



# City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center  
300 S. Church Street  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

## Meeting Minutes City Council

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Tuesday, November 19, 2019

5:30 PM

Municipal Center

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### PUBLIC SAFETY 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** 12 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain and LJ Bryant

#### 4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

#### 5. CONSENT AGENDA

#### *Approval of the Consent Agenda*

**A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Gibson, seconded by Councilperson John Street, to Approve the Consent Agenda. The motioned PASSED**

**Aye:** 12 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain and LJ Bryant

[MIN-19:110](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON NOVEMBER 5, 2019

**Attachments:** [CC Minutes 11052019](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

[RES-19:141](#)

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO TRANSFER PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5713 EAST NETTLETON AVENUE, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO CITY WATER AND LIGHT (CWL), A PUBLIC ENTITY

**Attachments:** [5713 E Nettleton Avenue Appraisal](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-162-2019

[RES-19:198](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH JAIL FEES BETWEEN THE CITY OF JONESBORO AND CRAIGHEAD COUNTY

**Attachments:** [Agreement, County Jail, City of Jonesboro, Craighead County 2020-2021](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-163-2019

[RES-19:199](#)

A RESOLUTION TO PURCHASE PROPERTY FROM BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY FOR THE VETERANS VILLAGE PROJECT

**Attachments:** [Exhibit A, BNSF Agreement, Veterans Village Agreement, BNSF PSA City of Jonesboro](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-164-2019

[RES-19:200](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ARDOT) for THE FY 2019 TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM FOR THE UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS LINK TRAIL

**Attachments:** [Agreement, TAP Grant-University Heights Link Trail](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-165-2019

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

### *ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING*

[ORD-19:065](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL AND REPLACE 117-255 Section C OF THE JONESBORO CODE OF ORDINANCES RELATING TO HEIGHT LIMITATIONS OF ACCESSORY BUILDINGS IN THE CITY OF JONESBORO

*Councilmember Chris Gibson motioned, seconded by Councilmember John Street, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-19:065 by title only. All voted aye.*

*President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore said, I would ask that this be held to three readings, but just a quick comment. This came about because the height limitation was preventing garages and accessory buildings from being built. I would ask that this be held to three readings.*

**Held at one reading**

[ORD-19:066](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE APPROVAL OF A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR NORTH HILLS SOCIAL CLUB, D/B/A THE EDGE EATERY

**Attachments:**     [Private Club Permit Application\\_Redacted](#)

*Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-19:066 by title only. All voted aye.*

*James Elwin Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, asked, is this the one over by the college? President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore said, it is on Aggie Road. Let me give you the address. Do we have the address for that? Mr. Hinds said, I have a question to ask. How old were you when you went college? I am not picking. That is a rhetorical question and want you to think about it. Now, I was 17 and graduated college at 20. I was a little bit younger than the norm, but only by about a year. Folks, we are going right into where there are a lot of people who are underage, away from their parents for their first time, a lot of peer pressure at that particular time. If we put this in, there will be underage drinking going on because you voted to have it. I hope you will vote not to have underage drinking there at this place. President Pro-Tempore Moore said, thank you Mr. Hinds.*

*Brian Nobles, 1300 S. Church Street, and Kade Holliday, 2835 Village Meadow Cove. Mr. Holliday said, I just wanted to point on this for the permit that we are asking for the approval of from the Council, one of the things, we are not looking to change the overall atmosphere of the Edge. We are not looking at trying to create a dive or something along those lines. There is going to be very strictly enforced rules on the amount of drinks that can actually be consumed there before someone is cut off. As well as, every single individual who comes in there who wants to purchase liquor will have their id electronically verified to show that it is a legitimate id and that those individuals are 21 years or older. Councilmember Bobby Long said, Kade, I am glad you are here. I have a couple of questions. Of course with every alcohol permit, there has to be a non-profit and as a non-profit, I would expect you to operate as a non-profit. First of all, what is the name of the non-profit? Mr. Holliday said, the non-profit is called the North Hills Social Club. Councilmember Long asked, what is the mission statement of that non-profit? Mr. Holliday said, basically, what we are trying to do is that we are trying to ensure our non-profit is looking at benefiting the students here in the community to offer scholarships, to turn around, to go to the university of their choosing, basically, primarily within the Arts focus because that is where my focus has been. I am sure that some of you have seen the gift that I made to ASU and know that the arts is something that is extremely important to me. I want to continue to inhibit and promote the arts here in Craighead County, Jonesboro, and for all of our students. Councilmember Long asked, so, were you the originator of the non-profit or was it purchased elsewhere or was it already in existence? Mr. Holliday said, on the second reading, I know that is when we normally get into all of the legalities of that and we will have our legal counsel here for that night. Councilmember Long said, okay.*

**Held at one reading**

[ORD-19:067](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO WAIVE BIDS AND PURCHASE SKY COPS BY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

**Attachments:**     [Skycop](#)

*Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-19:067 by title only. All voted aye.*

*Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Gene Vance, to suspend the rules and waive the second reading. All voted aye.*

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Gene Vance, to suspend the rules and waive the third reading. All voted aye.

Councilmember Bobby Long said, I have some questions. We were talking about this earlier. In order, I think, to give the public a little bit more understanding of what these are and what these are not, I just have a few questions. Did we look at any other systems other than SkyCops and I didn't even know if there were other systems other than SkyCops? Police Chief Rick Elliott said, SkyCops is actually a brand name. It is a marketing tool, Cops in the Sky. But, that is actually the company's brand name. In regards to other companies, yes. We have looked at other vendors. In fact, I have purchased two cameras, one from one vendor and one from another in a trial phase. We did purchase these two SkyCops and they seem to meet our needs. And, since we are adding onto the existing, it was decided to stay with SkyCops. So, since we already bought into SkyCops, to keep everything under one platform and be consistent with our equipment, we will stay with SkyCops. So, this is the recommendation through IT and Finance.

Councilmember Long said, I know when I was reading about SkyCops, I see that, from my understanding is the software is proprietary. So, a lot of times when you get into proprietary software, over time, there may be updates and things like that that occur that are significant, that are costly. My understanding also is that SkyCops has been around for some time. What have other cities experienced as far as the cost to upkeep, maintain, and make these things updated? Chief Elliott said, right. Memphis PD has over 800 SkyCops throughout the city of Memphis. Actually, SkyCops is manufactured in Memphis, TN. Across the country, these cameras have proven to be effective. The associated costs as far as software updates, it is a pretty simple system. It has a built-in DVR. So anything that is transmitted to be viewed is through a SIM card. So, as far as updates and things like that, it is very minimal. Whenever a camera goes out, then you have the cost of the camera. There could be some associated costs with software updates unless we get into a long-term lease versus purchase. Right now, I would think that our best bet is to purchase these outright instead of a lease. We don't really expect a lot of maintenance issues out of them unless they're torn up or something happens to them or they get shot.

