



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Public Works Council Committee

Tuesday, April 23, 2019

10:00 AM

Municipal Center

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

1. Call To Order

2. Roll Call by City Clerk Donna Jackson

Mayor Harold Perrin was in attendance.

Present 5 - Gene Vance; Mitch Johnson; John Street; Chris Moore and Charles Coleman

Absent 2 - LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

3. New Business

ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED

[ORD-19:021](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT BY REFERENCE THE GUIDELINES FOR THE SELECTION OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICE PROVIDERS FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO

Attachments: [Prof serv, Legal services 2-14-19.pdf](#)
[Prof serv, Const. \\$2 mil+ 4-11-19.pdf](#)
[Prof serv, Const. under \\$2 mil 2-14-19.pdf](#)
[Prof serv, Financial, other 2-14-19.pdf](#)
[Cameron statement](#)

Chairmember John Street said there are several attachments that go along with this ordinance, if you printed those out. Councilmember Chris Moore said, what are you asking us to do, Chairmember Street? Chairmember Street said we did away with the one that was incorrect, and now this one is up for consideration and discussion before us because we weren't going to have enough time at the regular scheduled Public Works meeting. I guess we need a motion and a second to get it on there, or to discuss it. Councilmember Moore made the motion to place ORD-19:021 on the table for discussion, seconded by Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman. Councilmember Street said I have a motion and a second. Is there any discussion? City Clerk Donna Jackson said let me make a point of order. I put down that Councilmember Moore offered it, and it was read one time. So, there needs to be a motion to either suspend the rules or something. Councilmember Street asked what is the pleasure of the committee. You want to hold it at three readings? Councilmember Gene Vance said we only read it once at this committee. If, and when, it goes to City Council, then it's up for three readings. Councilmember Street said we do have a motion and a second. It's on the floor for discussion. Councilmember Vance said we have a motion and a

second to do what. Mayor Harold Perrin said to put it on the table. Councilmember Street asked what's the pleasure of the committee. Councilmember Vance said it's on the table for discussion. Councilmember Dr. Coleman said it should be on the table for discussion at this time. Councilmember Vance said we're ready for discussion. Councilmember Street said we are. That's what I'm saying is that it's open for discussion.

Councilmember Vance said personally, I don't think we're there, yet. I think this ordinance is premature. I think there needs to be more study put into the selection process because we have been using this guideline for the last selection. I've been trying to keep up with it, and I don't see it working properly. Mayor Perrin said I know we had a handout here, and I did previously veto an ordinance pertaining to this, but not to avoid transparency at all. I vetoed because of what Councilmember Vance just stated. The vote was like 5 to 7 and I felt like it needed to come back to the Public Works Committee to work it out. With that being said, I'd like to ask Mr. Roy Ockert, who is acting as Operations Director and Chief of Staff, to take you through the steps of what he's done. It won't take but just a few minutes, and I think that will really be a big help to you.

Mr. Ockert said the veto of ORD-18:060 was on February 8, 2019. Shortly thereafter, the engineering department identified nine projects that were ready, or nearly ready, in which we had money in the budget for this year. Therefore, we felt like we needed to proceed. At that point, I looked at the selection processes that we had issued last August 1, 2018, and those processes had all included three members for each selection committee, including one City Council member. I did some redrafting of those policies to include four members of each committee. Councilmember Gene Vance had suggested that we have at least three different departments represented, and so, we did that. We did not include any City Council members because of the possibility of a liability issue. However, we don't have any objection to that, but we just think the City Council needs to decide that for themselves. We could certainly add one or more as a voting member or as an ex-officio member. Those nine projects are all in various stages, and we're trying to follow the procedures, but you have to remember that this is the first time anything like this has been done. It's always been done in the Engineering Department, and it's been done according to state law, but we're trying to make it a better process. In January 2019, we solicited Statements of Qualifications, SOQs, for 2019 from engineering, architectural, and surveying firms. We received 20 engineers, 7 architects, and 10 surveyors. We reviewed all of them. One architect firm for the first two projects was disqualified for failure to include liability insurance in his presentation. We received both a printed and digital version. The digital version was placed online on the shared drive so that members of the committee could read it. We appointed committees for nine projects, and we began the process.

