



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, September 6, 2016

5:30 PM

Municipal Center

PUBLIC WORKS 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 11 - Darrel Dover; Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Rennell Woods; Todd Burton and Robert Long

Absent 1 - Charles Coleman

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

[COM-16:059](#)

Presentation by Mayor Perrin to Brian Fulkerson with Atlas Asphalt

Sponsors: Mayor's Office

Mayor Perrin stated Mr. Fulkerson was not able to attend the meeting.

This item was Filed.

[COM-16:065](#)

Presentation to Jason Ruth with the City of Jonesboro Sanitation Department

Sponsors: Mayor's Office

Mayor Perrin presented Mr. Ruth with a Key to the City.

This item was Filed.

[COM-16:070](#)

Presentation by Larry Jackson, Employee Representative Chairman

Sponsors: Mayor's Office

Mr. Jackson, chairman of the Employee Representative Committee, discussed the current pay proposal as proposed by the Police Department. He stated the non-uniform employees support a fair pay plan for all city workers. Non-uniform employees met during two meetings last Friday with the Employee Representative Committee. They would like equitable treatment for all employees. Quality of life is a key factor that brings people, businesses and factories to Jonesboro and that is a service the non-uniform employees provide to the citizens. Therefore, equal and fair

treatment among all departments would be fair. When one group is divided up, it breaks up the family of employees.

Non-uniform employees would also like to see some form of step-plan. There aren't ranks to promote non-uniform employees like the uniform departments have. Johanson's range is set up with a minimum, midpoint (which you should be at with 10 years of service) and maximum (which you should reach at 20 years of service). This plan is not working. Part of this problem, he thinks, is due to the raises and longevity that all employees received earlier this year that acted like bonuses and is not part of the base pay. He thinks that is something to look at. Mr. Jackson explained there is no pathway to succeed, which needs to be cleared.

Lastly, the non-uniform employees would like more with regards to their retirement. Some non-uniform employees are living off of subsidies because they don't make enough with their daily jobs. Right now, the city will match 5% if the employee contributes 5%. If an employee is on subsidies and cannot contribute to their retirement, then they will not have a retirement with the city. The employees would like the city to contribute 5% and then match 5-10%.

Mr. Jackson stated these needs need to be addressed if the employees are going to be considered part of the city family. They are not here to boycott. They didn't bring any backhoes or tractors or mowers to put in the parking lot and boycott and cause a problem. They are just asking the Council to look at what they have and treat them fairly. He stated police and fire matter greatly, but blue collar workers also matter.

This item was Filed.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Councilman Chris Moore, seconded by Councilman Chris Gibson, to Approve the Consent Agenda. The motioned PASSED

Aye: 11 - Darrel Dover; Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Rennell Woods; Todd Burton and Robert Long

Absent: 1 - Charles Coleman

MIN-16:105 Minutes for the City Council meeting on August 16, 2016

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

MIN-16:111 City Council Special Called Meeting Minutes for August 29, 2016

Attachments: [Pay Plan Review Minutes.pdf](#)

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

RES-16:105 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) FOR THE EXECUTION OF THE FY2016 CDBG ACTION

PLAN

Sponsors: Grants

Attachments: [HUD Letter for Approval](#)
[Authority to Use Grant Funds FY2016](#)
[HUD-COJ FY2016 Agreement](#)

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-089-2016

RES-16:106

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2016 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAM AGREEMENT WITH HISPANIC COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.

Sponsors: Grants

Attachments: [HCSI_2016Contract.pdf](#)

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-090-2016

RES-16:107

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2016 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAM AGREEMENT WITH NEW LIFE EMPOWERMENT DEVELOPMENT CENTERS, INC.

Sponsors: Grants

Attachments: [NLEDC_2016Contract.pdf](#)

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-091-2016

RES-16:108

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2016 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAM AGREEMENT WITH NEA COMMUNITY ATHLETICS

Sponsors: Grants

Attachments: [NEAAthletics_2016Contract.pdf](#)

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-092-2016

RES-16:109

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2016 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAM AGREEMENT WITH THE LEARNING CENTER OF NORTHEAST ARKANSAS, INC.