Councilmember Long said, another question that I have been posed is, will these be used to issue moving violation tickets? Chief Elliott said, no. In the State of Arkansas, you cannot use cameras at intersections to write tickets or send someone a ticket through the mail. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, correct. Chief Elliott said, no. The answer to your question is no. These cameras, in fact, we are limited where we can place these cameras throughout the city. On anything that ARDot, the Arkansas Highway Department, we are limited on the use of putting them into the right-of-ways. If we do put it in the right-of-ways, there are certain restrictions. You can't have the blue lights flashing or anything like that. That is not our intent. Our intent is high crime areas. So, that is our target and then there are some other areas such as Craighead Forest. I have had a lot of requests for that system to go out at Craighead Forest. So, since we have talked about this, the public interest has peaked and I think it is important to bring up these concerns. Another concern is well, is it intrusive? Does it invade my privacy? It is in a public place. Anyone has the right to record and video you in public. When you walk out the door, anyone can record and videotape you and we are not violating your rights. These cameras do not have audio. So, we are not being intrusive on your conversation that has taken place. So, it is in a public place and we are not spying or zooming into windows of houses or businesses or anything like that. Most of these cameras are fixed and just kind of records broad in the area around it.

Councilmember Long asked, do they actually record, I know not focused on, but could they catch private residences driveways. Chief Elliott said, well if you put a camera on a street and it is wide enough, you are going to see a driveway. Now, can you make out a lot of details, maybe, maybe not. But, again, it is no different than someone standing on the street and videotaping. Councilmember Long asked, who will have access to this data and is this access restricted and if so, how is it access restricted. Chief Elliott said, access will be by either police administration or police investigators. These are for investigative purposes. Now, we will have a virtual center set up in dispatch. If we have a critical incident taking place, they can be watched. Also, the desk sergeant will be able to monitor these to some degree. Now, again, when we get started with this many cameras, the desk sergeant will be impossible to watch this many cameras. The fact that they do record, gives us the capability of going back and rewinding and looking at the incident that took place. And, that is our goal. We don't have the manpower to watch all of these cameras 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They do record on a 30-day loop. They have a built in DVR. At the 30 day cycle, it writes over itself so to speak. So this data, these images is only kept for 30 days and it goes away. During that time, we hope that if anything comes up as an investigative nature, we will have the chance to go back and pull off that video and archive that video for whatever investigative purposes. The answer to your question is to be limited to our investigators or the dispatch personnel that may be monitoring the cameras at any given time.

President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore asked, is the video FOIAble? Chief Elliott said, yes. President Pro-Tempore Moore said, so it would be available to anyone who wanted to FOI the video of any given camera or I would think so. Either you or the Mayor one, told me that it has already reached some measure of success on Cedar Heights. Chief Elliott said, it has. President Pro-Tempore Moore asked, could you tell us about that. Chief Elliott said, we are over three weeks in Cedar Heights. President Pro-Tempore Moore asked, without a call for service? Chief Elliott said, well now, the last time we spoke, we had one call for service and that lady had a clock stolen out of her residence by an acquaintance. Since then, we have had three more calls, but nothing of a violent nature. Someone reported a suspicious person on one. Another call was attempting to locate someone. There was another one, but I forgot what it was. It was of a non-violent nature.

President Pro-Tempore Moore said, I know three weeks doesn't seem like a long period, but I have seen it where you have been over there every day. Chief Elliott said, correct. The feedback from the residents over there has been fairly well received by the neighborhood. So, it has had a positive effect. Another success story was the camera on Race and Fairfield. The desk officer last week looked up and underneath that camera, there is a used car parking lot and it observed two juveniles breaking into vehicles on the lot. We got the officers dispatched over there and located them and subsequently arrested them. These two youths had ran away from the CYS facility earlier in the day. So, you know, it was a three week period, we have already had a couple of success stories. This is why we are asking to push forward with these. Right now, I have a list of my top twenty areas of problems. Although, we are only buying ten units, but I have already been contacted by several business people that have expressed interest in buying units and donating to the city to further this cause. President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore said, thank you Chief.

Sandra Combs, P. O. Box 2686, State University, said, I would just like to know the cost of the ten SkyCops units? President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore asked, Madam Clerk, could you tell us what the cost of that is off of the ordinance? City Clerk Donna Jackson asked, Chief, is it in the attachment or in the ordinance itself? Do you know?

Police Chief Rick Elliott said, it is in the attachment. It is \$111,000. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, it is \$111,755 for the actual cameras.

James Elwin Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, said, I checked my copy of the constitution and the 4th amendment is still there. The Supreme Court says it ensures the right to privacy. Now, let me tell you when they put that in the constitution, they didn't do it to guarantee women the right to have an abortion. They did it to stop stuff like this. Now, we saw in the paper and I assume that they are accurate about the amount of money being used from the general fund. It looks like the amount we need to reduce is four hundred and something thousand dollars. Here is a good place to start with a quarter of it right here. These things will be abused. All of the things we have been told they won't be used for, yes, they will. President Pro-Tempore Moore said, thank you.

Chief Elliott said, for anyone else that is interested in watching tonight, I suggest that you could google this and see where the courts have ruled on this. So, there is other legal advice out there. I advise people to educate yourself before you listen to one individual.

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Ann Williams, to adopt the emergency clause. All voted aye.

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

**Aye:** 12 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain and LJ Bryant

Enactment No: O-EN-061-2019

[ORD-19:068](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM COMMERCIAL, C-2 TO COMMERCIAL, C-3 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2401 RACE STREET AS REQUESTED BY GEORGE HAMMAN OF CIVILOGIC

**Attachments:**     [Staff Summary - City Council rezoning plat 2401 Race Application](#)  
[Rezoning Plat](#)  
[USPS Receipts](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-19:068 by title only. All voted aye.

**Held at one reading**

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING**

[ORD-19:061](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL AND REPLACE 105-259 OF THE JONESBORO CODE OF ORDINANCES TO PROVIDE FOR REQUIREMENTS IN BOARDING AND SECURING OF PROPERTIES IN THE CITY OF JONESBORO

President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore said, we are going to read that on three separate occasions.

