



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, November 1, 2022

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

PUBLIC WORKS COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING AT 5:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR HAROLD COPENHAVER AT 5:30 P.M.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

3. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

Present 10 - Brian Emison; Charles Coleman; Chris Moore; Ann Williams; David McClain; Seth Speer; Joe Hafner; LJ Bryant; Mitch Johnson and John Street
Absent 2 - Charles Frierson and Chris Gibson

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Present 10 - Brian Emison; Charles Coleman; Chris Moore; Ann Williams; David McClain; Seth Speer; Joe Hafner; LJ Bryant; Mitch Johnson and John Street
Absent 2 - Charles Frierson and Chris Gibson

[COM-22:049](#)

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE 6A STATE CHAMPION JONESBORO HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS TEAM

Read

[COM-22:050](#)

FALL UPDATE FROM THE KEEP JONESBORO BEAUTIFUL COMMISSION BY BEVERLY PARKER

Attachments: [KAB-22-10614-04 Eats and Clean Streets Concepts copy](#)

Beverly Parker, 3803 Sawgrass, gave an update on the progress of new campaign initiatives of the Keep Jonesboro Beautiful committee. Mrs. Parker said, first of all, thanks for allowing me to come before you this evening to talk a little bit about what we have been doing and some of our plans we hope to initiate. Some of our plans were more evident, but there is a lot that happens behind the scenes as I am sure all of you know, but overall we continue to seek to meet our vision which is the City of Jonesboro will be clean, green, and beautiful. And, so, with that, I am going to use those categories to talk a little bit about what we are up to and what has happened. I am very proud to say that the cleanliness of our city has definitely improved. I think particularly over the last few months we have seen a lot of improvement and I am very proud of that. The City has continued to engage work crews to help with litter abatement. We have had the neighborhood cleanups. And, I want to congratulate Dr. Coleman. I believe he actually added a new neighborhood this time. So, those have all

gone well and have helped us really with our litter problems. I know that there are multiple aspects of Sanitation, Streets, and Code Enforcement that support this. But, importantly, I want to appeal to citizens because it is really up to the citizens to decide how clean their community wants to be. If it is just picking up a bit of trash after the trash run or making sure your business parking lot is clean, those kinds of efforts are things that are really going to move us where we want to be. So, the City has worked really diligently in cleanup and I applaud that. We have assisted as we have been asked to and had some activity there, but we have also turned a lot towards prevention and awareness activities because that is where the gold is in trying to keep litter off the ground and try to keep the city cleaner overall.

So, I know some of you have seen our PSA that KAIT is running. Fortunately, we have that now. We have worked with schools. Our Otto program where they have booklets, we gave away over 1,000 booklets in just the Jonesboro and Nettleton School System last spring. Our promotion of Earth Day events. The Jonesboro Sun and Occasions Magazine were very gracious in their sharing of information. We went out to the Farmer's Market where we sold recycling containers which was quite successful. But, here, I want to compliment the renewed emphasis on Code Enforcement, I think that has made a huge difference. I think that has made a huge difference. My philosophy on that is that citizens can't comply with something that they don't understand and some might say you do what your momma taught you, but not everybody is that lucky. So, anyway, one of the things that we have done along with Code Enforcement and the Communications Department is to facilitate what we call Code I.Q. And, this is pushing out information about codes and how to comply with those codes and why it impacts our cleanliness and the overall safety and health of our community. We have had one about grass. We have had one about abandoned cars. Several, I think a total of six having to do with various ordinances. Some of the topics have generated a little bit more conversation over Facebook than others. That is to be expected, but, overall, I think that has gone well.

One thing I want to mention tonight, however, is that all of these ordinances have been on the books for years. It is just now through this effort, making a penetration for people to understand, Oh, you mean I can't have more than five dogs. Those kinds of things that some people are not very knowledgeable of. One new item will come up this weekend and I know this is probably going to be talked about later, but we have been trying to figure out how a way for people to get rid of large items, mattresses, furniture, and make sure those are not in the lawns for long periods of time. Code Enforcement is working with us on that to have an event this Saturday at the corner of Gee and Washington where you can come and put your large items in there and they will be present. So, I think the Mayor is going to talk about that in a little bit. But, I think that will be a great help because not everybody can get to the landfill, but we still need to make the expectation that you can't have trash buildup in your yards for weeks at a time.

One of the new programs that I want to tell you about tonight is a program from Keep Arkansas Beautiful and you see the things on the screen, Feed a Hungry Trash Can, Keep Arkansas Beautiful. There are some others. There are some clings. There, for instance, you have a little sticker that goes on the bag and it tells you to please don't litter with that bag and that Burger Barn cup. The goal of this is to help businesses help with cleanliness of Arkansas. So, it is called the Eats and Clean Streets Program and they are taking signups now for this. It will be open to restaurants and anybody that is taking things out, where food is taken out of the establishment. The businesses are being notified through Keep Arkansas Beautiful, but we will also be posting that information and putting information out in our regular communication.