Sponsors: Grants

Attachments: [TLC_2016Contract.pdf](#)

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

Enactment No: R-EN-093-2016

RES-16:110

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2016 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAM AGREEMENT WITH WEST END NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Sponsors: Grants

Attachments: [WENA_2016Contract.pdf](#)

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

Enactment No: R-EN-094-2016

RES-16:111

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2016 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAM AGREEMENT WITH CITY YOUTH MINISTRIES

Sponsors: Grants

Attachments: [CYM_2016Contract.pdf](#)

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

Enactment No: R-EN-095-2016

RES-16:116

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH SG360 JANITORIAL SERVICES

Sponsors: Mayor's Office

Attachments: [SG3060 Municipal Building Janitorial Agreement 8.23.16](#)

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

Enactment No: R-EN-096-2016

RES-16:117

A RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AGREEMENT WITH HABITAT OF HUMANITY OF GREATER JONESBORO TO COLLABORATE IN REHABILITATION AND DEMOLITION ACTIVITIES OF CERTAIN PROPERTIES FOR THE 2016 CDBG ACTION PLAN

Sponsors: Grants

Attachments: [MOU for CDBG & Habitat for Humanity](#)

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

Enactment No: R-EN-097-2016

RES-16:119

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH THE ARKANSAS STATE POLICE AND ACCEPT THE 2017 STEP GRANT

Sponsors: Grants and Police Department

Attachments: [STEP 2017 Sub-agreement](#)
[Sub-agreement provisions and terms](#)

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-098-2016

RES-16:121

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH INTERIORS BY DESIGN, LLC TO WORK WITH LEADERSHIP JONESBORO TO RENOVATE WINTER WONDERLAND

Sponsors: Mayor's Office

Attachments: [Interior Design Contract.pdf](#)

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-099-2016

6. NEW BUSINESS

COM-16:063

Decision by the City Council regarding the request by Aniefiok Jacob to operate a city cab

Attachments: [Cab Request](#)

NOTE: NO NEW INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

Mayor Perrin noted there is nothing to discuss since Mr. Jacob has not presented any new information. He explained they made it clear at the last meeting Mr. Jacob needed to get with the City Clerk's Office.

This item was Filed.

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

ORD-16:052

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 46-70 TO EXEMPT CITY APPROVED SHOOTING RANGES FROM THE LOUD NOISE ORDINANCE

Sponsors: Police Department

Councilman Street offered the ordinance for first reading by title only.

Councilman Moore motioned, seconded by Councilman Street, to suspend the rules and waive the second and third readings. All voted aye.

A motion was made by Councilman Chris Moore, seconded by Councilman Todd Burton, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 11 - Darrel Dover;Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Rennell Woods;Todd Burton and Robert Long

Absent: 1 - Charles Coleman

Enactment No: O-EN-045-2016

[ORD-16:057](#)

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING A CERTAIN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING LANDS ANNEXED TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, BY ORDER OF THE COUNTY COURT OF CRAIGHEAD COUNTY, ARKANSAS; ASSIGNING SAID ANNEXED TERRITORIES TO WARD 2; DECLARING THE ZONING FOR THE ANNEXED TRACT; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Attachments: [Survey](#)
[1989 Order of Annexation](#)
[Ordinance 2242](#)
[County Judge's Letter](#)
[Letter from CWL](#)
[Aerial Photo](#)

Councilman Street offered the ordinance for first reading by title only.

Councilman Moore stated this property is in his ward. It was explained to him the land doesn't have utility access from City Water & Light, but it is adjacent to Craighead Electric service. The property owners are asking that the property be de-annexed in order to gain utility access from Craighead Electric. Councilman Johnson asked if this was brought in under the mass annexation years ago. Councilman Moore answered yes. Mayor Perrin agreed, adding the property was annexed into the city in 1989. Councilman Street stated he spoke with an individual at CWL who indicated to him the cost would be very high to hook up with CWL, so CWL had no problem with the de-annexation. Councilman Moore also noted the property owners have an interested buyer for the property.

Craig McDaniel, representing the South Trust on the property, discussed the de-annexation. They have had this property for five or six years. It was almost sold three years ago, but it was going to be very expensive to get CWL utilities to the property. They have an interested buyer who wants to build a house on part of the property and have a cattle/horse farm on the other part.

City Attorney Carol Duncan stated it was her understanding the annexation was recent when she reviewed it. The statute requires it to be de-annexed within an eight-year time frame after annexation. Now hearing that the property was annexed into Jonesboro in 1989, she has legal questions. City Attorney Duncan explained the statute that was referred to in the ordinance specifies an eight-year time frame. Councilman Frierson stated that doesn't mean the property can't be de-annexed; rather, it just means it would be easier within that time frame. City Attorney Duncan stated since that is the statute referred to in the ordinance that is what she is going by.