**Held at second reading**

[ORD-19:063](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION OF THE CONTRACT FOR THE RENEWAL OF GRANICUS SOFTWARE, HARDWARE AND MANAGED SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO

**Attachments:**     [Proposal for Renewal](#)  
                                 [Master Subscription Agreement](#)

**Held at second reading**

**ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING**

[ORD-19:054](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO CHANGE THE NAME OF COMMERCE DRIVE, ALONG WITH ITS FUTURE EXTENSIONS, TO DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DRIVE AND TO ERECT APPROPRIATE SIGNS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

**Attachments:**     [Letter to the Public Works Committee pdf.pdf](#)  
                                 [Emma Agnew 10152019](#)  
                                 [Sandra Combs 10152019](#)  
                                 [Lisa Melton 11052019](#)  
                                 [Sandra Combs 11052019](#)  
                                 [Judy Casteel 11052019](#)  
                                 [Michael Gray 11052019](#)  
                                 [Michael Gray 11192019](#)  
                                 [Roy Ockert 11192019](#)  
                                 [Roy Ockert 11202019](#)

*Councilmember David McClain said, I would like to make a motion to amend this ordinance. I would like it to reflect the original ordinance that was passed by the Unity Coalition Committee. I would like it to in Section 1, to be changed to: the name of Commerce Drive shall be changed to Dr. Martin Luther King Drive and in Section 6, the same thing. The City Council does hereby change the name of Commerce Drive to Dr. Martin Luther King Drive. Councilmember LJ Bryant seconded the motion.*

*President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore said, before we vote on this, after consulting with counsel, one of the things that we probably need to do is if you intend to make that amendment Mr. McClain, would to also ask it be reverted to first reading since that would be a substantial change. Do you want to include that in your amendment because up until today, there has been no mention on the official ordinance of changing Commerce so those people will have no advance notice. Do you wish to amend it and then place it back on first reading so there will be due time to inform the people on Commerce of the change. Councilmember McClain said, okay, help me understand because this is not the first reading. President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore said, let me explain it. Right now, from the Public Works to the City Council and read on three separate occasions is an ordinance that does not change Commerce Drive. Councilmember McClain said, yes.*

*President Pro-Tempore Moore said, now, we have read it three times and you are asking for an amendment to change the ordinance to rename Commerce Drive. So, if*

*you have been at home reading the paper and you live on Commerce Drive, there has been no mention under this ordinance of renaming your street. So, if we vote to rename your street without any advance notice, in the morning when you get up, you had no chance to come and voice your opposition or support. And, what the City Attorney, I think agrees with me and I discussed it with her was if we were going to make that substantial change, it ought to be placed back on first reading and read for three separate occasions if we are going to rename Commerce Drive.*

*Councilmember McClain said, okay, going back to Public Works, none of that, it doesn't count as a first. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, no. It doesn't have to go back to Public Works. President Pro-Tempore Moore said, it will start immediately at the next council meeting on the first reading without going back to any committee. Councilmember McClain said, okay, if that is our option. President Pro-Tempore Moore said, well, that is what I would recommend if we were going to make a substantial change. I wouldn't think that you would change a street name without letting the people on the street know. But, it does not have to go back to the Public Works Committee. Ms. Duncan said, correct. President Pro-Tempore Moore said, it would be the very next council meeting, it will be on the first reading if the amendment passes. Councilmember McClain said, okay, then let's move forward with that amendment. I will amend my motion to reflect that it go back to the first reading. Councilmember Bryant said, I amend my second.*

*President Pro-Tempore Moore said, I have a motion and a second to amend the ordinance to change Commerce to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive and to place on first reading. Councilmember McClain said, to make sure I am clear. Even though we had one version, could we go back to this original version on ORD-19:054 and use that to go forward? Can that be the ordinance that we present at the next council meeting? City Attorney Carol Duncan said, yes. I think that is what your amendment was. Councilmember McClain said, yes, that is what it was. Ms. Duncan said, it converts it back to that original one that went to the committee that just didn't come out of the committee. Councilmember McClain said, yes. City Clerk Donna Jackson said, it would include Commerce Drive. Ms. Duncan said, and, so, that would be the one. Councilmember McClain said, yes.*

*President Pro-Tempore Moore said, the only recommendation that I made was simply procedural. It would go on first reading so that there is plenty of notice and there is no challenge for not being notified by people who live on Commerce. Ms. Duncan said, any time that we make a substantial, what is considered a substantial change, to an ordinance on second or third reading, we tend to take it back to first reading. I mean, we have done it before on a variety of different things where we made a substantial change. Councilmember McClain asked, would this not be considered a first reading? Ms. Duncan asked, tonight? President Pro-Tempore Moore said, no. This would be the amendment to the current reading. Councilmember McClain said, I am asking could it be considered the first reading if we change it to be modified tonight. Ms. Duncan said, I don't, if we read it, I would want to. I don't know that it. Councilmember Charles Coleman said, it would have to be advertised first. Councilmember Gene Vance said, it wouldn't be advertised though. Ms. Duncan said, I wouldn't care to read it into the record, but I think that it needs to be given notice. Councilmember Bobby Long said, wouldn't it have to be on there by Thursday? Ms. Duncan said, it is more about the notice than it is about the reading. Right, it is more about the notice to the public than it is about the reading of the ordinance. The council always has the option at that first reading to waive a reading. But, then, people have had notice to be there at that first reading to waive the reading. And, you certainly have that option should you chose to.*

*President Pro-Tempore Moore said, the council actually has the right to waive second*



and third readings. Ms. Duncan said, both readings as you did tonight. Councilmember McClain said, right. But you also made it clear that you want to give plenty of notice to everybody. Ms. Duncan said, but I think if you, yeah, if the amendment passes tonight, then we can all assume it is going to be noticed in the paper. It is going to be in Legistar. It is going to be on the website. It is going to be everywhere what is coming up for first reading. And, at that point, if the council chooses to waive a reading, I think it would be appropriate. People have had notice to be there for the first reading. Councilmember McClain said, okay. Ms. Duncan asked, does that make sense?

Councilmember McClain said, yes. Ms. Duncan said, I don't know what rock that you would be under that you have not known about this. Councilmember McClain said, exactly, I think that is kind of my point. Ms. Duncan said, I am going to agree with you. But, I think legally, for a legal challenge, I would be concerned that someone gave a legal challenge, not an actual challenge. I mean, like I said, you would have to be under a rock somewhere probably to not know that we have been discussing this for some time. However, for a legal challenge, I have slight concerns. And, I think we should take it back to first reading and then if you choose to waive a reading, I think, at least they have been notified that it is on first reading for this night. Okay. Does that make sense? Councilmember McClain said, it does, but it doesn't at the same time. Ms. Duncan said, I know. I know.

President Pro-Tempore Moore said, I have a motion and a second. Does anyone in the audience wish to speak? Please line up at the podium. Ms. Duncan said, this is on the amendment. President Pro-Tempore Moore said, this is on the amendment. Ms. Duncan said, this is for discussion on the amendment.

