayor Copenhagen said, Tuesday, the 17th, that is correct. Mr. Burton said, thank you folks. I appreciate it. Councilmember Moore said, that is the night of our next regular council meeting. Mr. Burton said, thanks very much.

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

Absent: 2 - Mitch Johnson and Ann Williams

Enactment No: R-EN-194-2023

6. NEW BUSINESS

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[ORD-23:035](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM I-2 TO RS-2 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT HANCOCK ROAD AS REQUESTED BY WOOD ENGINEERING ON BEHALF OF DALE AND DARLENE WOOD

Attachments: [Hancock Road Rezoning Plat](#)
[Rezoning Application-Hancock Rd](#)
[Notification Receipt](#)
[Staff Summary - C.C.](#)

Held at second reading

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-23:032](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO PLACE VARIOUS TRAFFIC SIGNS AT DESIGNATED LOCATIONS AS DETERMINED BY THE TRAFFIC CONTROL COMMITTEE

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

Absent: 2 - Mitch Johnson and Ann Williams

Enactment No: O-EN-034-2023

[ORD-23:033](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM I-1 TO C-3 LUO FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5914 E. JOHNSON AVENUE AS REQUESTED BY HORIZON LAND SURVEYING

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

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

Absent: 2 - Mitch Johnson and Ann Williams

Enactment No: O-EN-035-2023

[ORD-23:034](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE APPROVAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR JONESBORO STUDIO SOCIAL CLUB, DBA JONESBORO CINEMA GRILL

Attachments: [Jonesboro Cinema Grill Application_Redacted](#)
 [GREENSBORO VILLAGE THEATRE HOLDINGS LLC-01-144091-00500 - A](#)
 [Greensboro Village Theatre Holdings LLC SOS](#)
 [Jonesboro Studio Social SOS](#)
 [Lease](#)
 [Sublease](#)
 [Malco Emails](#)

James Elwin Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, said, this is something we as a city do not need to do. Earlier, this same organization received an approval which then Mayor, Harold Perrin, himself, said was probably a mistake to have approved it. This is opening a door in a direction that we do not need to go. The people have on multiple occasions voted this county dry. In fact, there has never been a wet/dry vote in this county, I believe, where the wets even came close to prevailing. And, there is something else to consider. First, this is in a movie theater. There is an ongoing effort by another party to get another movie theater here. If they come in and you approve this, it is going to be hard to say no when they say, wait a minute, you gave him two permits for the same kind of business, but I can't even get one. And, then once you have done it, you have permitted three, then they come in, here's the fourth, how are you going to tell them no? It is a very slippery slope. In fact, it is almost a cliff. We don't need to run over the cliff.

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

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

Absent: 2 - Mitch Johnson and Ann Williams

Enactment No: O-EN-036-2023

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Copenhagen reported on the following:

We have had a lot going on in the community. I think many of you are very aware of a lot of items. I would like to start off with that I received a copy of the Access in County and City Web Transparency report. I was pleased to see that the City of Jonesboro ranks among the highest scores in the state for overall political transparency. We were also among 14 cities that scored perfect on overall administrative transparency for cities of the first-class. To put into perspective, of the 112 cities with a population of over 2,500 in Arkansas, only 20 publish at least 50% of the public fiscal information. And, Jonesboro, is one of the fourteenth that scored perfect in that category. And, as Mayor who ran for office to pledge with transparency, I hold this study accountable and performed by two doctors of economics in Central Arkansas as evidence that we made good on that pledge. For those who have questions on how we manage our tax dollars, to familiarize yourself with our website at www.jonesboro.org and the City Council records that you can search therein. We want you to know where your tax dollars go and all this administration does to get the most of those tax dollars.

Animal Control with a big thanks to its volunteer base distributed more than 600 vaccinations last week at its shot clinic. It's the best deal a pet owner can get and we are proud of the work of our department and volunteers to take care of our animal lovers.

We had a very successful NEA District Fair and although Councilman Johnson isn't here to tell you about it, I did talk to him today and I got a brief small agenda items on it. Attendance was at almost 60,000 people in attendance. It was a nine day event. Weather, of course as we are all well aware, it held off. It was a little hot in most instances. But, I am proud to say that so many people had a good time. I want to also say for many of our departments that participate, I think the city and the residents of this city, need to be aware that obviously our police, our fire, but our sanitation, our parks, and our street departments also participate in so many events that we have ongoing every weekend. So, again, I want to say without effort, from the community in a lot of ways, it was a quite weekend all across the city and I will say that we had about 100,000 visitors to our community within 3 days this weekend. So, it was pretty amazing. And Chief Elliott and Chief Hamrick, I appreciate both of you and your entire crew for what they have done.

Speaking of good times, this year we had the BBQ Festival which was a big hit downtown. And, while, we don't keep turnstiles, I will guarantee you it was well attended and had a lot of people on both evenings on Friday and Saturday night. I know I did. And, I want to thank Tim McCall, Jack Turner, and a half a dozen city departments. The time and effort that they put into this event. And, certainly, not least, the A&P Commission for funding the celebration.

