



# City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center  
300 S. Church Street  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

## Meeting Minutes Finance & Administration Council Committee

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Tuesday, September 27, 2022

4:00 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

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### 1. Call To Order

### 2. Roll Call by City Clerk April Leggett

**Present** 6 - Charles Coleman; Ann Williams; David McClain; LJ Bryant; Joe Hafner and Brian Emison

**Absent** 1 - John Street

### 3. Approval of minutes

[MIN-22:081](#)

MINUTES FOR THE FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 13, 2022

**Attachments:** [Finance Minutes 09132022](#)

**A motion was made by Councilperson David McClain, seconded by Councilperson Brian Emison, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 5 - Charles Coleman; Ann Williams; David McClain; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - John Street

### 4. New Business

#### *RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED*

[RES-22:159](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 204 WOODROW, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144073-23400, OWNED BY NEWEL COOTS

**Sponsors:** Code Enforcement and Finance

**Attachments:** [204 Woodrow](#)  
[Affidavit of Statutory Lien 204 Woodrow](#)

*Chairman Joe Hafner said this one is for \$175*

**A motion was made by Councilperson David McClain, seconded by Councilperson Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - John Street

[RES-22:160](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 212 N ALLIS, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144181-37100, OWNED BY HAFFORD, WILLIAM T & SHARON

**Sponsors:** Code Enforcement and Finance

**Attachments:** [212 N Allis](#)  
[Affidavit of Statutory Lien 212 N Allis](#)

Chairman Joe Hafner said this one is for \$275

**A motion was made by Councilperson David McClain, seconded by Councilperson Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - John Street

[RES-22:161](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 339 N FISHER, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144181-13400, OWNED BY HAFFORD, WILLIAM T & SHARON

**Sponsors:** Code Enforcement and Finance

**Attachments:** [339 N Fisher](#)  
[Affidavit of Statutory Lien 339 N Fisher](#)

Chairman Joe Hafner said this one is for \$175

*Councilmember L.J. Bryant said I know I had this conversation sometime back and seems like we talked about it, but Brian have we looked anymore to whether we can bump some of this stuff up or are we charging the most that we can? It just seems like we have a lot of staff time in it for just \$275. Chief Administrative Officer Brian Richardson approached the podium and said yes, I know Code Enforcement has been researching their actual total costs invested in each of these and see if they can justify an increase. After talking with the city attorney we're allowed to raise fees within a certain parameter. We just have to be able to show that is a true cost to the city, so they're putting together some of that documentation that to try and show how many hours go into each of these liens. I look forward to hopefully bring something forward on that in the near future. Councilmember L.J. Bryant said we all make like \$30 a day and you took a fractional time and the city clerk's fractional time, I think there's a lot more indirect cost there than we realize. Brian said true, we need to make sure that our fines directly reflect the amount of energy that goes into each of these.*

**A motion was made by Councilperson David McClain, seconded by Councilperson Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - John Street

[RES-22:162](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 500 WOODROW, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144073-18400, OWNED BY ANTHONY MGDILE

**Sponsors:** Code Enforcement and Finance

**Attachments:** [500 Woodrow](#)  
[Affidavit of Statutory Lien 500 Woodrow](#)

*Chairman Joe Hafner said this one is for \$215*

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

**Aye:** 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - John Street

[RES-22:163](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 506 ELIZABETH, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144141-03501, OWNED BY MAY, BILLY & PATTIE

**Sponsors:** Code Enforcement and Finance

**Attachments:** [506 Elizabeth](#)  
[Affidavit of Statutory Lien 506 Elizabeth](#)

*Chairman Joe Hafner said this one is for \$415*

**A motion was made by Councilperson Ann Williams, seconded by Councilperson David McClain, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - John Street

[RES-22:164](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 616 E OAK, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144191-17500, OWNED BY JOYCE SCARBOROUGH

**Sponsors:** Code Enforcement and Finance

**Attachments:** [616 E Oak](#)  
[Affidavit of Statutory Lien 616 E Oak](#)

*Chairman Joe Hafner said this one is for \$175*

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

**Aye:** 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - John Street

[RES-22:165](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 816 HOOVER, JONESBORO, AR 72401-2155, PARCEL 01-144181-14800, OWNED BY ROBERT WHITAKER