Garry Tate, 2300 Manchester, said, I would like to ask something before I get into this part of it though. Whenever someone approaches the podium, they are to give their address. And, I have always assumed that is a physical address and some people, Ms. Combs especially, gives a Post Office box and I don't believe anybody lives at a Post Office box. I think a physical address. If I have got to give my physical address, I think everybody should give their physical address and I will drop that at that point. But, concerning the amendment, I have talked to several people along Commerce. Robert Rees who owns 256 apartments there and has the availability to build several hundred more is absolutely against it and I think that most of you all probably got an email from him. I have never been opposed to having a street named Dr. Martin Luther King. I have always been opposed and I have had hundreds and hundreds of calls of people that are against changing any existing street. I don't know if you all have been following the news, but if you have heard about the Paseo in Kansas City, Missouri, it is a ten-mile boulevard that the City Council in January adopted a change to Dr. Martin Luther King. In their articles of incorporation, they were supposed to have approval of 75% of property owners. The property owners claimed that they were not notified and there was no vote among the property owners. When they started trying to stop the name change, 51 black business owners started the corporation of Save the Paseo. Several people joined into that later. On CNN News, the Wednesday after the last council meeting, I will just read it to you. "The proposal to remove Dr. King's name claimed 70% of a public vote, preliminary results showed." This has been verified, then. "The council voted in January to rename the Paseo, a ten-mile Boulevard in the city's mostly black east side, but the change sparked a battle with the opponents, arguing that residents had not been properly consulted. Some residents said that they felt that their neighborhood was losing its identity. Opponents of the name change set up a "Save the Paseo" group earlier this year in April and gathered signatures to put the removal to a vote. More than 1,000 streets worldwide are said to bear the name of

*Dr. Martin Luther King with at least 955 of them found in the US. Those that wanted the name removed said that they respect Dr. King's legacy, but criticized the council's decision to push a change through by waiving the requirement of the 75% of the property owners on the Boulevard that should have approved it first. I, overwhelmingly, heard my constituents that they did not want it. Alissia Canady who serves as a Councilwoman for the district that encompasses The Paseo. Remember that name. There are African American property owners that did not agree with this way of honoring Dr. King, Ms. Canady, who is black, said that the council had been aware of the political will was not there. They rushed to put up the signs with the hope that once the signs were up, people would be afraid to take them down and the rhetoric: Kansas City can't be the city that takes Dr. King's name down. Tensions between the SCLU and "Save the Paseo" reached a high point. This was Sunday before the vote when there was a silent protest scheduled. Ms. Canady, who worked with "Save the Paseo," she was one of the leaders, says that the charges are a deflection of what the real issue is. She continued, residents should not be silenced by special interest groups. We push the reset button now and now, everyone has to go back to the drawing board and find a better way to celebrate Dr. King and that is a huge opportunity for Kansas City." The next ordinance that is up for third and final reading is that same opportunity with the walkway and the educational benefit of that walkway. So, I urge this council to not approve the amendment and to go ahead and do the third reading on an ordinance that has already been read twice and name the new section as Dr. Martin Luther King Drive or Boulevard and a memorial on the balance. Thank you very much.*

*Sandra Combs, P. O. Box 2686, State University, said, I am the one who uses a Post Office box. Several months ago, I talked to City Clerk Donna Jackson up at the counter and I asked her if that would be permitted and she said yes. Therefore, that is what I do for my own safety reasons. Thank you.*

*Adrian Rogers, 3509 Derby, said, first of all I really cannot believe that we are still discussing this. This should have happened a long time ago. We were promised a street named after Dr. Martin Luther King over ten years ago. And, I cannot believe that we are still discussing this. It is starting to make our city look like a Mayberry, look backwards and I cannot believe that we are still discussing this. The vote was set and moved. It was a good idea. It went to a committee and after several weeks of discussions, we offered what we thought was a great idea and then the street committee majorly offered altered the idea we offered. We simply want, we were told about Johnson and it was named after somebody, but nobody knows who it was named after, but it was named after somebody. Well, as far as we know, there is no one that we know named Steve Commerce, Jimmy Commerce. You know, there is no one named that. So, the name Commerce has no major, major significance. Any time you make any kind of change, there are some slight inconveniences involved. But, this is not going to cost anybody thousands and thousands of dollars or anything like that. It is just a change that needs to be made. To the gentleman that was up earlier, we are really not interested in an honorary highway, an honorary name. We want a major street named and we want that to be included in the address. So, it will be 3217 Martin Luther King Boulevard and not 3217 Commerce Drive and for those who would care enough, put it in small parentheses up under there, Martin Luther King Drive. Every street name that has been suggested has been a problem. Every name that has been suggested, it has been a problem. And, so in the meeting we were discussing a major street that did not have a lot of addresses. Alright, because that was the concern on Johnson. It was so many addresses. Well, Commerce Drive, in comparison, does not have near as many addresses. And, then, later on when the other section is built and that is named after him as well that is going to be a major thoroughfare named after a great man, Martin Luther King, Jr. He did great things for everybody. And, we would certainly like*

to see this occur in Jonesboro, Arkansas. Thank you so very much.

Chris Moss, 2660 Clayburne Drive, said, I am going to specifically speak on the amendment. Before you guys vote to delay this again, remember you voted, you took a vote on this amendment two weeks ago at the last meeting. Had it passed then, you would be voting one way or another tonight. So, just two weeks ago, it was ok to add this amendment and go ahead with the vote. Something has changed in the last two weeks. President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore said, just for a point of order, it did not pass two weeks ago. Mr. Moss said, it did not pass, but you took the vote and now we are recommending to ask Mr. McClain to delay that and to go back to first reading or second reading or whatever reading. President Pro-Tempore Moore said, that was the second reading and we just read it the third time. Mr. Moss said, right, but you took a vote on his amendment last week and did not voice any kind of problem about needing to go to first. In fact, it was asked. President Pro-Tempore Moore said, did you not understand what I said? It did not pass. Mr. Moss said, right, but before you guys voted on it, you all asked, do we need to go back to first reading and you said no. The decision was no. It was not a substantial change. It was the ordinance that was on that the committee gave. I served on the Unity Coalition. They said no, there is no reason to go back to the first reading and now, two weeks later, apparently, there is a reason. I can't tell you how bad the optics look on it. This has gone on long enough. If you want to vote against it, vote against it, but let's do one thing or another and get it done tonight please. President Pro-Tempore Moore said, thank you. Mr. Moss said, that is all I have.

Councilmember Gene Vance said, I might say, just to clarify if you want to go back and look at the film of the meeting, yes, it was discussed that it would be, would have to go back to first reading. It was discussed, but it wasn't a part of his motion. President Pro-Tempore Moore said, thank you.

