



City of Jonesboro

900 West Monroe
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Monday, October 1, 2012

6:30 PM

Huntington Building

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING AT 5:30 P.M.

PUBLIC HEARING AT 6:15 P.M.

Regarding an abandonment of a portion of an existing drainage easement as requested by NEA Baptist Memorial Hospital

No opposition was voiced.

PUBLIC HEARING AT 6:20 P.M.

Regarding the abandonment of a portion of a gas easement located at Parkwood and Stadium Blvd as requested by Mike Ebbert

No opposition was voiced.

1. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR PERRIN AT 6:30 P.M.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

3. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK DONNA JACKSON

Present 12 - Darrel Dover; Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Tim McCall; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Rennell Woods; Mikel Fears and Charles Coleman

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Perrin noted Interim Parks Director Wixson Huffstetler and Ms. Sharon Turman will be giving a presentation at the next meeting regarding the Miracle League.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Councilman Mikel Fears, seconded by Councilman Moore, to pull RES-12:170 from the consent agenda. All voted aye.

A motion was made by Councilman Chris Moore, seconded by Councilwoman Ann Williams, to Approve the Consent Agenda. All voted aye.

Aye: 12 - Darrel Dover; Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Tim McCall; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Rennell Woods; Mikel Fears and Charles Coleman

MIN-12:077 Minutes for the City Council meeting on September 18, 2012

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

This item was PASSED on the consent agenda.

RES-12:163 RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS CERTIFYING LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENDORSEMENT OF BUSINESS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TAX BACK PROGRAM (AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 15-4-2706(d) OF THE CONSOLIDATED INCENTIVE ACT OF 2003).

Sponsors: Mayor's Office

This item was PASSED on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-156-2012

RES-12:168 RESOLUTION APPROVING A CONTRACT FOR THE INSTALLATION OF EMERGENCY GENERATORS AT THE HARLAN HENRY SENIOR CITIZENS' CENTER.

Sponsors: Grants and Building Maintenance

Attachments: [All bids](#)
[Bid Sheet](#)
[Dept Justification for bid](#)
[Accepted Bid](#)

This item was PASSED on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-157-2012

6. NEW BUSINESS

RES-12:170 A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE CITY SALARY & ADMINISTRATION PLAN FOR THE PURPOSE OF CREATING A COMPUTER TECHNICIAN I AND A SENIOR COMPUTER TECHNICIAN

Sponsors: Information Systems

Attachments: [Sr. Computer Tech](#)
[Computer Tech I](#)

Chief Financial Officer Ben Barylske explained there is a secretarial position in the IT Department's budget. The employee left and the position has not been filled. This resolution will restructure the IT Department without increasing the budget. The secretarial position has been eliminated and replaced with an entry level technician. An employee with entry level experience will be promoted and given a raise in order to supervise the three entry level technicians. Mr. Barylske further explained due to the growing number of mobile units in the City another entry level technician is needed. Mayor Perrin reiterated that the new position will be budget neutral. He added there will be more restructuring in 2013 because he has already asked each of

the department heads to look at their departments to justify each position. Some positions may be added; some may be deleted.

A motion was made by Councilman Darrel Dover, seconded by Councilman Mikel Fears, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED by a unanimous vote

Aye: 12 - Darrel Dover;Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Tim McCall;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Rennell Woods;Mikel Fears and Charles Coleman

Enactment No: R-EN-158-2012

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

ORD-12:052

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE 2012 ANNUAL BUDGET KNOWN AS ORDINANCE NUMBER O-EN-072-2011 FOR THE PURPOSE OF CREATING A POLICE LIEUTENANT POSITION IN THE JONESBORO POLICE DEPARTMENT; FOR THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY FOR THE CONTINUITY OF SERVICES IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND CODE ENFORCEMENT.

Sponsors: Police Department and Human Resources

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

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

Dr. Richard Wang, 101 University Drive, objected to the Council suspending the rules and holding all three readings in one night. Councilman Moore asked City Attorney Phillip Crego to read Section 2 of the ordinance, which explains why the ordinance is an emergency. Dr. Wang explained it does not work for him or the citizens of Jonesboro to read an ordinance three times in one night. He stated it does not give the constituents enough time to ask questions. He added that suspending the rules and having an emergency clause violates the spirit of the law. He further explained there are some substantive questions that should be asked, such as why the department is better off with this new position, and the information should be shared with the citizens of the City. Councilman Moore clarified that the Mayor does not need Council permission to reorganize the departments. Dr. Wang stated the ordinance is not just a budget issue, but it is also a reorganization issue which he would like more information on. Mayor Perrin explained the administration has been discussing this issue for three to six months. The reason this is being done is to improve the quality of life departments, such as Animal Control, Code Enforcement and Prowl. The lieutenant position will oversee the quality of life departments and help centralize things. The efforts of all the departments will also be coordinated. He noted Code Enforcement will be moved to Parker Park.