A motion was made by Councilman Chris Moore, seconded by Councilman John Street, that this matter be Postponed Temporarily until the next City Council meeting so the City Attorney can review the ordinance. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 11 - Darrel Dover; Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Rennell Woods; Todd Burton and Robert Long

Absent: 1 - Charles Coleman

[ORD-16:060](#)

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF A JOHN DEERE EXCAVATOR FOR THE STREET DEPARTMENT, APPROPRIATING FUNDS, AND DECLARING

AN EMERGENCY

Sponsors: Finance and Streets

Mayor Perrin asked that the ordinance be pulled from the agenda. There was some equipment left off the delivery. They are working to get that corrected. If the price changes, the ordinance may need to be amended. It was then indicated by someone in the audience that the ordinance could be postponed indefinitely because the equipment is not going to be purchased at all.

A motion was made by Councilman Mitch Johnson, seconded by Councilman Chris Moore, that this matter be Postponed Indefinitely . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 11 - Darrel Dover;Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Rennell Woods;Todd Burton and Robert Long

Absent: 1 - Charles Coleman

ORD-16:061

AN ORDINANCE TO AFFIRM THE RULING OF THE CRAIGHEAD COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT AND AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO, PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 TO R-8 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED ON AGGIE ROAD AS REQUESTED BY DEAN TYRER

City Attorney Duncan explained she asked for this ordinance be presented to the City Council. It's a cleanup ordinance. She doesn't think the court requires this ordinance, but in order for it to be entered into the system it needs an ordinance number. The court rezoned the property, but MAPC added some restrictions to the property that were not in the court order. Both sides are in agreement with the restrictions, but it needs to be documented for future reference. The ordinance reads as it did before.

Councilman Moore offered the ordinance for first reading by title only.

Councilman Moore motioned, seconded by Councilman Frierson, to suspend the rules and waive the second and third readings. All voted aye.

A motion was made by Councilman Charles Frierson, seconded by Councilman Chris Moore, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 11 - Darrel Dover;Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Rennell Woods;Todd Burton and Robert Long

Absent: 1 - Charles Coleman

Enactment No: O-EN-046-2016

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED**RES-16:118**

RESOLUTION TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE ABANDONMENT OF 10 FEET OF A 15 FOOT UTILITY EASEMENT AT 2217 MASTERS DRIVE AS REQUESTED BY CHARLES & MELINDA PORTER

- Attachments:** [Plats](#)
[Petition](#)
[Utility Letters](#)
[Engineering & Planning Letter](#)
[Extra documentation](#)

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

Aye: 11 - Darrel Dover;Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Rennell Woods;Todd Burton and Robert Long

Absent: 1 - Charles Coleman

Enactment No: R-EN-100-2016

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

ORD-16:055

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO AMEND THE 2016 BUDGET AND MOVE \$7,810,000 FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR STIP PROJECTS

Sponsors: Finance and Mayor's Office

- Attachments:** [STIP Projects](#)
[2016-2020 STIP Craighead County](#)

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

Aye: 11 - Darrel Dover;Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Rennell Woods;Todd Burton and Robert Long

Absent: 1 - Charles Coleman

Enactment No: O-EN-047-2016

COM-16:068

Proposed Police Pay Plan

- Attachments:** [Proposed Police Pay Plan.pdf](#)

This item was Filed.

Councilman Johnson motioned, seconded by Councilman Street, to suspend the rules and place ORD-16:063 on the agenda. All voted aye.

ORD-16:063

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO AMEND THE

2016 ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Sponsors: Police Department

Councilman Street offered the ordinance for first reading by title only.

Councilman Dover requested that Chief Financial Officer Suzanne Allen run numbers for a step plan for every city employee at three different levels – adding 3% to the cells, 5% and 6% - to determine the cost. He added it would be to increase the minimum, midpoint and max 3%, 5% or 6% with the midpoint being at 10 years and maximum at 20 years. Councilman Dover made that motion, seconded by Councilman Johnson. All voted aye. Councilman Dover asked that the information be put together by Friday. Mayor Perrin added they will send out the information to everybody.

Councilman Dover reiterated that he is referring to increasing the cells. Councilman Woods questioned what he meant by “cells.” Councilman Dover explained that would be the minimum, midpoint and maximum. He further explained the numbers should show an increase of 3%, 5% and 6% to come up with a total cost. He added if an employee has been at the city for ten years, they would be at the midpoint. If they’ve been here twelve years, they would be at 20% between the midpoint and maximum. If they’ve been here twenty years, they’ll be at the maximum. Councilman Moore clarified that would be based on current years of service as of Friday. Councilman Dover answered yes. Councilman Dover then requested the information be sent out to everyone on the City Council.