**Sponsors:** Code Enforcement and Finance

**Attachments:** [816 Hoover](#)  
[Affidavit of Statutory Lien 816 Hoover](#)

*Chairman Joe Hafner said this one is for \$175*

**A motion was made by Councilperson Brian Emison, seconded by Councilperson Ann Williams, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - John Street

[RES-22:166](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 900 HOOVER, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144181-15700, OWNED BY CLEOPHUS BRYANT

**Sponsors:** Code Enforcement and Finance

**Attachments:** [900 Hoover](#)  
[Affidavit of Statutory Lien 900 Hoover](#)

*Chairman Joe Hafner said this one is for \$265*

**A motion was made by Councilperson Brian Emison, seconded by Councilperson David McClain, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - John Street

[RES-22:167](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 902 OAK, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144191-23600, OWNED BY JAN ANDERSON

**Sponsors:** Code Enforcement and Finance

**Attachments:** [902 E Oak](#)  
[Affidavit of Statutory Lien 902 Oak](#)

*Chairman Joe Hafner said this one is for \$175*

**A motion was made by Councilperson Brian Emison, seconded by Councilperson Ann Williams, that this matter be Recommended to Council .**

**The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - John Street

[RES-22:168](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 915 OAK, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-143241-13800, OWNED BY DEGRICK EVANS

**Sponsors:** Code Enforcement and Finance

**Attachments:** [915 Oak](#)  
[Affidavit of Statutory Lien 915 Oak](#)

*Chairman Joe Hafner said this one is for \$350*

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

**Aye:** 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - John Street

[RES-22:169](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1014 S CULBERHOUSE, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144192-21300, OWNED BY CHARLES E NOELL JR.

**Sponsors:** Code Enforcement and Finance

**Attachments:** [1014 S Culberhouse](#)  
[Affidavit of Statutory Lien 1014 S Culberhouse](#)

*Chairman Joe Hafner said this one is for \$175*

**A motion was made by Councilperson Brian Emison, seconded by Councilperson Charles Coleman, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - John Street

[RES-22:170](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1020 HOPE, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144173-04400, OWNED BY GARY TOOMBS

**Sponsors:** Code Enforcement and Finance

**Attachments:** [1020 Hope](#)  
[Affidavit of Statutory Lien 1020 Hope](#)

*Chairman Joe Hafner said this one is for \$215*

**A motion was made by Councilperson Brian Emison, seconded by Councilperson David McClain, that this matter be Recommended to Council .**

**The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - John Street

[RES-22:171](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1305 OAKHURST, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-143133-18700, OWNED BY DLAN FRANKLIN, LLC

**Sponsors:** Code Enforcement and Finance

**Attachments:** [1305 Oakhurst](#)  
[Affidavit of Statutory Lien 1305 Oakhurst](#)

**A motion was made by Councilperson Brian Emison, seconded by Councilperson Charles Coleman, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - John Street

[RES-22:172](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1313 PARDEW, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144212-20200, OWNED BY MICHELLE NUTT

**Sponsors:** Code Enforcement and Finance

**Attachments:** [1313 Pardew](#)  
[Affidavit of Statutory Lien 1313 Pardew](#)

*Chairman Joe Hafner said this one is for \$275*

**A motion was made by Councilperson Brian Emison, seconded by Councilperson Charles Coleman, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - John Street

[RES-22:173](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1328 W HUNTINGTON, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-143133-18100, OWNED BY DKI, LLC

**Sponsors:** Code Enforcement and Finance

**Attachments:** [1328 W Huntington](#)  
[Affidavit of Statutory Lien 1328 W Huntington](#)

*Chairman Joe Hafner said this one is for \$175*

**A motion was made by Councilperson Brian Emison, seconded by Councilperson Charles Coleman, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - John Street

[RES-22:174](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1607 DUNCAN ROAD, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-143121-03200, OWNED BY KEVIN & TONYA LYLES

**Sponsors:** Code Enforcement and Finance

**Attachments:** [1607 Duncan](#)  
[Affidavit of Statutory Lien 1607 Duncan](#)

*Chairman Joe Hafner said this one is for \$340*

**A motion was made by Councilperson Brian Emison, seconded by Councilperson Ann Williams, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - John Street

[RES-22:175](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1805 FAIRLANE, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144223-18700, OWNED BY JOE E & SUZANNE E SIMPSON

**Sponsors:** Code Enforcement and Finance

**Attachments:** [1805 Fairlane](#)  
[Affidavit of Statutory Lien 1805 Fairlane](#)

*Chairman Joe Hafner said this one is for \$215*

**A motion was made by Councilperson Brian Emison, seconded by Councilperson Charles Coleman, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - John Street