Mr. Ockert said I read all 37 SOQs. It took 8 or 10 hours to do so, but because I'm not an engineer, I felt like I needed to familiarize myself with all of them if I was going to sit on a committee. I made notes on all of them so that when I sat on a committee I could remember what some of them were about. I think one of the things that I have learned in the process is that we're all going to have some biases and we're all going to have some prejudices. I am biased in favor of local businesses myself, and there are a number of engineering, architectural, and surveying firms that have offices in Jonesboro. After sitting on three committees, I have some recommendations for what to do differently from what is stated in this ordinance and that's why I wanted to address the members of this committee. When reading the SOQs, these are generalized statements that are written for any number of cities. They can vary from a huge book type presentation like McClelland Engineering has, which is probably done

by a Public Relations firm. Here's one from William Graham of Little Rock. It's the basics. That's all it is. So, the committees are faced with a great deal of different information, and it varies according to how well they present their SOQs, but none of them addresses the particular project that we want to deal with. So, when we get down to the committee stage and we're looking to build a roundabout, we look in those SOQs to see who has built a roundabout, where did they build it, did they work in Jonesboro, or did they work somewhere else. In my deliberations, I eliminated somebody who had done almost entirely water projects. If we're talking about a roundabout, I didn't see that as being relevant. If they hadn't done a roundabout, then that might be something I would want to grade down on. As to what the other members of the committee looked at, they probably looked at different things, too, but our conversations were similar in that we were looking for somebody who had experience in Jonesboro and in doing the kind of project that we are asking them to do. After sitting on three of these committees, one of the things that I concluded is that we should do interviews even for those projects that are going to have a fee of \$20,000 up to \$2 million. State law provides that we will do interviews if it's a \$2 million project. It doesn't require that we do interviews for a \$20,000 project, but I believe it would be helpful for the selection committee to not only have the SOQs, but be able to interview the top three that are chosen from the SOQs, and ask them what they have done that is relevant and to be able to hear from them. That is one change that I would suggest from the procedure we have right now.

The other question I would have for you is if you want to have someone on each of these committees whether as a voting member or as an ex-officio member then that should be considered. Most of the work that is done by these committees is individual. It's about as much fun to sit in on them, as it is to watch paint dry. What you're doing is reading the SOQs looking for relevant information and you're filling out a score sheet. So, from my standpoint, it would help me in making an evaluation after that step to call in the top 3, or whatever number you want to have, and do an interview. Those are some of my comments from my experience of sitting on some of these committees. So, I would suggest that we consider a few changes and, certainly, the City Council needs to decide whether they want to be actively involved in the structure, as well. Councilmember Vance said I'd like to echo one thing that Mr. Ockert said. This is not an easy process and no matter what we do, it's never going to be perfect, but the thing we need to do is to do everything that we can to make it as good as possible.

Mike Cameron, 1612 Leaf Cove, said I have some prepared information for you all, if you had time to listen to it. With it fresh on your minds about what Mr. Ockert said, I would like to point out something very, very important. Your city engineer is sitting here and there's another consultant sitting here, and I'd welcome any comments concerning it. Those are SOQs. They are statements of qualifications. They ask for seven basic requirements. They have nothing to do with a specific project. Those ask what your general experience is. What you've generally been working in? What field you're working in? Do you have a valid license to practice engineering? Do you have liability insurance with its limits, and on down the line about who these people are. It had nothing to do with a specific project. Those, as far as I understand, were used just recently to rate me number 16 out of 20 on a project that ends at my front door. That is not what you use. You send out requests for a letter of intent for those people who have built roundabouts or who feel like they can build roundabouts. You ask for a request for qualifications, RFQ. People respond to that if they are proficient in the field, and then you sit down and rate them because they've given you the information that you need instead of having to search through there, and cut people that only do water and sewer. Those function for one thing only. They can be used on these under

\$20,000 jobs. They can be used if that engineer or any other department wants to say, I need some professional help. Let me search through these SOQs and see who does this particular job. If it's for a purchase order, it's a quick, down and dirty way to do it, but everything else you do an RFQ, you do a request for a letter of intent, and then, hopefully, you'll interview, and then you'll take into consideration those other things. Roy, I'm sorry that you went through all 20 of those three different times trying to figure out who could build a bike trail. I'll answer any questions about that if you have any.