A motion was made by Councilman Darrel Dover, seconded by Councilman John Street, that this matter be Held at one reading . The motion PASSED with the following vote:

Aye: 10 - Darrel Dover; Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Rennell Woods; Todd Burton and Robert Long

Nay: 1 - Mitch Johnson

Absent: 1 - Charles Coleman

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Perrin reported on the following items:

The city sold \$22 million in building permits last month. Residential was at 46% with commercial being at 54%. The majority of that was due to the construction of duplexes on Patrick Street, which is classified as residential as opposed to commercial.

Condemnations through last month were 16 by owners, 3 by the city, 6 renovations and 2 through grants. 16 condemnations are in process for a total of 43. They should be in the same range as this time last year.

The Street Department has been busy with striping. They did 17.95 last month with 130 miles striped year to date. The new machine makes the striping much easier.

Ditch mowing is at about 30% of the total. It will probably be November before the project is done.

He read a letter from a citizen praising the Sanitation Department for their work. He read another letter commending the Street Department for their work.

They had a pre-construction meeting regarding Phase II of the Craighead Forest Park Trail. They should be surveying the area now.

They will be meeting with ADEM to discuss the mitigation plan. The plan has been down in Little Rock. They will be visiting Little Rock to find out the status of the plan.

The Ward 3 meeting will be Thursday at the Central Fire Station at 6:00 p.m.

The new Welcome to Jonesboro sign on Highway 18 is up and has been painted.

He gave an update concerning the home ice property. The appeal is coming up. The property is unsafe and unsightly. City Attorney Duncan explained the circuit judge granted the city's motion to dismiss the case, but then they appealed the decision to the Court of Appeals in Little Rock. They have 15 days to file the final response brief, but she doesn't know how long it will take to get a ruling from the Court of Appeals. On the property itself, the owners have been given a warning and some deadlines regarding removing some property. If the city has to do the cleanup, then they will either bill the owners or put a lien on the property. She noted that's only dealing with the exterior of the building. Mayor Perrin explained there are trailers and trucks on the property that need to be hauled off. City Attorney Duncan added Code Enforcement is waiting until the timeline has been reached concerning the inoperable vehicles, then the city will be able to clean up the property.

Councilman Moore noted Bill Smith had asked if the current lawsuit prohibits the city from enforcing Code Enforcement ordinances. City Attorney Duncan answered no. She thinks the lawsuit stops the city from condemning the building, but not from enforcing our other ordinances. She added Code Enforcement is just waiting on the deadlines in order to do something about cleaning up the property. Code Enforcement Officer Wayne Rogers explained they already had the truck in the front removed and have taken bids to mow and clean up the whole property. The bids open tomorrow. There is a fence in the front, but it keeps getting knocked down.

Councilman Moore then asked if a lien would be place on the property. City Attorney Duncan answered yes, when it comes to mowing if the property owners don't pay then the city will place a lien on the property. She added she also thinks there's a process that would allow the city to sell any valuables on the property in order to offset the cost of the cleanup. If it brings in more than the cleanup costs, then the property owners are entitled to the leftover money. Mr. Rogers noted the deadline for mowing is this week. City Attorney Duncan noted there are two deadlines for the property, one for the mowing, the other for the inoperable vehicles. She doesn't think the deadline for the inoperable vehicles is this week.

Councilman Moore then asked if the building itself is secure. Mayor Perrin answered no. The fence is down, so citizens can enter the property. It is not safe or secure. Councilman Moore questioned whether the city can secure the building. City Attorney Duncan stated she doesn't think the city can do anything with the building now that it's in litigation without making a request. She stated she will look into that. One thing that hinders the fire marshal is that when the building is not in use, then they can't just enter the building unless they know of a danger. Councilman Moore stated Mr. Smith has indicated he thinks someone is living there because he keeps seeing a red vehicle parked there.

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Street motioned, seconded by Councilman Dover, to suspend the rules

and place RES-16:115 on the agenda. All voted aye.