Jonesboro hosted the Arkansas Recreation & Parks Association Annual Conference this past week for members across the state focusing on awareness of Parks, Recreation, and Leisure services. There were about 300 people in attendance at one of our hotels in the community and they stayed here for multiple days. Again, that is very important for us to continue that collaborative effort. Danny, I appreciate your efforts on that and I believe we have that event next year as well, correct? (Off camera, Parks Director Danny Kapales said yes.) That says a lot for Northeast Arkansas and Jonesboro.

United Way's Day of Caring last week served the city in various roles. They painted over 120 fire hydrants, helped bath animals at Animal Control, and aided in cleanup and work at numerous city parks. And, what I will say about that event from the United Way point of view, there were over 600 volunteers from within different organizations, our industrial partners, other businesses that took their time on Friday afternoon to go out and help in our community and it was heartfelt. You could see it from the beginning of that meeting and their efforts on Friday. So, I commend all of those who took time to volunteer their day to be in our community and assist.

We have more this week as tomorrow is National Night Out from 4-6 p.m. at Fisher Street Community in Action. It is free to all except Brian Richardson.

Our next neighborhood cleanup is at 8:00 a.m. to noon this Saturday at Central Baptist Church and I anticipate a large turnout for that as well as many individuals will hopefully clean up and get ready for fall around their home. We will include a partnership to hand out bundles of paper lawn bags for use with your yard waste.

As you know, we are introducing a new dog park. So, our video online requested your suggestions to name the park. It reached more than 11,000 views and lots of engagement. Roughly 250 names suggestions were collected and they are being narrowed to a list of 10-15 to eventually be voted on by you the public.

Jonesboro was featured on KATV's Little Rock Good Morning Arkansas as a part of their "Our Town" series showing off a great quality of life features in our community. There were a lot of wonderful comments by these individuals from Little Rock that came to Jonesboro to be quite honest with you had not been here in a number of years. They were very pleased to see what the progress of what the city has done. And, again, it is important. Once people come to our community, they are really proud of what we have here in Jonesboro and Northeast Arkansas.

Council, I am going to name a few events that went on this week and I normally don't do this, but we had a lot and I think it is important that you see the investment of what businesses are putting on. We had red ribbon cuttings. Crafton Tull, we had a red ribbon cutting at their new office located on Alexander Drive. Secure Foundations Counseling, they had a ribbon cutting as well and they provide counseling services for individuals, groups, children, families, and persons. We had Lux Dry House on Highland Drive. And, one that was near and dear to me and I want to say thank you to many councilmembers, Carol and her team, was the Union Park Dedication. It was a beautiful ceremony with a lot of heartfelt words by Councilman Moore and others that were there at that event and I want to say thank you personally to each and every one of you. Also, Arvest Bank had a dedication, ribbon cutting on a new location. There were groundbreaking ceremonies at Simmons Bank, Signature Bank of Arkansas, and First Community Bank at Greensboro Village. So, again council, we have a lot to be proud of. There are a lot of people that are investing in our community, not only those who live here, but those from outside of our community are coming into Jonesboro. We have a lot to offer. So, again, thank you council.

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember John Street said, Mayor, I was contacted a few days ago by Mr. Lloyd Wofford of Engines, Inc. and he said that the traffic on CW Post and Martin Luther King Drive is exceptionally horrific. He would appreciate if the city could offer some assistance for a solution to increase the traffic flow and make a little better because it has been backed up something fierce and it takes him forever to get in and out of

there or anybody else going through that intersection. I know there is construction and he is aware of that, but he really would appreciate it if we could look at that and maybe do some traffic counts or figure out a better traffic flow. Mayor Copenhagen said, absolutely. We will get with Lloyd immediately. Thank you.