Lisa Melton, 605 W. College, said, to do what I think is clarification. It was voted on. It did not pass. But, the discussion had been that had it passed, would it have to go back to first reading. I think if you look at the video or if there is a transcript, I think it was clearly stated that it wouldn't. There was a discussion made because part of the discussion was why the Mayor wasn't going to vote. He wanted to wait and let it play out this time and that it would not prolong the process. So, I think if you go back, the question was asked, council did not seem at that time, to be saying that going back to first reading would be necessary. So, I urge this council, before you make a decision to send this back to first reading after the amendment, should it be approved tonight, before you do that, review the transcript, review the video and do what you said you would do last week. The other thing is I respect the opinion of Garry Tate. I respect the Voors that are here from my old neighborhood, good people. I have lost all respect for this group because it just keeps going on and on and on. We are not the leaders. You are the leaders. You are our elected officials and it is time, first of all, to take our phone calls, to speak with us, to hear our points of view, and then to act and stop kicking this can down the road. This is ridiculous. Thank you.

Roy Ockert, 3617 Alabama Road, said, while I have been employed at times temporarily for the City of Jonesboro, I am an independent journalist and I take special projects for the Mayor. I speak only for myself. The issue of designating a street in honor of Dr. King was several years old when I retired as editor of The Sun in 2012. It is now seven years older than that. I would like to see it resolved in my lifetime and would you too. After the council formed a Unity Coalition to study "all of the possibilities of the designation of Memorial Highways or a suitable and acceptable alternative naming opportunity," I volunteered to assist Dr. Coleman, who was

*appointed Chairman, with whatever needed to be done to carry out the committee's assignment because it was an important thing to do. As such, I attended all meetings, kept minutes and provided some research. When the coalition voted to recommend three proposals to the council, I prepared the proposed ordinances, with the help of the City Attorney and Chief of Staff. I used the ordinance that renamed Young Road as a guide. One of the proposals has been, to date, non-controversial, naming a trail after Dr. King and establishing an educational component on the portion of the trail that will run from ASU to downtown. That's a wonderful idea that I hope will come to pass. Unfortunately, because the proposed sales tax didn't pass, there is only enough money now to build part of that trail. Completing it may take years. It was clear from the coalition's meetings that nine of the eleven members, while supporting the trail idea, wanted to recommend a street naming proposal, which was the mission stated by your resolution. They offered two choices. One would rename all of Aggie Road and the Public Works Committee rejected that proposal. I agreed with that action. A street naming proposal because the name "Aggie Road" has clear historical meaning, even more so than Johnson Avenue. However, the committee voted to amend the Commerce Drive ordinance to what is now Version 2. Version 2 is a convoluted ordinance that it reminds me of the childhood game some of us played called "Twister." If I were more limber, I would try to illustrate it for you. But let me try to draw a word picture instead. To get there, you have to put one hand on a portion of the road that would be a "memorial highway," another on a portion outside the city that you would ask the county to rename, a foot on the portion that now has no name and the other foot on a portion that will be built by the Highway Department. The ordinance as amended says that's the best we can do. At the last meeting Mr. McClain proposed in effect to amend this ordinance back to Version 1 and has done so tonight. It would simply rename Commerce Drive as Dr. Martin Luther King Drive and seek to extend that name to other portions of the road as soon as possible. The end result will connect Interstate 555 with U.S. Highway 49 some day. While that project will not be complete for two or three years, it is funded and it will become a major arterial worthy of Dr. King's name. The research shows that the City Council has on many occasions voted to rename a street, twice for ASU and other times for a new industry, most of the latter without opposition whatsoever. The requests from ASU involved the same major arterial that what is now Red Wolf Boulevard. So there are plenty of precedents. When you voted unanimously in June to form a committee to "study all of the possibilities," no one said, "No matter what the committee comes up with, I will vote against it." No one offered an amendment to ask the Highway Department then for a memorial highway designation on Johnson, which would have resulted in no addresses being changed. When you voted unanimously to appoint the members of the Unity Coalition, many of whom are here tonight, no one said, "This is a waste of their time because I would never vote to rename a street for any purpose." This Unity Coalition of good citizens, with Dr. Coleman as chairman keeping it focused on what you asked them to do, made a good-faith effort to carry out the mission that you set, presented an "acceptable alternative naming opportunity" as to Commerce Drive. And, I ask you to support Mr. McClain's motion and then adopt the ordinance, however more meetings it takes, as recommended by the coalition. Do it because it's the right thing to do. Thank you.*

*City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I want to make a quick point of clarification about two things. First of all, the last thing I want to see is this thing discussed for three more readings. I recommended originally that this be done by resolution. Street names have often been named and renamed by resolution in the City of Jonesboro. I recommended that this be done by resolution which would have been basically, "one and done." It would have been one discussion at council, everybody makes a decision, and we move on. That was not the desire of the committee. It was my understanding that the*

*desire of the committee was that it be an ordinance. I understand that and I understand that some people consider an ordinance to be more official. It is not as far as the difference between an ordinance and a resolution and when it comes to renaming a street, they would both have the same effect. But, we honored the request of that committee. So, I do want you to understand that my recommendation originally was a resolution which would have been handled in one council meeting; one committee meeting, one council meeting, and then you are done. Secondly, as far as the issue of whether we said it had to go back to first reading last time, I think there is a slight difference in making an amendment. And, I think the confusion of the end, when everybody said, let's just decide it next week, I didn't get a chance to verbalize that, but I think there is a difference in making an amendment to an ordinance on third reading than on second reading. Because, at least, after a second reading, it is publicized in the newspaper, it is publicized on the website, and it comes back for the third reading. People have the opportunity to be there that may not have been there for that third reading. My goal is to prevent any legal challenges that then makes us have to discuss this again and again and again whether it be in court, whether it be on a ballot, or whether it be at council. I want to avoid any possibility of a legal challenge to the ordinance. The safest way to do that is to go back to the first reading, provide the notice, and let people be here. Now, if the council, as I have said, chooses to waive a second reading or a third reading and go for a vote, they have absolutely the right to do that. But, people are given notice that it is on first reading tonight and that you need to be there if you have something to say and that eliminates the legal challenge. I just felt the need to clarify that. Thank you. President Pro-Tempore Moore said, thank you counselor. I think the Clerk asked for the floor.*

*City Clerk Donna Jackson said, I just wanted to address the statement regarding name and address. It is based on the City Council procedures and all it states is in Section 2-84 City Council meetings, it states that they will provide his or her name and address. It doesn't state that it has to be a street address. President Pro-Tempore Moore said, alright, we got that cleared up for the record.*

