



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Nominating and Rules Committee

Tuesday, July 17, 2018

4:45 PM

Municipal Center

Special Called Meeting

1. Call To Order

2. Roll Call by City Clerk Donna Jackson

Present 6 - David McClain; Joe Hafner; Bobby Long; LJ Bryant; Mitch Johnson and John Street

3. Approval of minutes

[MIN-18:063](#)

Minutes for the Nominating and Rules Committee meeting on June 19, 2018

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

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

Aye: 5 - Joe Hafner; Bobby Long; LJ Bryant; Mitch Johnson and John Street

4. New Business

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

[RES-18:110](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS MAKE APPOINTMENTS TO THE WOLVERINE PROPERTY DOWNTOWN CORRIDOR REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Mayor Harold Perrin said before you vote on that, if I could, I would like to make a recommendation that you amend the resolution to add Ms. Lindsey Wingo. Ms. Wingo is the Executive Director of the Downtown Association and Mr. Mike Downing, Chairman of the Wolverine Property Downtown Corridor, thought it would be a good idea if we brought her on to this committee, and I think it's a great idea. So, if you all would just amend the resolution before you vote on it to add her name to the list.

Councilmember John Street motioned to amend the resolution to add Lindsey Wingo to the list, seconded by L.J. Bryant. All voted aye.

Councilmember John Street motioned to recommend to council, seconded by Councilmember Bobby Long. Chairmember David McClain said I have a motion and a second to forward to full council. Is there any more discussion? Mayor Perrin said yes.

Excuse me. Mr. Downing has a meeting set up for August 6, I think, or earlier than that. I can't remember. Can we forward this to the council tonight, since it's just a committee, because he's trying to get some stuff done?

Councilmember Joe Hafner said I just want to say one thing. Just to clarify, I think it's important that we go ahead and walk it on because the first council meeting in August is going to be August 7. So, we won't have a meeting before then. Mayor Perrin said and I think Mr. Downing has a meeting August 6, and already has his scope of work and a highlight developed. I met with him today at lunch. I think it's going to be a great report, but he's going to be spreading out further than just this piece of property. With his background, obviously, as a certified economic developer, you're going to see a great report on this. Councilmember Hafner said they just don't need to lose sight of the original purpose.

Councilmember John Street motioned to recommend to council and walk-on to tonight's City Council agenda, seconded by L.J. Bryant. All voted aye.

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

Aye: 5 - Joe Hafner; Bobby Long; LJ Bryant; Mitch Johnson and John Street

5. Pending Items

6. Other Business

[COM-18:053](#)

Discussion of Encouraging and Supporting of Diverse Citizens of the Jonesboro Community in their Civic Duty of Public Service

Attachments: [LJBryantemailDiversity2018.pdf](#)

Chairmember David McClain asked would you call this item a resolution. City Clerk Donna Jackson said it's an ordinance for discussion. Chairmember McClain said I can read the resolution or I can just open it up for discussion. Councilmember Joe Hafner said I just have one question for clarification. Are we actually walking this on tonight or is this just a discussion to be added to an upcoming meeting? Chairmember McClain said it's up to you all, but I think the smart thing to do would be to move it to the next meeting and give plenty of time to anyone who feels we should look at this and seriously discuss it. I do think we should definitely give it three readings. Councilmember John Street said I like it. I think it's a very good proposal to encourage Mayor Perrin to form a deal. I think what Community Development Director Tiffny Calloway is working on right now is going to help cultivate a bigger crowd of people who can serve on these committees. I know it's tough, a lot of times, to get qualified people at the last minute. So, as these names are cultivated and people are encouraged to participate in city government, I think that would be very encouraging to have Mayor Perrin have a list of people so that when he goes to appoint a committee he has a good diverse group to draw from and include every sector of the community.