Police Chief Michael Yates added this is something they have been considering for over a year. He also explained Code Enforcement's time has been split with other departments, such as Inspections. Nuisance abatement has been taken over by Prowl, but that distracts them from their core objective which is drug suppression. They are trying to get everyone under one entity so they can be better coordinated which each other. Chief Yates further discussed the reorganization. He noted they are not asking for more compensation. Councilman Vance expressed concern about these issues having gone on for a while, but he didn't know anything about it until he read about it in the newspaper. Chief Yates stated that on paper Code Enforcement helping Inspections sounded good, but the practicality of it just didn't work.

After passage of the ordinance, Councilman Johnson motioned, seconded by Councilman Moore, to adopt the emergency clause. All voted aye.

A motion was made by Councilman Chris Moore, seconded by Councilman Mikel Fears, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED by a unanimous vote

Aye: 12 - Darrel Dover;Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Tim McCall;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Rennell Woods;Mikel Fears and Charles Coleman

Enactment No: O-EN-039-2012

ORD-12:053

AN ORDINANCE TRANSFERRING ADMINISTRATION OF RETIREMENT COVERAGE FOR ELIGIBLE MEMBERS OF THE JONESBORO POLICE PENSION AND RELIEF FUND TO THE ARKANSAS LOCAL POLICE AND FIRE RETIREMENT SYSTEM (LOPFI) AND AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER TO ENTER INTO AN IRREVOCABLE AGREEMENT WITH LOPFI.

Sponsors: Finance

Attachments: [lopfi res and agreement](#)
[Supporting information](#)

Councilwoman Williams offered the ordinance for first reading by title only .

Mr. Barylske discussed the ordinance and explained due to future changes with LOPFI the cost to the City will be increased. He plan to combine the two plans will save the City about \$5 million over the next 15 years. The old plan is still good and it will be an asset to take the property revenues and put that money towards the combined plan. Further discussion was held regarding the combining of the two police plans. Mr. Barylske added he thinks the savings to the City will be higher than he is predicting because some of his assumptions are level over the years, when in actuality they will increase. He also noted he has been asked by LOPFI to discuss this new plan with other cities to see if other cities can save money as well. He stated the local police pension board is supportive of combining the plans. Councilman Fears thanked Mr. Barylske for looking for ways to save the City money in the future.

Councilwoman Williams motioned, seconded by Councilman Coleman, to suspend the rules and waive the second and third readings. All voted aye.

After passage of the ordinance, Councilwoman Williams motioned, seconded by Councilman Street, to adopt the emergency clause. All voted aye.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ann Williams, seconded by Councilman Chris Gibson, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED by a unanimous vote

Aye: 12 - Darrel Dover;Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Tim McCall;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Rennell Woods;Mikel Fears and Charles Coleman

Enactment No: O-EN-040-2012

ORD-12:054

AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE AND ABANDON A PORTION OF A GAS EASEMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE RE-ALIGNMENT OF THE EASEMENT FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF PARKWOOD AND STADIUM AS REQUESTED BY MIKE EBBERT

Attachments: [Abandonment information](#)
[Engineering Letter](#)
[Petition](#)
[Planning Letter](#)
[Plat](#)
[Utility letters](#)

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

Mayor Perrin reiterated there were no objections.

Councilman Moore asked if the emergency clause is needed in order to speed up construction before winter. Mayor Perrin answered yes.

Attorney Skip Mooney, representing the property owner, asked for the ordinance and emergency clause be passed tonight because they anticipate closing on the property on October 15th. The City Council will not be meeting again until October 16th. All notices have been given to the utility companies and the City has approved the abandonment.

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

After passage of the ordinance, Councilman Gibson motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Williams, to adopt the emergency clause. All voted aye.