Councilmember LJ Bryant, said, I would just say an unsung hero sometimes I think is Jason Ratliff and IT. He helped me fix my monitor awhile ago which was a simple thing, but I have just read so much in the last days, I mean of how businesses and organizations get held hostage. I mean, we talk about public safety and stuff and you know we think of fire and police which is obvious and important too, but we don't think about the fact that somebody takes all of our stuff and holds us ransom for millions of dollars or something and it would be hard to run the city. Mayor Copenhagen said, and, well, to add to that we are seeing other communities that have been hit hard by this and so, obviously, Jason has us do studies as well. So, we are aware of different types of phishing and other attempts that could be made to us personally that would affect the city system. So, you are exactly correct. He does a great job. Thank you.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, I was just thinking about appreciating some unsung heroes, but you actually mentioned it Mayor. Our Sanitation Department is doing a good job I think. I travel quite a bit and a lot of these other cities I go into even our sizes don't look as beautiful as our city and I just wanted to thank our Sanitation Department Administration for making sure that we have a clean city. So, I appreciate that. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you for your comments.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, I just want to touch on what the Mayor said. The BBQ Festival was great downtown. Tim and them had it really lined out. The new pavilion, I hate to say I was wishing it would kind of sprinkle a little bit, but I was kind of wishing that it would sprinkle a little bit because it is going to be great to be able to get underneath it and be able to hold the judging and a variety of other things. One of the things that I didn't realize until I was at the dedication, Danny and them designed that pavilion to be the right size. The ice skating rink is going underneath that this year. So, instead of being out in the parking lot subject to weather, the ice skating rink is going to fit inside of that pavilion. So, Joy Fest and the whole winter season down there, you will be able to ice skate. So, I thought that was pretty forward thinking on everybody's part. The United Way, I cracked up, on Friday morning, their volunteers were painting the side of Winter Wonderland to beat the 12:00 p.m. deadline for the BBQ Fest. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you councilman.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I want to thank the Mayor for mentioning that National Night Out will be tomorrow. We will have free fish plates and also hot dogs. I want to also thank the Chief of Police because they will have DARE out there cooking the hot dogs tomorrow. I think some people don't realize what National Night Out is. So, I will just say it is collective effort between citizens of Jonesboro working together with the Police Department so that they can emphasize what the Police Department actually does in the community. But, we are going to extend some things. We are actually going to have door prizes and games, spin the wheel. We have a lot of sponsors, but I just want everybody to come out to get their free fish plate. It is going to be really good. We have a good cook. I am not sure how good the Chief does hot dogs, but I know the fish will be really well. We do great. It starts at 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. But, what we really try to do is that we are cooking until everything runs out. Last year, it ran out pretty fast. So, I suggest you get in line real quick. It is a drive thru so you can drive around, but also, we, also, this year, we having it a little bit different. We are having different vendors to come out to set their tables up to hand out different things like the medical people and that type of tables are being set out this year. I am

not sure if the medical facility will be out there again this year, but I know that the firetruck will be out there and some other things. So, come out and have a good time. Mayor Copenhagen asked, Councilman Coleman, how many years have you been involved in that? Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, this is going on the eighth year that we have done this. It has worked well. And, I have to just be honest, it wouldn't have worked as well if we hadn't had the cooperation with the Police Department and DARE. So, I want to make sure that we give a shout out to them. The young lady that is actually the Chair for me is Juanita Huggins and she actually does a heck of a job of getting things set up for me. Also, Danny, a lot of times when I call and I need tents set up, Danny and his people come out and help. So, it has been a whole organizational thing as far as I am concerned in the city. I just appreciate everybody coming out. Come out to get a fish plate. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you for your efforts as well.

Councilmember Brian Emison said, I was one of the 60,000 people that visited the fair in the previous week or two here. Staying in the theme of unsung heroes, I just want to send a special thank you out to the Reserve Officers of the Jonesboro Police Department. You know, those are fully volunteer positions. They don't get anything for going out there and directing traffic and keeping all of the eventgoers safe. So, I just want to say thank you to all of the Reserve Officers that are out there along with all of the other first responders. So, thank you. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I didn't give the address so I am sorry Mayor, but I didn't give the address. The address is 315 N. Allis. It is also connected to 330 N. Fisher. So, it will be right in front of the church across the street so if you miss anything, just come by Fisher Street Church and you just see us over there in the garden. One other thing, we were going to give out vegetables this year, but we have given all of the vegetables out to the community. We do that every year. We have been doing that for about 15 years. So, we are through with that. Sorry about that. Mayor Copenhagen said, that is fine Councilman.

Councilmember Janice Porter said, I would like to congratulate Councilman LJ Bryant for his first place finish in the 5K Heart and Sole race and also congratulations to his wife Rebekah on her performance. And, also I would like to congratulate former Councilmember Seth Speer and his wife Courtney on their performance. And, as a personal indulgence, I would like to congratulate my daughter, Marie Morrison on her third place finish for women in the 10K. Thank you.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

James Elwin Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, said, now, I am not counting the Mayor's Report or City Council Report as on the agenda so I can say something because I think it needs to be said by somebody in the public, not just the Mayor and the City Council even though they ought to say it. First, I notice Mitch isn't here. I have seen a lot of Mitch the last two weeks. He deserves about a two week nap for what he did and we really appreciate him. Also, I want to echo some comments about the Police Department and the reserve. It must be a nightmare to have two such high attendance activities going on at the same time. And, what we need to do is to figure out a way so that they don't have to do all of that regular police stuff while it is going on. You know, the people who are selling drugs and traffic violations, and robberies and all that. Actually, instead of saying well, we need to give them a little bit of a break, I think sometimes they say here is our opportunity because they are spread so thin. But, it looks like you made it through it and they are all to be congratulated.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Absent: 2 - Mitch Johnson and Ann Williams

_____ **Date:** _____

Harold Copenhaver, Mayor

Attest:

_____ **Date:** _____

April Leggett, City Clerk