So, next, I will move onto Green. I want to mention that the Urban Forestry Council is underway. That is managed by Parks and Recreation and we have gotten our application for Tree City USA sent in. That took some time for all of that information to be available and for the time of year for that to be submitted and that has gone. So, one thing that I think has really helped us also is that we have new partnerships with the Department of Agricultural Forestry Division. They have helped us with some of our tree plantings. You will remember in the Spring, we had the seedling giveaway at Earl Bell. A lot of information was provided by them and as well as the trees. We had the Arbor Day events. And last, most recently, the event at City, Water & Light that was part of the Day of Caring. And all this tree plantings might be symbolic, I think it is very important that people understand the value of our trees and our tree canopy. In fact, I want to mention to all of you that I am hearing increasing alarm about the loss of our tree canopy. People are concerned that large swaths of trees are being taken out, but I also want to compliment the Planning Division because we do have a lot of good things going on. You will notice that in terms of the business commercial buildings where Jonesboro High School is a great example. There was a lot of alarm about the trees that were taken out there to build a building, but they have done a great job putting the trees back and I think the point I want to make there is that it has become a showplace. We really need to figure out some of the main thoroughfares and as things are being renovated or improved, how do we make these into showplaces for our community? And, I think they have done a great job. The orthopedic clinic on Main Street is a good example as well as the new warehouse that has gone in on Highway 18. I am not sure what business that is, but it is really exemplary in terms of the landscaping that is being done there. One thing that does concern me is new residential. I know when the landscape ordinance was completed, we knew that there was going to be some time that the new residential, that it would take to catch up, but I am afraid that might be being overlooked or we need to figure out when that is going to be effective for new residential. So, I just ask that that be looked at.

Now, I move onto Beautification. I want to thank all of you for the acceptance of the Sloan Property. I know that was touch and go for a bit there, but I think that will make a wonderful amenity for years to come. One thing, however, that we have talked about that we have been stymied in some wildflower programming. We hope to get ARDOT's help with that. There is in fact a state ARDOT wildflower program, but we have been unable to be able to actualize that for various reasons and that might be something that we can use some help with. And, to that end, I want to make one last appeal which is back to showplace. I hear conversation about the airport and that the airport is going to have new infrastructure and new entrances and exits and possibly an overpass, etc. I think that is an example of someplace we really need to make a showplace because that is a place that sometimes that is the only place people go when they come to Jonesboro. So, the point I want to make too is that we don't want to wait on the backend and say, wouldn't it be nice to have some trees there or put a little bit of grass there, etc., etc. We really need to be thinking about these ahead of time and making our community more beautiful. So, in conclusion, I'll just mention a few other bits of good news. We continue to build alliances. We hope that ASTATE is going to be onboard soon. The Green Committee of the Chamber has been very helpful. And, one bit of good news, I want to share with you is the United Way Day of Caring. This United Way Day of Caring, they actually had a section where you could apply to have a beautification, have people come out and help you with a beautification project. That is the first time that has happened and I think that is just a little sample of the uptake as we continue to work on our Clean, Green, and Beautiful. That is one minor example that could really have impact in the future. So, I appreciate again the confidence in our Commission and the support. And, I know it is budget time, so we

will hope to have the continuing support. So, anyway, I am kidding about that. But, thank you all so much. I'll be happy to answer any questions.

Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Mrs. Parker, and I want to commend you on your passion and your continued support and working with the efforts and it is really critical. I think Council and many in this room, especially Department Heads, recognize that the city has taken a large step in that direction. From our office, we don't get the complaints that we used to and I hear individuals that come to our community, a lot of times we look at our community every day and we complain about what we don't have, but people that come into our community, they talk about how clean this town is and they talk about that and they wish their communities were like it so I do appreciate the volunteers. I also want to say thank you to Council because earlier this year we approved the ability for Breaking Bonds Ministry to help with garbage pickup throughout the community and they continue to do that every week. And, that has been a huge success as well. So, I want to thank those men for that. And, again, as I have said, I think we have four now that work for the City of Jonesboro. So, that provided them with opportunity for a long-term job and financial support as well. So, we are really proud of the efforts. Thank you Mrs. Parker. Mrs. Parker said, thank you very much. Mayor Copenhaver said, you bet.

Read

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Chris Moore motioned, seconded by Dr. Charles Coleman, to adopt the Consent Agenda with the exception of RES-22:196. All voted aye.

Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Moore, seconded by Councilperson Charles Coleman, to Approve the Consent Agenda. The motioned PASSED

Aye: 10 - Brian Emison; Charles Coleman; Chris Moore; Ann Williams; David McClain; Seth Speer; Joe Hafner; LJ Bryant; Mitch Johnson and John Street

Absent: 2 - Charles Frierson and Chris Gibson

[MIN-22:094](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON OCTOBER 18, 2022

Attachments: [CC Minutes 10182022](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-22:197](#)

A RESOLUTION TO WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF POLICE PACKAGE AND FIRE PACKAGE CHEVROLET TAHOES AND POLICE UNITS EQUIPMENT

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-184-2022

[RES-22:198](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE JONESBORO CITY COUNCIL TO WAIVE FORMAL BIDDING AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH PLAY IT AGAIN SPORTS FOR PORTABLE BASEBALL MOUNDS AT JOE MACK

CAMPBELL SPORTS COMPLEX FOR THE PARKS DEPARTMENT

Attachments: [Mound Bids](#)
 [Mound Quotes](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-185-2022

[RES-22:200](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO ENTER INTO A TWO YEAR LEASE CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF THREE SANITATION SIDE LOAD TRUCKS

Attachments: [Arvest Proposal 2022 3 Mack Automated](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-186-2022

[RES-22:201](#)

A RESOLUTION TO WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF A NEW VEHICLE FOR THE TRANSIT DEPARTMENT.