[RES-22:176](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2101 KATHLEEN, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144271-22500, OWNED BY EDNA BOYD

**Sponsors:** Code Enforcement and Finance

**Attachments:** [2101 Kathleen](#)  
[Affidavit of Statutory Lien 2101 Kathleen](#)

*Chairman Joe Hafner said this one is for \$265*

**A motion was made by Councilperson Brian Emison, seconded by Councilperson David McClain, that this matter be Recommended to Council .**

**The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - John Street

[RES-22:177](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2215 WOOD STREET, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-143251-07200, OWNED BY INGRAM WILLA TRUST

**Sponsors:** Code Enforcement and Finance

**Attachments:** [2215 Wood](#)  
[Affidavit of Statutory Lien 2215 Wood](#)

*Chairman Joe Hafner said this one is for \$175*

**A motion was made by Councilperson Brian Emison, seconded by Councilperson Ann Williams, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - John Street

[RES-22:178](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4002 GRIGGS, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144273-19100, OWNED BY CORELOGIC

**Sponsors:** Code Enforcement and Finance

**Attachments:** [4002 Griggs](#)  
[Affidavit of Statutory Lien 4002 Griggs](#)

*Chairman Joe Hafner said this one is for \$390*

**A motion was made by Councilperson Brian Emison, seconded by Councilperson Ann Williams, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - John Street

[RES-22:179](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ACCEPT THE LOW BID AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ALL SCAPES IRRIGATION & LAWNCARE LLC FOR THE CRAIGHEAD FOREST PARK FISHING DOCK REBUILD PROJECT (2022:28)

**Sponsors:** Engineering, Parks & Recreation and Finance

**Attachments:** [Contract Documents 2022 28](#)

**A motion was made by Councilperson Brian Emison, seconded by Councilperson Charles Coleman, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**



**Aye:** 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - John Street

[RES-22:180](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO AMEND THE SALARY AND ADMINISTRATION PLAN AND AMEND THE 2022 BUDGET

**Sponsors:** E911, Human Resources and Finance

**Attachments:** [Non Uniform Job Titles by Grade 10.2022 \(002\)](#)

Chairman Joe Hafner said this is obviously very important. E911 and the volume of calls that they handle, the different types of calls they handle, and the sheer emergency nature of some of them, we need good qualified people over there because it can literally be a matter of life and death. Chief Administrative Officer Brian Richardson approached the podium and said I think it is a matter of life and death on a daily basis. They answer somewhere between the area of 200,000 phone calls a year, and right now they're down 30% on staffing there. This gets us close to that \$17.50-\$18 rate around us that everybody else around us are charging. While their call volumes are lower, we definitely need to get more people in there to help reduce the individual calls that each person takes, and after meeting with Director Sturch and Steve Purtee we feel like this is going to get us to a staffing level which we want. I know Ronnie has already had a couple conversations with a few dispatchers that maybe had left in the past that may be interested in coming back and some from other areas. We have this would help make us competitive. It was something we were looking at just bringing in with the budget, but when you start getting 20-25% down on staff and turnover, we have got to do something pretty soon. That's why we have brought this in the third quarter. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said you said it's getting close to \$15 an hour? Brian said no, this is in that \$17.50 to \$18 range that will allow us to be competitive with other cities and dispatch units. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said I have no problem with it I just wanted to make sure I understood correctly. Brian said right now starting pay is \$15.07 and a 109, and this will get us closer to that \$18 range. Some of the ones already there, obviously when they bring over the steps to this new pay grade it will be considerable more. Councilmember L.J. Bryant said Brian has our cost increased to our partners that contribute to the E911 center. Brian said we've talked to Judge Day about this and explained the need to him and he was certainly in support of us doing what we have to do to make sure we are adequately staffed over there. The truth is, right now we're working a lot of over time out there, so we are roughly paying the same or a little more per hour out there right now. You have people on the phone constantly for instead of eight hours they are on their ten to eleven hours. That's a very stressful job whenever every second you could be dealing with someone's most important matter. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said I didn't have a problem with it I just if you were just going to pay me \$15 an hour I would quit. Brian said sure I got you. Councilmember David McClain said back to L.J.'s question, does the county put in or help us in compensation? Brian said Yes, I believe it's based off of population and I think it's 71.29% break down. Councilmember L.J. Bryant said do we dispatch the University police? Brian said no. Councilmember L.J. Bryant said I just noticed their vehicles say call 911. E911 director Ronnie Sturch said we just send fire and EMS not the police. Brian said when you call 911 we want somebody to answer so we want to make that a well-funded position.