*Michael Gray, 501 Wilkins, said, I spoke last time and I have written in the Jonesboro Sun about this. I have written letters to the editor about this. I have not been shy on Facebook about it. We know a lot of politics happens on Facebook. I didn't realize all of this different type of politicking would happen tonight. I am just going to go ahead and just barrel forward with what I was going to say because I think it applies no matter what you do because it is not about the decision you make, it is about the process by which you are making or not making these decisions as our leaders. President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore said, okay, I would ask that the only thing you can discuss is the amendment before you. Mr. Gray said, that is perfectly fine. President Pro-Tempore Moore, said thank you. Mr. Gray said, the amendment before us now is a ridiculous joke. Street naming is where ideology meets asphalt, that is from Dr. Derek Alderman, and whose book you should all read before you move forward on any of this Martin Luther King street renaming business. If you have not read it, you have not fulfilled your responsibility to educate yourselves about Martin Luther King street renaming before you try to politick it, which is what is happening tonight. Where streets are placed, what they are called, how they are used, when they come into existence, who ultimately decides all of this, those things all matter. Why? Because street names are extensions of belief. They are extensions of ideology. They are political statements. When you name a street in honor of a Judge, a Senator, a Mayor, you are making a political statement... and it rarely matters if the general public agrees with, sanctions, or even knows what that message is. You do it all of the time. You have done it throughout history. Maybe not you specifically, but people who have sat in your seats have just changed the names of streets when they feel like it. It is not*

uncommon. For example, the street name "Caraway" was likely put in place to honor Hattie Caraway, the first woman to preside over the Senate. Her name, her accomplishments, her beliefs, she is given a prominent place in our daily lives. We shop with her. We travel to work with her. We travel to school with her. We travel to church with her. We take her places. Her name is in our mouths and on our minds more often than we even notice. Her name has social, political, and cultural prominence in our lives. That is why it is so important for folks to know that Hattie Caraway also voted against anti-lynching legislation. Twice. Two times, Caraway had the opportunity to do the right thing and two times she failed. Hattie Caraway effectively sanctioned racialized terror, mass abuse, and murder. Regardless of what you want to know her for, that is what she sanctioned and that is what she will be known for now that the history is being cleared up. Now, we can't be sure if she did this because she was politically weak, a pushover, or because she was just a horrible human being to begin with. It doesn't matter why she failed to do the right thing. The fact is she failed and it hurt people. Johnson Avenue is another example. Now, some like to believe that it was named in honor of J.M. Johnson, some bigtime businessman from the late 1800's, early 1900's. Truth is, the "evidence" that Johnson was named after J.M. is a quite shaky. But, let's pretend it is true for a minute since that is what we have been doing for the past several months. That would mean that J.M. Johnson was, arguably, one of the richest and most influential white men in Jonesboro. No doubt he had his hand in politics. No doubt he and his friends employed most of the town at the time and he held quite a bit of clout with the white community at large in Jonesboro. No doubt he was an influential member of his local church, his local boy's clubs, all of those things that rich white males tend to do. President Pro-Tempore Moore said, okay, I am going to ask you to get on with the amendment here. Mr. Gray asked, is there a time limit? President Pro-Tempore Moore said, you are all over about Caraway and Johnson. Mr. Gray said, sure. President Pro-Tempore Moore said, that is not the item before us. Mr. Gray said, I am talking about street renamings. President Pro-Tempore Moore said, okay, in particular, the amendment. Mr. Gray interrupted and said, I will just continue. President Pro-Tempore Moore continued to say, to rename Commerce as opposed to. Mr. Gray interrupted and said, so, if all of this is true, and if it is true that Johnson. Okay, just a little bit more. So, if all of this is true about Johnson Avenue and Johnson Avenue was actually named named after J.M. Johnson, the businessman, then we have a very important question to ask. A question that we should ask about most of our streets. Where was the richest, most powerful, most influential white businessman in Jonesboro on the night on December 26, 1920 and why didn't he lift a finger to stop the lynch mob that murdered Wade Thomas? President Pro-Tempore Moore said, listen, I am going to call you to order here. This has nothing to do about the renaming of Commerce. I am going to ask you one more time to stick to the Commerce. Do you think that Commerce should be renamed Martin Luther King or not, not to rehash the history of race in Jonesboro. Mr. Gray said, let me ask for clarification. President Pro-Tempore Moore said, you can't ask me a question. I am telling you what the rules say. If you want to stay up and talk about the item in front of us, you can. If you are not, I am going to ask you to sit down. Mr. Gray said, I am talking about the item in front of us. President Pro-Tempore Moore said, no, you are not. You are talking about racial history of Jonesboro, Hattie Caraway. Mr. Gray said, that is what this is about. President Pro-Tempore Moore said, no it is not. This is about Commerce Drive. Mr. Gray said, Chris Moore, sir, you are saying that the renaming campaign is not about politics or race. President Pro-Tempore Moore said, what I am saying is that you haven't mentioned the word Commerce or Martin Luther King yet. Mr. Gray said, I have too. I said Martin Luther King twice. President Pro-Tempore Moore said, what I am saying is that if you want to talk about Commerce and Martin Luther King, that is fine. You have been everywhere else. This is not a discussion about the past or race or anything else of Hattie Caraway. Okay. Mr. Gray

asked, would you like me to skip to the paragraph where I say Commerce? President Pro-Tempore Moore said, yes, please. I want you to stick with any relevant information. Mr. Gray said, I would like to enter this as record and be made available on Facebook. I am not sure what a win looks like here. For me, it is very simple. There is a promise and it is long overdue. The Committee asked for Johnson Avenue and they were bullied, and bullied, and bullied until they finally gave up and asked for Commerce. I was there. Most of you weren't. I saw it happen. I think, personally, you should scrap the whole idea and just unanimously, magically vote right now. I am sure there is a way to rename Johnson Avenue, MLK Avenue. But barring that magical thing happening which should be what is happening, but probably won't, I can confidently say that if you do not deliver at least Commerce in total to the people, you will be remembered for it. Just like Hattie Caraway, the infamous white supremacist sympathizer. President Pro-Tempore Moore said, thank you.

Roger Watkins, P. O. Box 16, Jonesboro, said, along about July, the Mayor appointed the Unity Coalition Advisory Committee. I am going to try to stay as positive as I can. It wasn't always unity. I attended all of those meetings. It has been mentioned that there have been several streets renamed in Jonesboro, that is true. Most of those streets were named prior to 2005 when there was a recommendation that the naming of any new streets would be strongly opposed, the changing of the names of any old streets to a new street. The Council's Public Works Committee met and they did a little revising and I am not really sure just how it was, but they suggested doing a commemorative Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Drive. To me, a memorial drive is in memory of. That is pretty strong whether it is this or you go to the cemetery, whether you look on the back glass of someone's automobile that has lost a loved one, it is in memory of, a memorial. There are a lot of people that have done a lot of great things for this nation. There are no streets named after them. To mention a few: Eli Whitney, the cotton gin, we are probably all wearing cotton in here tonight; Alexander Graham Bell, we probably all have telephones in here tonight; the Wright Brothers who invented the airplane; Henry Ford, the Ford automobile; Sam Walton, probably employees more people than any other business in the world, probably; Bill Clinton was adopted, a pretty popular fellow. He was Attorney General. He was the Governor of Arkansas. He was president for two-terms; Obama was the first black president we ever had. I don't see any streets named after him. He did some pretty great things also. We have three things. President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore said, Roger, I am going to ask you to do the same thing that I asked the gentleman before you and lets focus our comments on Commerce Drive and the renaming of Commerce Drive because that is technically the amendment that is before us. Please narrow it down. Mr. Watkins said, okay. Well, there are not a lot of differences between streets, avenues, boulevards, and drives. Southwest Drive, Highland Drive and the Kansas City, Missouri thing was voted down 70% to 30%. If the Council passes on changing the name of Commerce Drive, you will have to get about 2,500 signatures to do a referendum and there have been polls taken on it and it will be defeated about 70% to 30% the same as Kansas City, Missouri was. To say there is not many businesses on Commerce Drive, there are 25 businesses and 7 houses on that one stretch there. The Council has certainly, including tonight, had some negative comments made against you and I don't like that. Thank you. President Pro-Tempore Moore said, thank you Roger.