Attachments: [Master's Pricing X2C Arkansas 10-13-2022](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-187-2022

[RES-22:202](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONTRACT WITH ICE CREAM JOINT LLC FOR SPONSORSHIP OF ONE ATHLETIC FIELD AT THE JOE MACK CAMPBELL SPORTS COMPLEX

Attachments: [ICE CREAM JOINT LLC Soccer 10 19 2022](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-188-2022

[RES-22:203](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND AUTHORIZE A CONTRACT WITH ARKANSAS BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD TO PROVIDE MEDICAL INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR CITY EMPLOYEES FOR 2023

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-189-2022

[RES-22:204](#)

A RESOLUTION TO WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND AUTHORIZE A CONTRACT WITH DELTA DENTAL TO PROVIDE DENTAL INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR CITY EMPLOYEES FOR 2023

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-190-2022

RESOLUTIONS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

[RES-22:196](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FY22 RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES PILOT PROGRAM GRANT.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, in Public Works, we had a pretty lengthy discussion about the bike trail headed down to ASU and Craig informed us that the bicycle trail would be going over the Marion Berry. Can you tell us how this bridge fits in with that whole plan? Mayor Copenhaver said, this is an actual, if you notice the 2022 Reconnecting Communities grant. This is a brand new grant opportunity that became available and with the downtown partners and Arkansas State University. It has been a long discussion on a walkway overpass over BNSF and UP Railroads connecting Arkansas State University to our Creath Street. And, in doing so, this is just an opportunity for us to apply for this grant. We are also going to look for other ways as well Councilmember to partner with other partners in the community. And, so, if we were able to receive this, then that would apply toward that. But, this is a signature piece in the City of Jonesboro. I heard earlier in the meeting that there was discussion about going under that and I think our City Engineer also discussed that, the concerns that we had. Councilmember Moore said, that is correct. Mayor Copenhaver said, Congressman Crawford is well aware of this opportunity as well and we are working with Arkansas State University to see if there is the partnership that can be arrived. But, this is a new grant that basically the Community Development Department came out with. And, so, we wanted to apply for that opportunity while that opportunity was there.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said, I just wanted to point out that this flyover was also in the connectivity plan that we adopted a few years ago. It was also a key part of that ASTATE link that was adopted. Beverly mentioned making things a showcase and this flyover would be a showcase of the trail between ASU and downtown and would definitely be something that would attract people not only to our city but I think it would also attract students to ASU. But, just looking back to the connectivity plan right now, I just pulled it up from the city's website, you know you start seeing like on page 23 of it, the flyaway is in there or the flyover. Mayor Copenhaver said, and the current process as well as many of you all are aware that hopefully in the next couple of weeks, we will be making an announcement of the finalization of the Creath Street Connection to Arkansas State University and over to the overpass. So, once this is achieved, then this would cut off that section of that from Creath and go straight over to the street at ASU.

Councilmember Moore said, as you know, Ms. Williams and I have advocated for a pedestrian walkover at Fisher Street for quite some time. Are we locked in at Hope Street? Is that a better location than the Fisher Street crossing? Mayor Copenhaver asked, for the connectivity for Arkansas State University and downtown? Councilmember Moore stated, for this flyover bridge. Mayor Copenhaver said, yes sir. Councilmember Ann Williams stated, Grants and Community Development Director Regina Burkett had mentioned a grant that she was applying for. I was a little confused as to what that involves as far as there at Fisher Street because it was chosen there because of the proximity to the Salvation Army for example. We would cross over those tracks. Mayor Copenhaver said, Councilman, we are actually in discussion next week with ARDOT with the possibility of additional overpass requests and that would be one of those overpass requests that is on our agenda. We have two, Gee Street and that. So, that would be another pedestrian overpass, yes. Councilmember Moore said, so with that in mind, Mayor, I know that we have a finite life span on Bridge Street. What is the date that Bridge Street is no longer effective? Mayor Copenhaver asked, Craig, do you have that information available? Councilmember Moore stated, I

think that is coming up on us pretty quick. Mayor Copenhaver said, we have been doing, Councilmember, construction updates. I think they have given us as well some of the pillars that we have had to redo, but Craig, if you want to finish that. Engineering Director Craig Light said, I don't know if there has been a set date of when Bridge Street can no longer be used for vehicular traffic. The bridge is coming up on being 100 years old and at some point that we spent close to \$800,000 rehabbing it ten years ago. It gets inspected every two years by ARDOT. It is in good shape right now. But, how long that is we will just have to see.