**A motion was made by Councilperson Brian Emison, seconded by Councilperson David McClain, that this matter be Recommended to Council .**

The motion PASSED with the following vote.

**Aye:** 5 - Charles Coleman; Ann Williams; David McClain; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - John Street

## 5. Pending Items

## 6. Other Business

*Councilmember Ann Williams said I want to bring up something at this meeting. This is something we touched on at the Public Services meeting last week. I'm very concerned about our lack of swimming facilities in Jonesboro. The fact that we've got a sports complex that will have a swimming pool contained there will only bring us up to two-thirds of the minimum recommended by the Parks and Rec Association for a city our size. The recommendation is one pool for every 25,000 people. Also, my concern is even with the sports complex and that pool, we won't have a pool that's accessible for children in North Jonesboro. With the size of our city we need to be aware of the fact that location of a pool is important, and the fact that we do not have the facilities that we need in North Jonesboro. When I hear discussion of a master plan completed at the end of 2023 then that means even when it's completed and reviewed we're looking at 2024 before we even start any construction. I personally don't feel we need to go another two summers without sufficient swim facilities for the children of this city. I think we have the capability of doing this, because people have told us that's what they want and what they need, and I don't think we need a master plan to do it. I think we need to go ahead and proceed with the plan on this. I think it's a good thing to have a master plan for parks and all, but I think this particular issue needs some action for us to begin. This is something I hear about a lot and I am loathed to tell people that we are waiting on a master plan at the end of 2023, we'll review it and then maybe. This is a large city geographically and we have children in the northern part of the city not learning how to swim, because they don't have access to swimming lessons and a place to practice their swimming. I think we are willingly handicapping a lot of kids by denying them that opportunity to learn a very important skill for life long health and for safety, because unless a child learns how to swim their always going to be at risk of drowning anytime their near a body of water. You can learn as an adult, but I just happen to know having taught swimming lessons, it's easier to teach children how to swim then it is adults. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said I made a couple phone calls and in the last couple of days I called Regina and was trying to get something started and I think they had already started on some plans. Grants Department Director Regina Burkett approached the podium and said we've been researching grants to see what funding may be possible to build a swimming pool. That is one that's difficult with not a lot of opportunity. We are trying to find something to make up the difference if we can. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said let me make a statement so I can be clear. I think what you are doing is absolutely great, but sometimes I wonder that when we give the Parks Department a lot of money and some of that money could be diverted. I don't know if that's something that can be done or not. I don't know if we need to increase the funds going to the Parks Department to relieve you, because what you do is great. I believe since I have been on Council we have gotten more grants with what you do then I have seen with anyone else in that position, but at the same time I think we need to go back and look at that budget a little and see what we can do for the Parks Department. It's strange you can build a water pad and I personally think we should have done a pool there before the water pad. Regina said we receive information on different grants. We look to see*

what's possible and what we can do for the community and that's how we're guided on what we're looking for. There are a lot of things that we want that we can't get covered by grant funding. We're always looking because we know the needs, the mayor talks to us often about what all we need in the community, so that's what we're looking for each time. If something comes up with just one word in it then we research it to see if it's something we can offer. Chairman Joe Hafner said I've had several conversations with Brian, the mayor, Tony, Steve and others about grants being good but there not always the answer when we're needing to get something done. That's why we're looking at the revenue bonds. We talked about coming up with a plan for some of our surplus reserves, and then the prepared food tax is going to be around. Obviously the sports complex is the first thing to get funded with it, but hopefully as we develop a plan on our priorities we can utilize the reserve, revenue bonds, and the prepared food tax. We shouldn't have to wait to get a grant to do the things we need to get done.