Mayor Perrin said Mr. Cameron, you mentioned something that I hadn't heard, but you're saying to send out a letter of intent. In other words, a specific for what you're trying to get done. Mr. Cameron said a request for a letter of intent on a project. You would send out a request for a letter of intent from an engineer. They respond to that with a letter of intent accompanied by specific information having to do with that job. You don't talk about money. You just say these are the jobs we have done like the one you're trying for, here's all of the specific information you're asking for, and we want to be considered to build this bike trail because we've built a lot of them. Mayor Perrin said okay, and then you bring them in to do the interview, because then you have their qualifications on a specific job. Mr. Cameron said that is correct. Mayor Perrin said then you discuss that. Mr. Cameron said yes. Then you discuss that and then the committee ranks them, but I'm asking that you, Mayor Perrin, chair the committee. I know you have a lot of honorable things you're doing running around all over the country, but when you look at that second or third sheet, you will see that I believe it would be worth your while to chair these committees yourself.

Councilmember Vance said I have a question for Mr. Cameron. We were told at the meeting where we were discussing all these that the engineers would not want to do the individual projects and have to do four, five, or six of them a year. Are you saying that it's different from what we were told? Mr. Cameron said well, you have another one sitting back here from Pickering Firm, and I'm telling you that rather than being rated number 16 out of 20, I'd do an RFQ. Councilmember Vance asked Mike Foster with Pickering Firm what he thought about that process. Mr. Foster, 317 S. Church, said an RFP is definitely a lot more work than just a general state of qualifications. This process is used by a lot of cities, but an RFP is a lot more intense for a project specific submittal, but the process is the process, and we're like everyone else and we just want a fair shot at the projects, but, yes, it is a lot more work. Councilmember Vance said speaking from a previous job that I held we did project specific proposals rather than SOQs. The city is the only one that does SOQs the way we do it. All of your schools who use construction management, they do, based on individual projects, ask for proposals for those specific projects. So, it's more work on the engineers, but until they scream, why don't we do that.

Mr. Ockert said my suggestion is for anything below \$2 million, you could ask for a letter of interest on an informal basis. It doesn't have to be an RFQ. It could be two or three pages. It doesn't have to be a plan, and that would give the committees a lot more information to start the process. That would be what I would do. Councilmember Vance said it would be up to the engineers on what they wanted to provide in that. Mr. Cameron said in a five-person shop down there, it would be me doing it at night trying to help out Mr. John Easley, the managing partner, but Pickering Firm with 150 employees probably has a publishing outfit, so these big firms probably aren't going to have a problem.

Now, you've heard RFQs and RFPs. Mr. Foster mentioned RFPs. RFQs are requests for qualifications and RFPs are requests for proposals. There's a process. It's not being invented. It's just the application that Mr. Ockert is trying to put to it doesn't work

that way. Like I told you, I'm Mike Cameron, and I've been living in this town all of my life and my wife has, as well. I've been an engineer since 1971 and a registered professional engineer since 1975. I've worked for the highway department as a resident engineer and this city as a Director of Public Works, a city engineer, and Director of Parks and Recreation. I left in 1986 and went out and started by own construction company, which I left it in 2014. I sold out and retired. During the course of that, I began Associated Engineering to support a construction company because the highway department and all of its wisdom gave the contractor, himself, all of the testing responsibilities for materials and all of the layout of the thing. So, I bought Mr. Harvey Johnson's business, and then formed an engineering company, and it went great. I didn't have anything to do with that. Mr. Easley and Ms. Christina Huffmaster built that company. I didn't build that company. I have nothing in it and I should profit nothing from it. I've enjoyed fishing. In 2014, I started this, but then I came back in March 2018. I walk into the office and Mr. Easley says well, the City of Jonesboro has selected the top three on the South Caraway Road project and we weren't selected as one of the top three. I asked how many there were and he said 15. I asked what number we were and he said I don't know, but we weren't in the top three. So, I said well, why don't you go question it and make waves. Mr. Easley said he didn't want to make waves. I think my comment to him was, well, I guess a boat can sink in calm waters just like rough waters, and if that's what's happening here then you've gone from 16 employees last time I was connected down here and you've dropped to 8. Incidentally, we're at five now because of the work that is leaving town and not staying in Jonesboro.