Councilmember Moore asked, Craig, when we did the seismic retrofit on Bridge Street, there was a date that that bridge became functionally obsolete. There was a time that the Highway Department talked about they were going to give us in seismic updates on that gave us an extension to that time. And, at that point, we talked about when that became a reality, we might use that bridge as a pedestrian over cross. Mr. Light said, I don't recall ARDOT giving a date that it was going to be functionally obsolete. We did some seismic retrofits to it. Councilmember Moore said, that is correct. Mr. Light said, it is not a fully seismic bridge. We did a few things as a part of the rehab of it, but there were some significant structural issues with it that we corrected back when that earlier work was done. But, to my recollection, there was no set date that it would become obsolete and unusable. It is just knowing that it is coming up on being 100 years old. We can't add any lanes to it the way that bridge is constructed. It has structural members that they basically have concrete veneer on them. So, it would be difficult to add additional travel lanes to it. So, to get vehicles across more efficiently from downtown to north, we are going to have to find another bridge location. And, at some point, it is not going to be economical to keep maintaining a 100 year old bridge, and, at that point, it becoming a pedestrian facility. That is my recollection of that work. Councilmember Moore said, well, my recollection was when we did the retrofit, it bought us 20 years. And, at the end of that 20 years span, we discussed that being turned into a pedestrian bridge and used as a pedestrian walkway in order to connect ASU and then we were going to have to find some other way over the tracks. So, what we are saying is we are going to build a bridge at Hope Street, a pedestrian walk through if we are approved for the grant? And, then if we quit using the bridge where it is at now, we would have a second crossing there, what would we be thinking about for automobile traffic because we had talked about it at Patrick Street, having a Patrick Street crossing also at one time. Are we still thinking about having a vehicular crossing at Patrick across the Hedger Brothers property? Mr. Light said, yes, that is the bridge that the Mayor mentioned just earlier that we submitted a TIGER grant application for it back in 2016 and didn't receive funding at that time. But, we have dusted off that plan and with all of the funding that is out there that is something that we are looking for an avenue to fund that project. But, you know, we would need that before Bridge Street would be taken off line. Councilmember Moore said, well sure. Mr. Light said, and, then as was mentioned earlier, our trail plan, the Bridge Street Bridge would be for the northern link of the trail that would go out to Northside Park. The name of that particular link trail escapes me at the moment, but you would have that bridge basically taking you north to Northside Park from downtown at that point. And, you would have that other bridge that would take you to University for pedestrian ways.

Councilmember Moore stated, I just want to make sure that we are talking about the big picture here. We have got to have an automobile crossing. We already have an automobile crossing that can be a pedestrian crossing. Now, we are talking about spending another \$1.5 million on another pedestrian crossing. I don't want to turn around and allocate money to improve Bridge Street again, if we have already spent \$800,000 on it just four or five years ago and I know there was a date on when that bridge was no longer going to be used, so, that's just me. Mayor Copenhaver said,

well, Councilman, your concerns are valid. We have a meeting with Wednesday with Director Tudor to discuss two opportunities and one of them is Patrick Street. Councilmember Moore said, the only thing I was thinking was \$8 million would go a long ways on that ground to build an automobile crossing at Patrick Street. Mayor Copenhaver said, that grant that we are going after is 100% funded by ARDOT. Councilmember Moore said, I got you. That was the only thing question I had and that is why I pulled it from the Consent Agenda so we could have a discussion.

Councilmember David McClain stated he had a question. I want to make sure that I am clear. So, Marion Berry Parkway will be used as part of the trail system? Councilmember Joe Hafner said, for right now. Mayor Copenhaver stated, for right now. Councilmember McClain stated, for now. Councilmember Moore stated, for the bicycle. Councilmember McClain said, so, if we are approved for this, we will use the flyover as our pedestrian and potentially could still have another pedestrian walkway. Mayor Copenhaver stated, that is correct. Councilmember McClain asked, so will Marion Berry go back to being five-lanes if this is approved? Mr. Light said, we are taking the trail to the southern end of the Marion Berry Bridge. I'm not aware of any changes that ASTATE is planning on doing to the Marion Berry Overpass. Councilmember McClain said, okay. Mr. Light stated, it is their roadway and their decision on whether or not there would be changes made to that. We are just making the connection to Marion Berry so pedestrian and bicyclists will have a way to get to the University as a stop gap until this other project is funded. Councilmember McClain said, so, this could be potentially, the Marion Berry, could potentially be a temporary fix. Mr. Light shook his head in agreement. Councilmember McClain said, okay, thank you.

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

Aye: 10 - Brian Emison; Charles Coleman; Chris Moore; Ann Williams; David McClain; Seth Speer; Joe Hafner; LJ Bryant; Mitch Johnson and John Street

Absent: 2 - Charles Frierson and Chris Gibson

Enactment No: R-EN-191-2022

[RES-22:199](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ENTRY INTO AN AGREEMENT TO ISSUE BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASSISTING IN THE FINANCING OF INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES WITHIN THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO BE LEASED TO CAMFIL USA, INC. OR ITS AFFILIATE, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, INCLUDING PARTICULARLY AMENDMENT 65 TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION AND THE MUNICIPALITIES AND COUNTIES INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT REVENUE BOND LAW.