Councilmember L.J. Bryant said I'm rereading several cities budgets that are similar to our size, and the one I've studied lately is about half our size geographically and have about 50,000 people. They have the same number of fire stations as we do and they're spending about 18% on Parks O&M and we're spending about 8% on Parks O&M, so we underfund the Parks Department historically. This same city in Arkansas realized that they were only funding overlaying a mile of street once every 70 years and I imagine every city in Arkansas is in the same boat with that. I think there's some long-term funding concerns for Parks, Streets and other departments that we have to consider in addition to making sure we do these other important things as in this swimming pool. Councilmember David McClain said I was going to say another source of revenue would be the increase on our hotel. Chief Administrative Officer Brian Richardson approached the podium and said just to address a few things. I'm in agreement. We do have a lack of swimming pools in the city and I can't tell you why we don't have a pool in North Jonesboro, but I can tell you that is something that we are going to get serious about pretty quick and we are looking at where the best fit is and what kind of amenities may have to be included. There's several projects that if we want to see as a city we are going to have to come together and agree to use our money, because grants aren't always available or has stipulations that wouldn't work. It's mostly likely to put a pool in North Jonesboro we're going to have to be able to handle the financing on in-house or revenue bond situation. Councilmember Ann Williams said we could leverage franchise fees as an option. Brian said we can.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said the property that we have on Race Street and also the property that we have at Parker Park, has any investigation been done to see if one could be put on that piece of property? You've already got a park there, you already have the clientele. Again, I wish we would have a put a pool in there before we put the splash pad but it's done, but I think we need to go back and evaluate that because you can reconstruct stuff. I'm not saying to put a Olympic swimming pool but we need something. Brian said I do know the Parks Department have been looking at a layout of how a pool would fit on some of our existing properties with Parker Park being one of them. You do have some issues you would have to work through at Allen Park. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said I don't think the heaviness is needed to be put on Regina as far as I'm concerned, because we can't work off of grants all the time. The next time budget comes up we need to look at how we deal with the Parks Departments money. Brian said I agree with your sentiment. I think it's time that some of these projects either go or they don't, and I know that's one that is seriously being looked at. We just wrapped up a FQ process for financial services on the sports complex that went out to bid and part of that is discussions on what our options might be moving forward as a city with our franchise fees and some of our excess reserves. There are some projects that just need to be done. Councilmember Ann Williams said I would like to mention also that I think water pads and things like that are fun and fine and that can be used in connection to a pool but we need a pool

where children can learn how to swim. I think anything else is a great fun thing but we actually need a swim facility. Brian said I do think that one thing we have to keep in mind when we do start planning, actual layouts on pools in addition to the sports complex is, unfortunately the fund doesn't end when you put the last piece of concrete and paint on a pool, you're talking eight to ten staffers, a police presence at each pool and that's just something that we need to keep in mind. It's a long-term commitment to make sure that it lives up to the standards that we expect out of our Jonesboro facilities and especially our Parks facilities. We obviously take a lot of pride in that and Danny personally does, so whenever we do a project in parks we need to understand the commitment that we're agreeing to for staffing, up keep and maintenance and safety. Councilmember Ann Williams said depending on where we might locate a swimming facility in North Jonesboro we might have to address the issue of safe pedestrian crossing of Johnson. I think that is of most importance. There is a long stretch between Patrick and Marion Berry without a protected pedestrian crossing, because there's no signals between there. I've discovered that with direct experience that you really can't access Marion Berry by sidewalk on the south side of Johnson because the sidewalk beyond Melrose then turns into slippery slope of grass which isn't navigable by wheelchair, by stroller or anytime it rains by regular pedestrian. I think what everyone has come to believe is the natural spot of State Street and this is where that original attempt of the flashing pedestrian crossing was located and that seems to be the natural place for people to cross. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said I guess I don't understand the State Department understanding that's a heavy traffic walking area. I know they changed the speed limit to 35 but they're not doing 35, they're still doing 45 or 50 in that area. Brian said it is a bit of a complicated situation there. I will say that the fact that ARDOT agreed to drop that down to 35 mph is definitely a good sign and there's a strong communication between our Engineering Department, Mayor's office and ARDOT. We met with some representatives with ARDOT last week and that was one of the things that we discussed, and I followed up with Craig today and yesterday about some options there. I did express some concern about the half block sidewalk right before you get to University Loop and we would need to apply for a conditional permit for ARDOT to allow us to go in and put in that sidewalk, I don't know that we'll have too much problem with that. Councilmember Ann Williams said I would like to mention in regard to that slippery slop, I have seen a man in a wheelchair trying to cross Johnson and will have to wait in the middle turning lane to get across. That's a scary sight especially at night. Brian said I think the at night thing brings up something. The Finance Committee and later the Council, did approve for us to apply for a pretty sizable grant to significantly upgrade the lighting for pedestrian infrastructure along Johnson. In a perfect world, we'll get that grant and we can get with ARDOT and work something out on a pedestrian crossing and in a couple of years that street will look completely different. I just think we all need to keep our heads down and keep working and doing everything that we can to emphasize pedestrian safety on Johnson. Just looking at the spending up ticks and the sidewalks that the administration has taken under this last year shows that there is a commitment to pedestrian safety, and I expect that to just increase as far as the law will allow. Councilmember Ann Williams said I pulled up the Garver study that was released in early 2020 after the 2019 crash at the crosswalk there, and what was recommended along with lowering speed was installation of a HAWK, pedestrian hybrid beacon, which is activated by a pedestrian pushing a button and it causes a red light there. This now is suggested as an alternative over flashing lights because it activates a steady red light for a pedestrian when activated. They have five of these in Fayetteville including one that is at HWY 49B which is a five lane highway and it has a 35 mph speed limit, which is similar to Johnson. That was placed there because that is where pedestrians crossed for the nature trail that goes through. Once again, the Garver study said that in order to have