So, what happened? There's not but one thing I can figure because we haven't gotten worse. I'm telling you Mr. Easley is as good an engineer and he's the best I've known outside of maybe Mr. Sam Smith who was the district engineer when Councilmember Vance was working for the highway department. What happened? Along came Engineering Director Craig Light and started exercising his bias he has against me, and apparently all local engineers. If you take a look at that list I gave you of all the projects that he's been responsible for making the selection you'll see that Associated Engineering has received \$22,000 worth of work out of over \$2 million worth of work. If anybody here is interested in saving money, you should be interested in saving a little money. If I'm going to go outside the City of Jonesboro, or if I'm going to go traveling and put people up in hotels, or I'm going to establish a branch office, then I'm going to have to add the cost. You and I have talked about this, Mayor Perrin. We've talked about what those proposals show. At least one-third is what it comes out to be more when you're working in that condition than as you are if all of your employees live within 20 miles of your office, and have all of their life. You're looking at \$2 million worth of work there and one-third of it is because of excess costs their entitled to. What is one-third of \$2 million? That's how much money Mr. Light has sent out of Jonesboro over the last few years that that project covers.

I questioned Mr. Light about how he selects engineers. At that time, there was no selection process. That one sheet shows you date-by-date how I questioned him about Caraway Road. It was Mr. Light and two of his employees who sat down in a room and took no notes. I have seen no grading forms on that. I don't know who was ranked number four, but when he ranked one, two, and three, he sat there and told me that he wasn't going to pick two or three because he knew it on the front end because of mistakes they've made before. I said, so you've chosen Pickering Firm to do the project. Mr. Light said yes. Well, actually he didn't respond to that question put like that. I came to Mayor Perrin and he said that didn't sound right to him and that he would look into it. Do you remember that? We tried to give them some surveying to try to build the job and not do it all at one time and tried to get some on-call work. The

next thing I hear, the job is headed to City Council for approval. I think it was for \$288,000. I immediately FOIA'd everything. I didn't come talk to Mayor Perrin, but I should have. I FOIA'd information, but never received all of it. I got some of it. Thank you. Suddenly, the cost dropped \$50,000 before it got to the City Council. I asked Mr. Ockert what happened, and he said the day after your FOIA was received that Mr. Light negotiated \$50,000 out of the contract. That is pretty loose money as far as I'm concerned, and I can tell you that \$50,000 means something to me. Six hundred thousand dollars means something to this city. It should mean something to this city. You didn't build that cut through out by Academy Sports because it was going to cost \$230,000. You could have built three of them. Six hundred thousand dollars is a lot of money that Mr. Light is sending out of Jonesboro.

If it was just getting even with me, then we could sit here all day long and I could tell you the reasons he's trying to get even with me. If it was just me being paid back and it was just teaching me a lesson, that's fine, but he's hurting the other engineers in this town. All these engineers in Jonesboro want to do is go to work, do good work, raise their families, go to church, and build a community and keep every penny in Jonesboro. That's all they want. They don't want to come up here like me and make waves. I don't want to be up here. I'm embarrassed. I'm frustrated, but sometimes, you have to do things that you don't want to do. I can't expect those people to do what I'm doing.