Attachments: [Exhibit A. Camfil 2022](#)

Councilmember Chris Moore said, Ms. Attorney did you say 4:30 p.m.? What was the time on that public hearing, 4:30 p.m.? City Clerk April Leggett said, Councilman Moore, I believe the Bond Counsel has gotten with us to allow that public hearing to take place at City Hall in the meeting room outside of HR at 4:30 p.m. on November 15, 2022 because they will be doing some construction work with our wiring in the council chambers and we will be meeting City Council wise at the Nettleton Performing Arts on November 15th. Councilmember Moore said, I got you. My agenda just said 5:25 p.m. and I saw that crossed out and saw 4:30 p.m. and wanted to make sure that was the right time.

The public hearing is to be held at City Hall in the conference room on the first floor at

4:30 p.m. on November 15, 2022. The Public Safety Council Committee meeting is to be held at 5:00 p.m. and the City Council meeting is to be held at 5:30 p.m. on November 15, 2022 at the Nettleton Performing Arts Center. The change of location is due to work being done to the Council Chambers which makes it inaccessible for an extended period of time.

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

Aye: 10 - Brian Emison; Charles Coleman; Chris Moore; Ann Williams; David McClain; Seth Speer; Joe Hafner; LJ Bryant; Mitch Johnson and John Street

Absent: 2 - Charles Frierson and Chris Gibson

Enactment No: R-EN-192-2022

6. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-22:042](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES, FROM R-1 TO RM-8 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1601 GRANGER AS REQUESTED BY WILLIAM CONRAD

Attachments: [Staff Summary - C.C.](#)
[Plat](#)
[application](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-22:042 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

[ORD-22:043](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR UNDEFEATED, INC., D/B/A LA CASCADA MEXICAN RESTAURANT AND GRILL OF JONESBORO, INC. TO BE LOCATED AT 5510 SOUTHWEST DRIVE, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

Attachments: [La Cascada Mexican Restaurant & Grill_Redacted](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-22:043 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[ORD-22:041](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM AG-1 TO C-4 LOU FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT SOUTHWEST DRIVE AND EVAN DRIVE AS REQUESTED BY HORIZON LAND SURVEYING ON BEHALF OF THREE SISTER LAND DEVELOPMENT, LLC

Attachments: [Application](#)
 [H22-137 Three Sisters Rezoning plat](#)
 [Staff Summary - C.C.](#)
 [Certified Mail Receipts](#)

Held at second reading

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-22:040](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 TO RM-12 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT THOMPSON DRIVE AND SOUTHWEST DRIVE AS REQUESTED BY JEREMY MOORE

Attachments: [Staff Summary - C.C.](#)
 [Application](#)
 [Plat](#)
 [Valley View Superintendent Letter](#)
 [Apartments - Site Plan](#)
 [Rezoning Sign](#)
 [Publication Receipt](#)
 [VV Letter from Superintendent 10062022](#)

Councilmember Chris Moore recused himself from discussion and voting on ORD-22:040 due to the fact that Jeremy Moore is his brother.

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

Aye: 9 - Brian Emison; Charles Coleman; Ann Williams; David McClain; Seth Speer; Joe Hafner; LJ Bryant; Mitch Johnson and John Street

Absent: 2 - Charles Frierson and Chris Gibson

Recused: 1 - Chris Moore

Enactment No: O-EN-046-2022

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported on the following:

We hosted a meeting a couple of weeks ago with guests representing more than 15 nonprofit organizations. I want to thank everybody for getting together providing an opportunity in our community for the homeless. It's a complex job because, as you know, homelessness is not a one-size-fits-all problem. I am very proud of all the people and volunteers who want to help with this nationwide problem right here in Jonesboro. And, I will keep you updated as the progress of this committee goes.

Earlier, I heard in the previous meeting, comments about speed tables and I just wanted Council to hear that I am very pleased with how we have proceeded forward with the Union Street tables. I know that it was a very timely endeavor for Union Street.

Number one, the construction of that is a very thick road and so it did take time, but, as far as the citizens in the community, I have heard nothing. I have had one complaint in the city office over the past four months of that. And, also, on Matthews, listening to all of the employees of St. Bernards Hospital, which there are about 3,500 employee crossings a day on Matthews. That has really helped and hopefully made that much safer for the employees of St. Bernards Hospital. And, we have also put several in throughout the community and the community is expressing interest as well. So, I will keep you informed of the progress of that as that goes.

Pet adoptions are also needed. We have had a decline in our pet adoptions since Covid. Animal Control is having to put down dogs that should not be facing this ending. And, I know that some families are going through tough financial times. Sam's Club has donated a pallet of dog food to the city to help care for these animals while we still have them. And, I want to thank them personally for that. Some of their staff came out and volunteered one day after seeing our needs and sent a pallet of puppy food as well. I am pleased to say that Animal Control does have a Facebook page. To bring home a new family member, please go to that page. And, I know everyone would love to have an additional dog in their family. Also, for the community, Animal Control is hosting a \$10 rabies shot clinic on November 12, 2022, but you have to write NAFAhelp@gmail.com to pre-register by 6:00 p.m. next Monday.