RES-16:115

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ACCEPT THE LOW BID AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ALL SCAPES IRRIGATION & LAWN CARE, LLC FOR THE BELT STREET/EAST WORD AVENUE SIDEWALKS (BID NO. 2016:29)

Sponsors: Engineering

Attachments: [Contract Documents 2016 29](#)
[Bid Tab](#)

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

Aye: 11 - Darrel Dover; Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Rennell Woods; Todd Burton and Robert Long

Absent: 1 - Charles Coleman

Enactment No: R-EN-083-2016

Councilman Dover motioned, seconded by Councilman Johnson, to suspend the rules and place RES-16:123 on the agenda. All voted aye.

RES-16:123

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF AN AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (AIP) PROJECT NO. 3-05-0033-021-2016 FROM THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (FAA)

Sponsors: Municipal Airport Commission and Grants

Attachments: [3-05-0033-021-2016 \(AIP\)](#)

A motion was made by Councilman Chris Gibson, seconded by Councilman Rennell Woods, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED with the following vote:

Aye: 11 - Darrel Dover; Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Rennell Woods; Todd Burton and Robert Long

Absent: 1 - Charles Coleman

Enactment No: R-EN-084-2016

Councilman Burton noted the ditch work and cleaning maps are on the website now so they can be viewed by the public. He thanked the communications director for getting that on the website.

Councilman Moore thanked the person responsible for painting the Welcome to Jonesboro sign on Dan Avenue. Mayor Perrin stated he thinks the Street Department painted it.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Haley Stout, a resident on West Nettleton, spoke on behalf of the spouses of Jonesboro police officers. She thanked Councilman Johnson and the Public Safety Committee for working with the officers to come up with a pay plan that will bring the officers up to a more competitive market value and allow the department to better recruit and maintain officers for many years. She also thanked each Council member for the time spent listening to the plan proposals and the subsequent discussions. The step plan will allow officers to know where they will be financially in 3, 5, 10 even 20 years whether they stay in patrol or set their goals to a higher rank. They feel like the proposed plan will make Jonesboro comparable to other cities our size in the state. The fact that the non-uniform employees now want the plan shows that it is doable and workable. The spouses are there to show support for the job the officers do every day. She asked the Council to support the pay proposal. She noted the officers have been asking for this plan for two years. She asked that the officers be taken care of and then the rest of the employees be worked on.

Heath Loggains, a resident in Brookland, stated he has heard in committee's for five years that things would be postponed. During those same five years, he has been a single father and relied on second, third and fourth jobs just to make ends meet. He lived a modest lifestyle. Due to a knee injury, he lost his side jobs. He was on administrative leave last year and lost every security job he had. During that time he had to go through a grand jury process and had to explain to his kid why his dad was all over the news. But, his fellow officers supported him and kept in contact with him. He has been an officer for 9 years and is a field training officer. Last year, his take home salary was \$27,000. He is now at \$33,981, but should be at almost midpoint since he has been here 9 years. One of his trainees that he has had for six days is being paid \$32,429. Mr. Loggains noted it's not just him; it's all of the officers. He commended the non-uniform employees for saying they want something to. He added Councilman Dover postpones items and causes an officer and their family to suffer. He explained the city is growing, but no one mentions that. Paying the officers more will not break the city because the city is growing. He used to have trainees making more money than him. The only reason he makes more than his current trainee is because of the bonus and longevity pay that was given out at the beginning of the year. The city is losing officers to smaller cities and the state police. He asked the city to take into consideration while they are deliberating that there's only a \$1,500 difference between him, a 9-year officer, and a trainee who has only been with the city for 3 months.

Employee Representative Chairman Larry Jackson returned to the podium stated they feel for the Police Department and when they have problems. He noted the officer is making \$31,000, \$32,000, but the non-uniforms have employees that start at \$21,000. There are dangers in every job. Until recently, there was many, if not more, street and sanitation workers that were hit by vehicles, injured or killed than police officers. If history repeats itself, when this is done the Fire Department will want what the Police Department gets and then there won't be enough money left over for the non-uniforms. He asked for consideration be given to not just one department, but all departments. Mr. Jackson noted there was the Salary Committee that considered all departments, but now the committee is not working anymore and he wants to know why. That committee did a great job in getting benefits for every employee, but now it's not working where they can continue their job.

11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Rennell Woods, seconded by Councilman Mitch Johnson, that this meeting be Adjourned . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 11 - Darrel Dover;Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Rennell Woods;Todd Burton and Robert Long

Absent: 1 - Charles Coleman

_____ **Date:** _____

Harold Perrin, Mayor

Attest:

_____ **Date:** _____

Donna Jackson, City Clerk