A motion was made by Councilman Mikel Fears, seconded by Councilwoman Ann Williams, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED by a unanimous vote

Aye: 12 - Darrel Dover; Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Tim McCall; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Rennell Woods; Mikel Fears and Charles Coleman

Enactment No: O-EN-041-2012

ORD-12:055

AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE AND ABANDON A PORTION OF A 20' PUBLIC DRAINAGE EASEMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE RE-ALIGNMENT OF THE EASEMENT AS REQUESTED BY NEA BAPTIST HOSPITAL

Attachments: [Engineering Letter](#)
[Petition to Vacate](#)
[Planning Letter](#)
[Revised Drainage Easement NEA Baptist Jonesboro](#)
[Signed Easement Plat \(1 of 2\)](#)
[Signed Easement Plat \(2 of 2\)](#)
[Vacation Letter](#)

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

Councilman Johnson and Councilman Dover abstained from discussion and voting on this ordinance.

Mayor Perrin added there are no objections to this abandonment.

Councilman Vance motioned, seconded by Councilman Fears, to suspend the rules

and waive the second and third readings. All voted aye.

A motion was made by Councilman Mikel Fears, seconded by Councilman John Street, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED by a unanimous vote

Aye: 12 - Darrel Dover; Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Tim McCall; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Rennell Woods; Mikel Fears and Charles Coleman

Enactment No: O-EN-042-2012

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

ORD-12:050 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 TO R-8 LUO FOR PROPERTY LOCATED ON AGGIE ROAD AS REQUESTED BY DEAN TYRER

Attachments: [Plat](#)
[MAPC Report](#)
[Maps](#)
[Lot Layout](#)
[10/1/2012 Supporting information](#)

Attorney Jim Lyons presented the Council with a handout (see attached file). He discussed the handout. Under R-1, which is the current zoning, the maximum density is 5.45 lots per acre. Under RS-8, the maximum density is 8 lots per acre. But, the proposed development will have an average maximum density of 4.23 lots per acre.

Councilman Fears referred to the traffic counts included in the handout and asked when those counts were taken. Mr. Lyons answered it was in 2011. That is the latest information available from the Highway Department.

The intent is to have four or five specific developers to build the homes. The example layouts show three bedrooms in both layouts, ranging from 1,260 square feet to 1,271 square feet in the total layout.

Councilman Fears questioned how many home can be built with the proposed development. Mr. Lyons stated under the proposed rezoning there will be 16, 17 or 18 more homes built than under the current zoning. Councilman Moore then asked if the property owners agree with the stipulation of 4.23 lots per acre. Mr. Lyons answered yes. Councilman Moore asked if there was a minimum square footage on the homes. Mr. Lyons stated he doesn't think there was a minimum set by the MAPC, but they would be willing to do it.

Councilman Dover questioned if all the Council is doing is rezoning the property. City Planner Otis Spriggs agreed, stating the MAPC approved the proposed rezoning as a limited use overlay. The limited use overlay allows the Council to make conditions and relax standards, such as width and square footage. Councilman Moore noted the ordinance stipulated 4.23 lots per acre. Mr. Lyons clarified they did not stipulate 4.23 lots per acres; rather, they stipulated there will be 160 lots as drawn which ended up equaling out to the 4.23 lots per acre. He added they will agree to not vary from the drawing which will reflect 4.23 lots per acre. He also noted that Dr. Tyrer has agreed

to have a minimum house size of 1,100 square feet, so that can be added to the ordinance if the Council wishes.

Councilman Vance asked if this rezoning will be taken back to the MAPC as a subdivision. Mr. Spriggs answered yes.

Mr. Todd Burton, 4303 Cypress Springs, spoke in opposition to the rezoning. He stated he appreciated the additional information from Mr. Lyons. He noted there is still some opposition and caution to this development. He expressed concern about having three or four developers working on this property. He asked the Council to be very cautious when considering this rezoning. Mr. Burton added there is a lot of undeveloped property, which is causing other property owners to watch what will happen with this rezoning. He explained he served on the Land Use Plan Committee and his intent was for R-1 to be in this area of the City.

Councilman Dover asked that the information presented by confirmed by the Planning Department. Mayor Perrin also asked that the Planning Department confirm it before the next Council meeting in order for the Council to review it beforehand.

This item was Held at second reading.

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

ORD-12:051

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 117 THE ZONING ORDINANCE TO REZONE FROM R-2A (LU-O) TO RM-12 (LU-O) CERTAIN PROPERTY OF (PARKER ANNEX) AS REQUESTED BY BOB HARRISON

Attachments: [Plat](#)
[MAPC Report](#)

Councilman Moore asked if there has been opposition. Mayor Perrin answered no.

A motion was made by Councilman Chris Moore, seconded by Councilwoman Ann Williams, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED by a unanimous vote

Aye: 12 - Darrel Dover; Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Tim McCall; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Rennell Woods; Mikel Fears and Charles Coleman

Enactment No: O-EN-043-2012

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Perrin reported on the following items:

They received a letter stating Jonesboro has been selected as a City of Distinction winner for the Main Street Preservation Downtown Development and Preservation efforts. The award will be given during the Municipal League's winter conference. He commended everyone who helped restore the downtown area.