We had a little rain and I will say little rain the past two weeks. So, thank heavens, our burn ban has been lifted. To let you know how serious times are during a burn ban, our Fire Department was called out 700 times in October. Now, those are not all fires, but many of them were. When things get dry, we saw the burn ban had to be issued so we all need to be careful and obey the law.

I do want to apologize. In our last City Council meeting, I failed to mention an organization and a church, Southwest Church of Christ in our community. I failed to mention them and I wanted to say thank you for their annual project overflow city-wide effort to help people all over this for the City of Jonesboro. It was very productive once again. It is inspiring to see the work that this church does and they continue to help fill a need and void in our community. I want to say thank you to all of their members that participated.

Election Day is next Tuesday and I want everyone to vote. The Annex is open between now and then, so you don't have to wait. Go make your voice heard and don't forget the JET bus route will take you to and from the early voting site if you need transportation.

As I mentioned earlier, ARDOT Director Lorie Tudor and Commissioners came to Jonesboro last month to celebrate with us the completion of several projects that state has done on our behalf. We appreciate the millions spent to improve highways, build overpasses, and ease traffic flow in Jonesboro, but we aren't done. We have scheduled meetings for the future to start working on future projects in Little Rock next week.

The Forum had a little water issue Monday morning and it is an ongoing problem that our building maintenance team works on regularly. So, I want to thank Ronnie Shaver and his team for their dedication to the Forum and the Foundation of Arts.

Code Enforcement has had many issues that they have had to handle and under the direction of Scott Roper, I am really pleased with their efforts. In October, they cited 124 inoperable vehicles in public view. Those who have inoperable vehicles are given written notice with 30 days to get the vehicle mobile or moved before they come back

to issue a citation.

The City Sanitation and Code Enforcement Departments will have a drop point at the intersection of Gee Street and Washington Avenue from 8:00 a.m. until noon this Saturday. We plan to do this monthly in different parts of the community. This is for dropping off, not your leaves or yard waste and not flammable paint items, but everything else will be taken.

Spotlights in the trees at Craighead Forest Park are up and will be lit the first week of Thanksgiving. So, get out there and see them and enjoy the beauty. I think they are going to add color if I am not mistaken. Also, the Christmas at the Park event is being put together at Joe Mack. So, our Parks Department is busy preparing for the holiday season now and City Stars Soccer has finished its season and football is in its final week countdown.

Finally, I want to honor the memory of a former Police Chief Oscar Medlock who passed away over the weekend. I extend my own and the city's admiration to Chief Medlock's loved ones and honor his service one last time.

[COM-22:051](#)

CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OVERVIEW,
SEPTEMBER 2022

Attachments: [September 2022 Financials](#)

Filed

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember John Street said, I just want to thank Mrs. Parker for all of her hard work and her presentation to the Council this evening. I think it is visible throughout the city that things are getting a little bit better. I think that there is still work to do, but they are a lot better than they were. I do wish we could do better enforcement of trailers without tarps or covered trailers that are on their way to the landfill. I mean I personally pick up stuff where they bounce at my intersection. It is not a lot of stuff, but I have to maintain it or it would look terrible. But, if we could hawk it a little bit better, maybe make people aware of it. Also, I know every band in this area, and in fact, in this state participated in the Arkansas Band Competition, Marching Competition in Little Rock at War Memorial Stadium yesterday. I don't know how everybody else did, but I know I guess I am a little bit biased, my granddaughter is with the Valley View Band. They did an outstanding job. I think they placed 7th out of 19. It is the best performance that the Valley View High School Band has ever had. They work hard, those young men and women. I mean they worked all through the summer heat stuff and I know every other school did too. I wish I knew all of the results, but if you see kids you know they are in the band, give them a pat on the back because they really do well. I think it helps build the character of those kids just like any other athletic event and I am very proud of them. Mayor Copenhaver said, I concur. I think we had 20+ bands at the Arkansas State University Band Competition as well and it is great for those bands to come to the venue that Jonesboro offers. I think Jonesboro High School also had a competition. Councilmember Street said, that was awesome. There were people from three states that came to that, Tennessee, Missouri, and Arkansas. It was well represented by a lot of bands. Mayor Copenhaver said, absolutely. I know a lot of bands did participate in that and I think we also had several state volleyball opportunities. I think Brookland won the state title. I'm not sure about Valley View. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, they were the runner-up. Mayor

Copenhaver said, we had a lot going on, but I totally concur. So, thank you for your comments.