If you look at the names on that tabulation, you tell me what a building inspector knows about hiring an engineer for a bike trail. He may be an expert in it. I don't know. I don't know what discussion took place in that meeting and neither do you. No one was interviewed. The selected firm gave you a three-page contract that looks nothing like any contract I have ever seen that you're going to send to ArDOT for federal money. I'm assuming that has federal money in it. Am I right? Mayor Perrin said yes. Mr. Cameron said that contract, I'll bet you, will not fly through the Federal Highway Administration or ArDOT. It has so many pieces missing from ones I have seen before, but you'll have to deal with that. The selection of it embarrasses me and makes me think, after working in this town for approximately 40 years, am I number 16. Is Mr. Easley, who's the best engineer I've seen since Sam Smith, number 16? Our company is owned by Ms. Christina Huffmaster, Mr. Easley, and Mr. Patrick Lindley. I am on my way out trying to get my stock signed over to them so I can get out of here. They are good people. They work in their churches, but they're not going to come and stand up here and gripe about being left out. They don't go crying over spilled milk, and if it was only spilled milk and it was just me being put down, I'd take it on the chin and I'd go and do something else, but besides that, you're letting a lot of money leave Jonesboro. Mr. Foster, I'm sorry to be talking about you, but I don't think that you can sit up here and argue about the fact that it costs more to have a branch office and the profits going to Memphis, and the travel involved in it because I've looked at your proposals and I can tell. It's just a fact. Now, if we're incompetent in Jonesboro and there's not a good engineer in Jonesboro. We're not building nuclear power plants. We're building sidewalks. We're building streets, and I've built them all over Jonesboro as an engineer and a contractor. Mr. Easley has built the largest residential development and he's been the engineer on Sage Meadows and Turtle Creek Mall. It's not as if we haven't done this work before, and if we haven't done it before, go get somebody who has. I've taken up a lot of your time and I'll answer any questions. I wanted to avoid this. I wanted it not to be this way. I don't like it. I'm proud of you, Mayor Perrin. I'm proud of this city. Thank you for your time.

Mike Foster said I do want to comment on one thing Mr. Cameron said. I'm not going to get involved with the selection process per se, but we were selected for the Caraway

Road project, and the \$50,000 he's referring to is that the city wanted to get the contract down from the \$288,000 or \$287,000 to around the \$250,000 mark. Mr. Light and I sat down and looked and there was no fat in the contract so we actually cut scope from the contract to get down to the dollar amount, which was that \$50,000. It wasn't a matter of saying that we just needed to cut it and we cut fat. There was a scope reduction.

Mr. Andy Davis, 1700 Dupwe Drive, said mine is a little more simple today. This is something I have been looking at for a couple months now. I do feel like transparency is important, but what I also feel like is important is that the City Council is involved with this process. I noticed that none of the committees going forward were required to have a City Council member on them. I feel like stuff like that should be involved. I feel like any of these proposals or bids need to go before the City Council. The argument can be said that we hire people for this stuff, but I hired you. I didn't hire those people. I cannot remove them from their positions. If you all aren't doing what I expect of you then I can do a campaign and get somebody in here who is going to do what's right. With that being said, I just want to say that I feel like this should be tabled and the committee, with both relevant and qualified experience, should look at this matter. Thank you.

Councilmember Mitch Johnson said it just seems to me like we keep going around in circles about these different things and it keeps going back to the fact that, once again, as Mr. Ockert and several people said, are we not interviewing these people. Are we just looking at what is in that book and then choosing three people to negotiate? We have a special meeting here and it's obvious that this thing needs work and it's obvious that this selection process is, for a lack of words, apparently it's pretty sorry in the process that's being done. However, we're going to leave this meeting and say we need to discuss this further. We spent several meetings having, if you call it a work session, to discuss rules and procedures for the City Council. It's obvious we need to sit down and do that same process ourselves and work with whoever to actually come up with a good policy and procedure to get this implemented.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said if we table this, can this council do that? Councilmember Vance said can the council do what? Councilmember Dr. Coleman said to go over this process and to make this process better with the inclusion of the engineering, engineering department, and whoever. Councilmember Vance said there's no doubt in my mind that we can make the process better, but can we make it perfect, no. Councilmember Dr. Coleman said I'm just asking the question.