The Earl Bell pool has been filled in. The aluminum siding has been removed and the City received \$8,000 for the aluminum.

Tomorrow night is National Night Out.

There will be a new sign on Main Street. It should be finished this weekend. It was

sponsored by CWL and Arkansas Glass. It will be unveiled Thursday afternoon.

They are moving off the landfill. They had purchase more diesel to remove the tanks, which will be under Capital Improvements with a cost of \$16,500. They will be looking at the property on Strawfloor to see what can and can't be used.

They have been meeting with contractors concerning the Miracle League. Things have been going well to find in-kind contributions.

They will hold a joint meeting of MAPC and City Council. He asked Mr. Jack Turner to put the Vision 2030 draft on the City's website. He would like to move the meetings until the beginning of 2013 in order to give everyone time to review the Vision 2030 plan before meeting.

The BBQ Fest will be this weekend. Riceland Foods will host the Harvest Cup and has given the City \$2,500 for that. There will be numerous teams at Joe Mack Campbell Park for that event.

Demolition on the annex building next to the Mercantile Center will start on October 12th. They have preliminary plans and will be meeting with the architect.

They will be starting on Safe Routes to Schools projects on October 8th. They will work with Nettleton, University Heights, the Math & Science School and Westside.

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Street motioned, seconded by Councilman Dover, to suspend the rules and place RES-12:173 on the agenda. All voted aye.

RES-12:173

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ACCEPT THE LOW BID AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH CRAWFORD BUILDERS, INC. FOR THE RANCHETTE ACRES - SEWER CONNECTIONS PROJECT

Sponsors: Grants

Attachments: [Contract Documents.pdf](#)
[Bid Tab.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Councilman John Street, seconded by Councilman Mitch Johnson, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED by a unanimous vote

Aye: 12 - Darrel Dover; Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Tim McCall; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Rennell Woods; Mikel Fears and Charles Coleman

Enactment No: R-EN-159-2012

Councilman Street encouraged everyone to attend National Night Out in their respective neighborhoods.

Councilman Moore thanked the Council for approving the contract for Ranchette Acres tonight. The project will benefit a lot of citizens in Ward 2. He also noted that Suddenlink has poles that may be affected by abandonments. He suggested having Suddenlink write a letter along with AT&T and the other utilities during the

abandonment process. He pointed out there was no letter from Suddenlink regarding the Ebbert abandonment the Council just approved. He added Ritter Communications has moved into the downtown portion of Jonesboro, so the City may need a letter from them as well Councilman Fears explained that Suddenlink uses CWL's poles, so whenever an abandonment is done Suddenlink has to move their utilities without having to approve it ahead of time. He further explained it may be good checks and balances to get a letter from Suddenlink. Mayor Perrin stated he will meet with Mr. Spriggs regarding the letters from Suddenlink and Ritter.

Councilman Coleman asked if there was a date for the caution light on Highway 141. Mayor Perrin stated he doesn't know the date because it is dependent on when the manufacturer can get the lights here.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Marilyn Copeland, co-director of after school and summer care program, explained during the ward meeting she met with several individuals who all decided to attend other ward meetings to determine what would be beneficial for the City regarding after school and summer programs. But, due to the low attendance at the ward meetings they did not receive a lot of responses. They have had two good study circles, with one going on right now at the Hispanic Center. They have not reached the goal of getting information across wards. She asked for help getting more people to attend the study circle. She asked that the Council members contact two people who live in their wards between the age of 25-50 that can attend four study circles on Saturday. It is an 8-hour commitment. The upcoming study circle will be held by Councilman Coleman. They will then have a public forum in November 8th to discuss the information from the study circles. Ms. Copeland added if the Council members will forward the individual's names to her she can contact them before October 20th to discuss the study circle. Councilman Woods stated due to his time schedule he could not be involved as much as he liked. He encouraged the Council members to find two people in each of their wards to help with the study circle.

11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Chris Moore, seconded by Councilman Tim McCall, that this meeting be Adjourned . The motion PASSED by a unanimous vote

Aye: 12 - Darrel Dover;Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Tim McCall;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Rennell Woods;Mikel Fears and Charles Coleman

_____ **Date:** _____
Harold Perrin, Mayor

Attest:

_____ **Date:** _____
Donna Jackson, City Clerk