Councilmember LJ Bryant said, three things somewhat unrelated. I think I sent the Mayor and email. Thanks to you and your staff and Police Department and others for helping make the 5K Race for the Cure successful and safe. And, I think it is probably the safest race we have had since I have been racing in Jonesboro so I know that really means a lot. And, I know we talked about it in Public Works, the lines on Cate look really good too. I jokingly said the Seinfeld episode where Kramer went and grabbed some buckets of paint, so I think we should, we need to keep that going. And, then my last comment, I had a fierce town hall today by invitation to read to a group of like 25 second graders. And, I had no idea that one teacher taught 25 second graders. I said, do you have some staff that helps you or something and so she assured me that she had to do it all by herself. But, they were really bright kids and it really just gives you some perspective about what we should be doing and the community we should be building. And, those kids will be in the workforce in 10 or 12 years. I know Bill Harrison talked some recently in a public forum about the percentage of kids that are reading below grade level so we have got teachers and public educators and parents and a lot of people working hard on that issue and something we all need to consider. What can we do to support the schools and support the kids so we can prepare them for the future? Mayor Copenhaver said, good comment. How many books did you have to read? Councilmember Bryant said, well, so there was a great debate. I read about two or three and had questions about the books and what happened to the characters and why didn't she die when that happened and so they were very inquisitive, smart kids. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I only had to do two. Councilmember Bryant said, okay. Mayor Copenhaver said, I only had to do one. Councilmember Bryant said, you got off real easy Mayor. Mayor Copenhaver said, I think the amazing thing is and I did first grade as well and these students, a lot is challenged. A lot is put on our young students when it comes to education. And, in first grade, next month, they are going to have to read a paragraph. Think about that. And, so, it has come a long way since I was in school, but a lot is put on that. So, parents at home too, it is a challenging effort for our youth. So, thank you for your efforts.

Councilmember Ann Williams said, yes, I have a couple of things. As I indicated previously, I am very appreciative to Alec Farmer, our Highway Commissioner. I had contacted him in regard to our assisting us with the pedestrian crosswalk at State Street and Johnson. And, he, in turn, had Brad Smithee, our District Engineer, call and indicate what we needed to get a safe solution for that which is what they are recommending and what the Garver Study in 2019 recommended after the failure of the previous crossing was the HAWK, the pedestrian assisted hybrid beacon, which is pedestrian activated and creates a steady red light. And, not a flashing light, a steady red light upon being activated and this is what they, in their opinion, is the safest thing at this point as far as the technology that is available. And, they have five of these in Fayetteville now. And, so, Mr. Smithee and Farmer did as far as email to all of us instructions as far as reinitiating our request for a pedestrian crossing which it involves some plans submitted by our engineer and I think Mr. Light. I have spoken to him and I think he has completed his portion of that and all we need now is a letter from the Mayor's office requesting this. So, I assume we will be able to go ahead and get that initiated this week I assume. And, I guess that is right. Mr. Light, is that correct? Engineering Director Craig Light said, yes. Councilmember Williams said, and so, I am hoping that we can get that sent out as soon as possible because I think this will be a good solution to this and as I have indicated and as Mr. Street has indicated and Mr. Bryant has, once you see the people crossing, they are attempting to cross at State

Street, it is pretty, very much needed, a protected pedestrian crossing there. So, I am hoping we can get that initiated this week.

Councilmember David McClain said, hey Mayor, I did forget one item. Mayor Copenhaver said, yes sir. Councilmember McClain said, I need to suspend the rules and walk on ORD-22:044. Councilmember LJ Bryant said, second. Mayor Copenhaver said, I do have a motion on the floor to suspend and walk on ORD-22:044. All in favor say aye. Councilmember Chris Moore said, well, just a second here. We need discussion. Before we vote on that, was that approved unanimously by a council committee? Mayor Copenhaver said, yes. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, no. Councilmember McClain said, not the change, but the original ordinance was. Councilmember Moore said, any walk on has to be approved unanimously by a council committee. It doesn't matter what it is. So, we can't have a walk on, if this didn't go to a committee and get a unanimous vote according to page six of our city ordinances. Councilmember John Street said, yeah, that's true. Mayor Copenhaver said, okay. Councilmember McClain said, then I take back my motion. Mayor Copenhaver said, okay, that will work. Councilmember Moore said, it can be any committee so at the next council meeting, what do we meet right before, is that Public Safety? Councilmember Street said, yes. Councilmember Moore said, so, if we will put it on Public Safety Committee, we have a unanimous vote, we can bring it on that night and pass it all in that night. Mayor Copenhaver said, okay. Councilmember Moore said, okay. Mayor Copenhaver said, all right. City Clerk April Leggett said, I just had one question. Does it matter when you bring forth an ordinance that is a private club permit, you don't have to go through a committee first? City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I was wondering about that because they don't normally go through committee process. They come straight to council. Councilmember Moore said, I understand that. I will briefly read the three lines that govern this. It says any ordinance or resolution which was not included on the final agenda, may only be brought before the City Council after approval by unanimous vote of any City Council Committee with four or more members. The City Council by two-thirds vote at the regular City Council meeting must suspend the rules and bring the item on the floor for consideration. A Councilmember moving to suspend the rules and bring an item to the floor for consideration must state as a part of his motion the nature of the emergency requiring immediate action. Mayor Copenhaver said, okay. Ms. Duncan said, it is just an odd situation because it didn't have to go to committee originally. Councilmember Moore said, it is odd situation. That is correct. Mayor Copenhaver said, all right, we will approach that in a subcommittee meeting. Councilmember Moore said, the solution is we can handle it in Public Safety if Mitch will put it on the agenda, we can handle it in Public Safety and do it all in that one night with no objections. Mayor Copenhaver said, and that way it is on Legistar as well. Councilmember Moore said, that is correct. Councilmember Mitch Johnson said, let's just make sure and go ahead and make sure it is on there. Mayor Copenhaver said, you bet. Councilmember Moore said, thank you.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Payne, 622 W. Matthews, said, I would like to address the Council about signage and my understanding is that there was a limit to the size of signs for real estate signs and now we have political signs that are 4 feet by 8 feet and they put more than one. I have got a vacant lot next to my house and there are three 4x8 signs on that vacant lot and it blocks my view of the street. It blocks my view of the house next door. And, I just think that this, I called the Code Enforcement and asked them about the ordinance because I understood that the signage was a certain sign like 27 inches by 14 or something like that and they told me that it didn't apply to political signs. I think if you have an ordinance on signage, that it should be an ordinance on signage and it