Councilmember Johnson said it just seems like it's going to be up to us to forward something to the council when the process is decided here, yet we're not involved in helping make this decision. We're just getting these things thrown at us and then we say, well this is not perfect. Let's study it some more. So, we need, as a committee since it comes to us first, to be involved in some kind of process to work this out before it's even considered to go forward to the council.

Councilmember Vance said I might suggest that we let Mr. Ockert be the focal point and do the writing of this. He could counsel with each of us on this committee to get our ideas and make sure, maybe even run it by each of us individually, before we bring it back before this committee that is if we table it. I like some of the things Mr. Ockert said and I like some of the things Mr. Cameron has said. I think the request for proposal would be much better than the way we are currently doing it because as Mr. Ockert said he's reading 150 pages on one of the SOQs when he might be reading 15 pages on a request for proposal.

Chairmember Street said the letter of intent would help a lot because if you specialize in water parks then you're not going to submit an LOI for a bike path. So, that will narrow it down just by itself. Once you get those, you can sift through them a little more. I'm glad to hear them talking about interviews. I hate to keep going back to it, but when we did the detention ponds, and Councilmember Moore you were on Public Works, we interviewed every firm that was hired by the city. We vetted everything when we got those firms in and talked to them, and that's just how it was done.

Councilmember Vance said under the previous Mayor, I wasn't on the council at that time, but I was presenting to the committee, rather than to the individuals and the staff, which again, as it's been pointed out may give us some liability if we do that, but that's the way it was done previously. Councilmember Street said we had the staff there. They were there to assist us. Councilmember Vance said they were, but it was a council function and not a staff function. Councilmember Street said I think that I'm probably as qualified to make a selection as the grants writer, and maybe more so. Councilmember Vance said I'm not pushing for us to be the committee or a part of the committee. I am definitely not pushing that because we have enough work as it is, but we do have to perform the oversight of it. We have to make sure the procedures and the rules are correct and then we have to see the results and make sure those rules and procedures are followed. Councilmember Street said I agree. That maintains open transparency and conduct of business.

Mr. Ockert said I would be glad to be a part of a working committee to work on this with any or all of the committee members. I don't think I can do that one at a time without circumventing the FOIA law and that's something that I prefer not to do. So, if you want to set a working session, we'll be glad to do that and we can sit down and do whatever needs to be done. Councilmember Vance said if we do it in a working session, let's make sure we don't get backed into the same corner we did on our council rules because the way we did it, we were lambasted that it wasn't made public. I don't know why anybody would come and want to sit in on one of those working sessions, because there is not anything to hide there or anything to see there. Councilmember Vance said I'd like to make the motion that we table this indefinitely and let Mr. Ockert chair a committee that would be a working committee that puts this thing back together and gives us some of the things we talked about today, and there's probably other things that need to be incorporated in it.

Councilmember Moore said I'll second Councilmember Vance's motion, but before we do and while we're still having conversation, I'm kind of in the vein of Councilmember Johnson. I think before a proposal comes to this committee to be considered, it needs to be vetted by the local engineers. It should be hashed out with Mr. Ockert and the local engineers. You wouldn't come and change all the rules to govern how plumbing is done without consulting the plumbers first and then at least have a consensus amongst the engineers before it comes to a committee for final tweaking. Otherwise, you're just doomed to fail. Councilmember Street said I concur. That makes a lot of sense. Councilmember Vance said they could be a part of this working session committee. Councilmember Moore said if you asked me, Councilmember Johnson, and Councilmember Ann Williams to come up with a set of rules that govern engineers, I think you're just doomed to fail. Councilmember Vance said you're selecting engineers, but it's the process of selection. Councilmember Moore said I'm not talking about when it gets to the selection process. I'm talking about the underlying rules or the process we're going to use to get to the selection process. I'm not qualified to do that.

Mr. Cameron said I think maybe it's not as complicated as you feel like right now.