Robin Kuykendall, 1408 Marketplace Drive Apt. 8, said, I promised myself I wouldn't say anything. I applied to be on the Unity Commission. And, one of the smartest things the city has probably ever done was to not select me to be on that committee. But, I did go to a meeting or two, and I perceived that there were people on the committee that had made up their mind, that they had their mind made up, that there would be no renaming of any street in this city. I thought that was contrary to the

*purpose of the committee and disappointed me very much. So, once the committee came to its conclusions finally and presented them to the proper committee before coming to the commission, in the meantime, we have had a change of circumstances. One of the very popular, apparently, recommendations that made it all the way through everything was to do an educational trail with signage and that sort of thing and that is a really good idea. But, as it turns out, we don't know who is going to pay for that. The city really doesn't have a way to do that right now. Some of the people who were vastly in favor of that over a street renaming, I hope they come forward and anonymously donate money so that the signage isn't including someone's name or business besides Dr. King. This most recent amendment seems to return to the intent of the committee and I would just urge the Council to go forward and do what it charged the committee with doing. I appreciate your time. President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore said, yes ma'am. Thank you.*

*Garry Tate, 2300 Manchester, said, of course, I have set back and maybe all I am here to do is maybe offer a rebuttal to some of the comments that were made. I also served on that committee as you know. I also questioned the makeup of that committee whenever it was first announced. The vote was 7-3, the eleventh member was the Chair, Dr. Coleman. The purpose of that committee was to reach a compromise and to help some way to find a way to honor Dr. King. I was the one that made the motion to approve the trail. It was approved unanimously. Well, we had one absent, but still yet, the vote was 9-0. Throughout this thing, the proponents have said that the three that voted otherwise, would not do any compromising. The compromise from my part, and is not really a compromise, I was just trying to reach a resolution, is to do the Freedom Trail. And, then the new part of the eastern corridor and then a memorial on the rest of it which is the proposal that is actually here before this. Throughout this thing, I have been called a racist. I have been called a liar. I have been called everything in the world. I served on this City Council for eight years. I have served on several committees for the last 20 years since I left the Council. I love this city. I am very proud of this city. But, when constituents and my neighbors ask me to stand up and speak for them, that is exactly what I will do and that is exactly what I have done. I own rental property in this town. 100% of my tenants are black and I have got some of the best tenants in the world. Some of them have been with me for 13 years. You can talk to any of them. I have talked to them. They have never considered me a racist of any kind. Dr. Coleman, I have known him for years and I know that he doesn't think that I am or ever have been. I worked hard for the citizens of north Jonesboro, Ward 2 for eight years so I just want to leave it at that. I ask you to turn down the amendment and vote the ordinance for third reading as presented. If you want to know the will of the people, put it on the ballot in March.*

*President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore said, alright, thank you. Ok, this will be the last comment.*

*Lisa Melton, 605 W. College, said, that is an example of exactly what I am talking about when I talk about the fact that this Council has let it go all awry. Garry Tate has more power in this room than anybody else speaking. He was allowed to go completely off point. Nothing he said had anything to do with Commerce, particularly at the end. 7-3, he said it. 7-3. We had a democratic process and what passed out of that committee was exactly what David McClain has put forth as the amended ordinance. Garry Tate and two other people on that committee had more power and that is what is making us all crazy. And, I know I seem a little crazy and you probably wish that Robin Kuykendall had been put on the committee instead of me and I understand that. And, I am starting to wish she had been. But, I am just saying that this is really difficult on this community. If y'all don't get, Mr. Street, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Bryant, Mr.*



*Hafner, Mr. Long, Mr. McClain, Ms. Jackson I know you are not a voting member, Mr. Moore, Ms. Duncan I respect you and appreciate the clarification you gave earlier. I know as a lawyer it is difficult. Mr. Gibson, Ms. Williams, Dr. Coleman, Mr. Vance, Mr. Frierson, if you do not understand anything else when you leave tonight, know that this community feels marginalized by this city. So, Garry Tate may love this city. He may love it. But, there are a lot of people who are feeling extremely marginalized. I don't think that is the community that this Council wants. I know Dr. Coleman doesn't want it. I know Gene Vance, whose father sat on the Hoxie School Board with my grandfather and made sure that Hoxie was integrated before, I know I am getting off point and I am going to sit down, but I am saying Charles Frierson doesn't want this. I don't know about some of the others. I know LJ Bryant doesn't. I know David McClain doesn't. I know they do not want this community to feel marginalized. We need to bring this community together. Please pass this amendment. Please do not put it out for three readings. But, if you do, please, dear god, stay with it and let's get this thing passed. Thank you. President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore said, thank you.*

*President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore asked, were you wishing to speak? Shannon Grant, 1308 N. Bridger, said, I was just going to say a quick word about this amendment. What are y'all doing? Just get the trucks to change them when you get the cameras put up. Change the signs too on whatever street you pick, it don't really matter. We just passed the camera law right? to put the SkyCops up? So, when the trucks are up there, y'all have been debating this for how long has it been on the news? A year and a half to change it and put a Council right? We had the Integrity Council to spend this tax money to? Councilmember Chris Gibson said, I call a question. Mr. Grant said, or Unity Council right, Unity Council right? President Pro-Tempore Moore asked, do you have something to offer on the Commerce or Martin Luther King Drive? Mr. Grant said, yeah, do it. Just do it. It's just when the trucks are setting up the cameras, we can put up the free wi-fi, and everything and the signs. President Pro-Tempore Moore said, thank you sir.*

*President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore said, we have a motion and a second to amend. Madam Clerk, call the roll. McClain-Aye, Long-No, Hafner-Aye, Bryant-Aye, Johnson-No, Street-No, Gibson-Aye, Williams-Aye, Moore-No, Coleman-Aye, Vance-No, Frierson-Aye. President Pro-Tempore Moore said the vote is 7-5. The amendment passes.*