doesn't make any difference whether it is a political sign or one that is for real estate or one that is for a yard sale or whatever you have got. I think it should be a uniform thing and I would appreciate the City Council looking into that. Mayor Copenhagen said, okay. Mr. Payne said, thank you very much for your time. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you Mr. Payne for your comments. Councilmember Chris Moore asked, Madam Attorney, Mr. Payne called me and I told him I didn't know the answer. Is he correct in that assumption that political signs have some particular carve out? Mayor Copenhagen asked, do you know anything Brian? City Attorney Carol Duncan said, Roper is apparently coming forward and he may have taken that call. I know that we cannot delineate based upon the message in the sign, but I am not sure. There is a temporary versus permanent. Code Enforcement Director Scott Roper said, a political sign isn't any different than any other sign. Ms. Duncan said, right. Mr. Roper said, I will get with him afterwards and if it is a sight issue, it is very difficult at this time of year with as many political signs that are out to you know, obviously sight obstructions are things that we are very concerned with. But, there are so many signs that it is difficult to handle if we were looking at those on an individual basis. Mayor Copenhagen said, and Scott, I do understand that most of the signs do have to be back basically we have always used the telephone pole as a reference point that way it wouldn't block vision and things like that. Mr. Roper said, yes sir. Mayor Copenhagen asked, Brian, do you have anything with your knowledge on that on political signs? Chief Administrative Officer Brian Richardson said, I just wanted to kind of get some clarification and I think maybe what Ms. Duncan and Director Roper were talking about were if there was a size limit requirement and I think what the gentleman spoke about was possibly a vision obstruction issue and if that is the case, I don't think it matters how small the sign is. If there is a vision obstruction, there is a vision obstruction. Ms. Duncan said, right. Mr. Richardson said, I think that is what Mr. Roper was mentioning that he would go out and look at it and so it doesn't really matter if it is covered by code or not as far as the size of the sign goes. You can't create a visual impediment that would put somebody in danger from my understanding. Ms. Duncan said, right and I will look and reread it, but I believe the only designation we can make is between a temporary and a permanent sign. We can't talk about the topic that is on the sign because that has been ruled upon by many cases. Councilmember Moore said, that is correct. Ms. Duncan said, but I can take a look at what we have as far as temporary signs. Councilmember Moore said, well, when Mr. Payne stopped by and asked me about that, what my comments were we couldn't regulate the message. We did have a sign ordinance that controlled the size of the sign and it couldn't be out on public right-of-way. And, in that conversation, I also expressed concern every once in a while about every four or five years, the real estate signs get bigger and bigger and all of a sudden we have double sheets of plywood at the corner of Main and Nettleton and all over that are advertising the property for sale and we have to reel that in. So, that lead to the conversation of do political signs fall because Mr. Payne is not objecting to a sight impairment at an intersection. The lot next door to his house has large 4x8 signs built right beside Mr. Payne's house. Mr. Richardson said, I apologize. I thought that he referenced that it is hard to see around so that was my main thing that if that is the case, it doesn't matter what is on the sign, an impediment is an impediment. Ms. Duncan said, so we will just need to take a look at our ordinance. Councilmember Moore said, that is what I told him. We just need to take a look at it and make a determination so it can be applied equally. Ms. Duncan said, right. Councilmember Moore said, that's good. Thank you. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you Brian. Thank you Mr. Payne.

11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilperson Joe Hafner, seconded by Councilperson

Mitch Johnson, that this meeting be Adjourned. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 10 - Brian Emison; Charles Coleman; Chris Moore; Ann Williams; David McClain; Seth Speer; Joe Hafner; LJ Bryant; Mitch Johnson and John Street

Absent: 2 - Charles Frierson and Chris Gibson

_____ **Date:** _____

Harold Copenhaver, Mayor

Attest:

_____ **Date:** _____

April Leggett, City Clerk