Pretty well, the methodology, the procedures and the policies are really common to the industry. In this case, Mr. Ockert has not written them to reflect, and I don't mean to be speaking for Mr. Ockert, but what I see a problem with is that you're trying to distinguish between over \$2 million and under \$2 million, and under \$20,000, and what method do you use for one versus the other. If you're going to give the responsibility to Mr. Light to pick and choose any engineer or surveyor he wants with a fee under \$20,000, then so be it. I think the last time I saw a report he picks eight a year. You're going to give him the opportunity to choose or spend up to \$750,000 on projects, but that's your prerogative. If you want Mr. Light doing that, then that's fine, but anything over the purchase order amount of \$20,000 should be one procedure. That might take you a little bit of time, but I'm telling you, with planning, you can make it where it's not that cumbersome. You have nine projects that you're trying to get out and one or two that you've already gotten out. You take from the \$20,000 threshold, where Mr. Light can just choose whomever he wants, to anything above and you have one procedure and it's pretty well spelled out. I figure I've given that part of the business of the city up. When you look at the \$2 million and above, there is a procedure, and if Mayor Perrin would chair the committee and save this kind of money leaving town, it's not as huge as it may seem.

Councilmember Street said we have a motion and a second to postpone this indefinitely and let Mr. Ockert head up a working committee to refine this. Is that the pleasure of the committee? Councilmember Johnson said I would hope in this process that it's resolved fairly quickly and it's not something that drags out because we have projects sitting there and projects that have to be decided on. So, if there is a way that we can actually find qualified people and save the city money, then the quicker we can expedite this the better off we can be. Chairmember Street said I think it's a good idea if Mr. Ockert would get with engineers first in the community and start the meeting with that. Get the ground rules established, and then come back to this. That should be pretty easy.

Mayor Perrin said this has been ongoing for the last 30, 60, or 90 days. I will say this and it's not because Mr. Ockert works for me and works with me, but he's done a pretty good job up to this point, and I think even Mr. Cameron would agree with that. I think it just needs a fine tune on what you just saw today. I want to make it very clear that this administration totally and firmly believes in transparency. On this process, I really agree on the interview. The reason I say that is because I've been Mayor 11 years, but also on the council almost 15 years, and we went through one of the biggest projects I've ever seen in my life on Turtle Creek Mall. I learned a great deal by listening to those people as they came in and made their presentations. We brought people in from Nashville and many other places for Turtle Creek Mall, and that was a huge, big cluster, but it took us time to go through that and those meetings to find out exactly what we done. If I'm not mistaken, I think the former Mayor even fired an engineering firm when they were in Texas on a project. My job as Mayor is to make sure it's done right, that's it's open and transparent, and that's the way it will be. I appreciate you all appointing Mr. Ockert to do that, and I think you all know him well enough to know that he's going to go through this thing word by word and line by line.

Chairmember Street said you're absolutely right. Mayor Perrin said I would hope the interview is incorporated in the new process because there are just things you'll say or pick up on in the interview that may or may not be in a letter. Mr. Keith Inman, reporter for The Sun, can tell you because he sat there with us through a lot of those on Saturdays and he was bored to tears, but it's an important part of the process and that's our job.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gene Vance, seconded by

Councilperson Chris Moore, that this matter be Postponed Indefinitely. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 4 - Gene Vance; Mitch Johnson; Chris Moore and Charles Coleman

Absent: 2 - LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

4. Pending Items

[RES-19:030](#)

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING BY REFERENCE THE GUIDELINES FOR THE SELECTION OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICE PROVIDERS FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO

Attachments: [Prof serv, Const. \\$2 mil+2-15-19.docx](#)
[Prof serv, Const. under \\$2 mil 2-14-19.docx](#)
[Prof serv, Financial, other 2-14-19.docx](#)
[Prof serv, Legal services 2-14-19.docx](#)

Chairmember John Street said this was erroneously placed on Legistar as a resolution, but it is an ordinance. We need to do away with this to start with.

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

Aye: 4 - Gene Vance; Mitch Johnson; Chris Moore and Charles Coleman

Absent: 2 - LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

5. Adjournment

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

Aye: 4 - Gene Vance; Mitch Johnson; Chris Moore and Charles Coleman

Absent: 2 - LJ Bryant and Ann Williams