**A motion was made by Councilperson David McClain, seconded by Councilperson LJ Bryant, that this matter be Amended . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 7 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

**Nay:** 5 - Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance and Bobby Long

[ORD-19:055](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO NAME TWO SEGMENTS OF THE JONESBORO MULTI-PURPOSE TRAIL SYSTEM IN HONOR OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. AND TO ERECT APPROPRIATE SIGNS FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES

**Attachments:** [Letter to the Public Works Committee pdf.pdf](#)

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

**Aye:** 12 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Enactment No: O-EN-062-2019

[ORD-19:057](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL ORDINANCE 14:038 ADOPTING THE 2010 ADA STANDARD CODE BY REFERENCE

**Attachments:** [COJ ADA Complaint Guidelines+.pdf](#)

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

**Aye:** 12 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Enactment No: O-EN-063-2019

[ORD-19:060](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE APPROVAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR SHJ HOLDINGS, DBA CURRY LEAF INDIAN CUISINE

**Attachments:** [SHJ Holdings dba Curry Leaf Private Club Application REDACTED](#)

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

**Aye:** 12 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Enactment No: O-EN-064-2019

[ORD-19:062](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4301 E. JOHNSON FROM RESIDENTIAL R-1 TO COMMERCIAL C-3 BY RHODES DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, LLC

**Attachments:** [Staff Summary - City Council Application rezoning plat Rezoning Plat Planning Preliminary Layout USPS Receipts Warranty Deed](#)

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

**Aye:** 12 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Enactment No: O-EN-065-2019

## **8. MAYOR'S REPORTS**

*President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore said, the Mayor left a few things for me to go over.*

*The Mayor asked that the City Council meeting normally scheduled for December 3, 2019, be move to Thursday, December 5, 2019 to accommodate the Chamber of Commerce Banquet so I would request a motion and a second. Councilmember Chris Gibson motioned, seconded by Councilmember Gene Vance, to move the next City Council meeting from Tuesday, December 3, 2019 to Thursday, December 5, 2019, to accommodate the Chamber of Commerce Banquet. All voted aye.*

*President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore said, by the way, I forgot to mention why the Mayor is not here tonight. He is attending the National League of Cities in San Antonio, TX as a Board Member.*

*He asked me to mention upcoming events:*

*Christmas in the Park Light Show starts for the Public, Thursday, November 21, 2019 at Joe Mack Campbell Park. Councilmembers are invited to go there tonight after the meeting for free. Tell them you are with the city drive through. So, any members might be a little late by the time we get out of here tonight.*

*Downtown Joy Fest sponsored by the Downtown Jonesboro Association is Saturday, November 30, 2019 from 5-9 p.m. with the lighting of the Community Christmas Tree, the opening of the skating rink, downtown open houses, and other activities.*

*The Jaycees Christmas Parade has been announced. It starts at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 5, 2019 running on Main and Union Streets.*

*Chief could you give us an update on the Shooting Complex? Police Chief Rick Elliott said, sure. The contractor is finishing this phase of construction at the Shooting Complex. This phase consisted of creating the berms, parking lots, and sidewalks. We had a late start on construction this spring due to the weather. During this phase, they have completed it at this point. I am not sure if you have been out there or not to take a look at it, but there is a noticeable difference in the landscape out there from what it was back in the spring. The major part of this, the most time consuming part of this has now been completed. There is a lot of dirt that had to be moved in this project. I am glad to say that it is done at this point. They are finishing up on some landscaping things and more details and this phase will be completed. Now, you may recall that we are under contract with Arkansas Game and Fish and U.S. Fish and Wildlife to have this facility open to the public by June of 2020. When I say open to the public, the public has to have access to the pistol, rifle side, and the trap ranges. This was on condition of receiving a \$2 million grant that we got from the Game and Fish Foundation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife. If we don't meet this obligation that we have a signed contract on, then potentially, the city could be found in default and owe the government \$2 million. So, the money that is in the budget for this upcoming year for construction on this project is to meet these guidelines where this range can be opened up to the public. Hopefully, by next summer and we will be in full obligation of our grant requirements. We have a video. We have a drone fly-over of the progress that has been made. We will get it posted to the city's website so you can look at that. The Mayor has the financials on that. I believe that you all should have that at this point. If not, he will be glad to get it to you. If you have any other questions, I will be glad to entertain any questions in regards to this phase of the construction and where we are*

at on the project. President Pro-Tempore Moore asked, does anyone on the council have a question about the shooting sports complex for the Chief? I know that was an issue for several people lately. They are chomping at the bit wanting to get it open. Chief Elliott said, absolutely. We have gone to several sports shows and fairs and different events and we know the shooting enthusiasts in our area, not only our area, but Tennessee and Mississippi and Missouri have expressed interest in this project. President Pro-Tempore Moore, said, alright, thank you Chief.

[COM-19:073](#)

September 2019 Financial Reports

**Attachments:** [Observations Regarding Financial Statements September 2019](#)  
[Statement of Rev, Exp and Changes in FB September 2019](#)  
[Required Reserves September 2019](#)  
[Cash Deposit Collateralization September 2019](#)  
[Revenue Report September 2019](#)  
[Expenditure Report September 2019](#)  
[Combined Sales tax September 2019](#)  
[Combined State Turnback Report September 2019](#)

Filed

[COM-19:076](#)

JONESBORO AIRPORT COMMISSION FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ENDING OCTOBER 31, 2019

**Attachments:** [JAC Jonesboro Airport Financials 10\\_19](#)

Filed

## **9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

*Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, we started a toy drive on November 11, 2019 and it is going to end on December 16, 2019. We are going to be giving toys to kids in the community. A lot of people have tried to come up and give me money. I don't want your money. I don't want to be responsible for it. We ask that if you want to join this toy drive, and I will be playing Santa Claus on December 23, 2019, to give these toys to the kids in the community. But, we appreciate if those who want to donate toys, if you want me to pick them up or you can bring them to me, you can call me at 870-931-3178 if you want me to pick up toys or if you have toys to give either way. Our toy drive started again on November 11, 2019 and will end December 16, 2019. I appreciate you very much.*

## **10. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore said, Roger, it has to be an item that we did not talk about. Roger Watkins, P.O. Box 16, Jonesboro, asked, if the vote tonight been 6-5, would it have passed? President Pro-Tempore Moore said, no. Mr. Watkins said, it has either been rumored or factual that there possibly is a member of the City Council that is not living in their ward. Thank you.*

## **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:** 12 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain and LJ Bryant

\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Harold Perrin, Mayor**

**Attest:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Donna Jackson, City Clerk**