Councilmember Hafner said I think the fact that this is an ordinance if we go ahead and forward it to full council to be on the agenda for the next meeting, it's going to go through three readings. There's going to be plenty of time. Are you saying forward to full council for the next meeting? Chairmember McClain said yes. Put this in a regular scheduled meeting, not in a walk-on fashion. Councilmember Hafner said originally, I

thought you meant have more discussion on this at the next Nominating and Rules Committee Meeting. Chairmember McClain said no. I think we should have discussion on it tonight. Right now. This is just me, but when I viewed it and I talked to Councilmember L.J. Bryant, and if you look at Section 3, "the Council requests the Mayor to ensure diversity in city boards and commissions. Diversity considerations are included but not limited to: age, gender, race, and ethnicity." I don't know if you all want to put a percentage or anything like that, but maybe make it where it makes up like our city.

Councilmember Hafner said I think it's going to be hard to put percentages. Councilmember Bobby Long said I think you're going to get in dangerous territory when you start doing that. Chairmember McClain said okay. Councilmember Long said I would hope that Mayor Perrin already identifies and takes into consideration diversity when making these boards and putting these appointments in place. I'm just wondering what result, what difference is this going to make than what's been done prior. What's going to be the outcome of this? Because if you're already doing it, what's the purpose of this other than putting it on paper and putting it in the form of a resolution. Are we setting ourselves up to where someone can come in and say well, you know what, this isn't as diverse as I think it should be, or this person isn't in there or because you didn't choose this person then you're not following an ordinance. I'm not against it. I just want to know what the purpose of it is. Chairmember McClain said I think it's to encourage more diversity on different boards and commissions. That's the goal, or what I think the goal should be, to make sure that we have that different representation throughout every aspect of city government. Councilmember Long said but is that not being done already. Chairmember McClain said we've had different commissions and boards that were not. Councilmember Long said right. Is that because there weren't people that were putting their name in the hat, or is that because of the pool of people that we had to choose from. What different in action is it going to be for Mayor Perrin before this and how are his actions going to change in appointment of these people after this? Councilmember Hafner said it may just be more awareness than anything. Councilmember L.J. Bryant said Chairmember McClain, can I weigh in for a second. Chairmember McClain said go ahead Councilmember Bryant. Councilmember Long said I'm not against it. I just want to know. Chairmember McClain said go ahead Councilmember Bryant.

Councilmember Bryant said well, so, just a quick background, Mayor Joe Smith is the incoming president of the Arkansas Municipal League (ARML). Mayor Perrin previously referenced this. In Mayor Smith's sort of inaugural address of being the ARML chairman, he had various people stand up in the room who represented certain ages. He was particularly concerned about focusing on getting young people in government. Of course, we had this discussion, oh, I don't know, a few weeks ago, and I visited with Mayor Perrin's office and they did some research and found that North Little Rock has an ordinance very similar to this. I made some slight changes to North Little Rock's ordinance, probably very little. I think maybe I added age and they didn't have age or maybe I added gender, something that they didn't have. Trying to find a balance between being generic enough to certainly make a point, but certainly I didn't want to get necessarily down to the level of hemming in any Mayor. If you had percentages and this, that and the other, and Mayor Perrin had two people who were interested in being on, I don't know, the Airport Commission, and both of them happened to be white males or whatever. I didn't want to do anything to pen-in any Mayor into making or having to go out and recruit somebody who may or may not be interested. So, I felt like this resolution was an attempt to encourage diversity without trying to pen-in any Mayor into making certain decisions.

Councilmember Long said it's my opinion that with the boards and things like this, the number one priority is ability. It's what can they bring to the table. I would much rather see somebody placed on a board because of their abilities and their ability to do things and their ability to bring good ideas and to get things done. Chairmember McClain said but you don't get that if they're not even at the table. You don't get that opportunity.

Councilmember Street said it's to encourage the Mayor and his staff to build a larger database of people to draw from. Councilmember Long said and I think that's awesome. Councilmember Street said and I think that's what it does and we're just supporting that as a council. It's not a law. It's just an encouragement from the council for the Mayor to do it and it's just possibly in providing that, and I think what Ms. Calloway is doing with the Mayor's Jonesboro Neighborhood Leadership class based on what the new president of the Municipal League is starting and all is going to encourage a little more development. Of course, too, when you vet these people, you have to make sure they're interested enough to show up. I can't tell you how many committees and boards I have sat on where half of the people don't show up or you get there and there is not a quorum. You can't have a meeting if there's not people who are willing enough to sacrifice the time to do the jobs. So, that's part of the vetting process, too. As bad as I hate to say it, for a long time the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission (MAPC) was tough and that's an extremely important committee. It's standing and you have to have people who show up and actually work.

Chairmember McClain said I'm not saying that I think you should just throw somebody on there because they are diverse. Yes. I do think you should have some qualifications. You should have things that add value to the process, but at the same time, I do feel like we should encourage and continue to encourage and continue to seek out opportunities where we can engage people from the north side, the south side, east, west, different ages and different economic backgrounds. I do think we need to make sure we look at that. So, I get what you're saying, but at the same time, I think we need to make sure we are doing that going forward.

Mayor Perrin said let me make a comment if I may, Chairmember McClain. Mayor Smith's whole resolution is based on age and he had all of us to stand up in the room. What he is saying is that we have to do something to get the young people involved in politics, in government, and to learn things in their city. I got a copy of that resolution while I was there. As a matter of fact, Mayor Smith gave me a copy. Of course, North Little Rock passed that resolution. I think what Councilmember Bryant has done is added a few things to that, which, again, I don't have any problem with. The first thing I do on any appointment is look at the knowledge and background. There are some of these boards and commissions, which Interim Chief Operations Officer Roy Ockert and I visited with today, that, in fact, one of them is your Stormwater Management Board. Your Stormwater Management Board spells out exactly in there that you have four layman, four specialists, I think that's what it's called, and four of something else. So, what they're saying is that you can't just have laypersons on that board. This came up because Dewaine Beisner, Chair of the Stormwater Management Board, has said he would like to step down. He's been on it since conception and I understand that. When Mr. Ockert showed me that spreadsheet that he made today, it's that, basically, we're not following some of those things. Sometimes it's difficult to go find four engineers who are willing to sit down and spend two or three hours per month to come to some of these meetings. I'll be quite honest with you. That's what happened with MAPC. When I started looking at that and the vote was so low, that I sent every one of them a letter and said hey, I don't like the attendance. If you don't like it, get off. If you do, stay on. Let me know. We can't have this. It's not fair to the public, especially on

rezoning. City Attorney Carol Duncan said a lot of those were county appointees. Mayor Perrin said that's exactly right. So, some of these are county and city appointments and that's something else you have to think about, too. Ms. Duncan said on MAPC. Mayor Perrin said the Craighead County Judge appoints some of these people and I appoint some of them, just like the Airport Commission, Stormwater, and MAPC. Several of these are appointed, but not all by me. It's by the county and me.

Councilmember Hafner said I have a question. In the interest of time, is there anything that needs to be done to this draft ordinance before it's recommended to be forwarded to full council? Chairmember McClain asked if that was a question for Ms. Duncan or Ms. Jackson. Councilmember Hafner said Ms. Duncan or Ms. Jackson. Ms. Jackson said it just has to be in Legistar and it will go to Mayor Perrin and then to Ms. Duncan for approval. Ms. Duncan said I didn't see anything legally that needed to be changed. It is important to note that it is a resolution, so if you all want more conversation about it on the council floor, maybe let the city clerk's office know and it won't be put on the consent agenda, but if you don't, it will go on the consent agenda, just like another resolution.

Councilmember Joe Hafner made a motion the resolution be forwarded to full council and not placed on the consent agenda for the next meeting, seconded by Councilmember Bobby Long. Mayor Perrin said fair enough. All voted aye.

Read

7. Public Comments

8. Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilmember John Street, seconded by Councilmember LJ Bryant, that this meeting be Adjourned. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 5 - Joe Hafner; Bobby Long; LJ Bryant; Mitch Johnson and John Street