HAWK approved they recommend enforcement of the speed limit, so I think we need to see some enforcement in order to get approved for a HAWK system. Chairman Joe Hafner said I will say this on a personal note, I know there's some enforcement because my son got pulled over. Brian said we get a lot of calls about the speed trap on Johnson but now granted you can't catch everybody, but I try and look through the pull over reports on a weekly basis and Johnson is very consistently up at the top. I know we've reached back out to ARDOT to ask them if a HAWK system is something they would reconsider now that the speed limit is dropped and I don't think we have received a response back just yet. I do feel confident that through our MPO meetings and with the engineer Smithee they understand our concerns there. I do think it's important that we keep that open line of conversation with ARDOT and they continue to understand our concerns. We understand they have processes they have to follow but we also have pedestrians that we have to protect. Councilmember Ann Williams said I don't know but considering the placement of the pool is built in that northern sector there, we need to consider a traffic light at Scott Street. Research shows that having that slowing or calming effect would be good along that corridor as far as businesses and other things. I talked to Alan Pillow and he said from his studies showed there should not be many complaints about their trip on that corridor being forty seconds longer because of a light. Brian said I have figured out that it's hard to make everybody happy, so I think the best thing is to do what's the best thing for our residents. Councilmember Ann Williams said even Councilmember John Street mentioned this, that everyone should go try and cross Johnson and see what it's like. I had never attempted until recently and it's scary. I realized you can not cross it without having to stop in the middle lane at certain times. Brian said it's certainly a concern and we're going to continue to have those conversations to do everything that we can to increase safety there. Councilmember Ann Williams said I think the lighting is good there, but my concern is with the speed limit lowered and the lighting that there might be the assumption that we solved the problem, so I wanted to make it clear that we still needing crossings. Brian said it shouldn't be an either or situation. Councilmember L.J. Bryant said I just want to make two quick points on pedestrian safety. After Councilmember Ann Williams bringing it up I have been thinking about it some. When we are talking about walking a block or two there are a lot of people that are not healthy enough to walk that when it's 98 degrees and they're carrying their laundry or such. I think somethings the ones of us that are car centric forget how it could be because we are in a cooled car. It was great that ARDOT lowered the speed limit but still at that speed it's still hard to cross that many lanes of traffic. Councilmember Ann Williams said I get to thinking about a family of a mother, grandmother and a couple of children carrying laundry and having to stop in that middle lane and then continue on. I don't think it's a reasonable thing to do by asking them to go up to Marion Berry to cross. Brian said I do agree with you. Councilmember Ann Williams said I do have one more thing. I don't think it would hurt for us to revisit the impact fees, because that has been brought up before but maybe the timing wasn't good. I think I first brought that up in 2003 when Fayetteville enacted theirs and I believe that has been very successful for them. I believe there was a lot of pushback against it, but I'm thinking that judging the success of others impact fees that it would make sense for us to look at it. Councilmember L.J. Bryant said I would say as well. I've been thinking about that lately. When someone builds a new subdivision on the edge of town, most of our money is sales tax revenue and we get very little property tax revenue and what we do is dedicated to fire and police pension, so when a house is built our demand on services is much higher than the income attached to it. If some of those folks are moving from surrounding areas maybe we get some additional money when they move to town, sales tax on utilities and things of that nature. I think we have to provide a way in the long term, I can't imagine the strain on the sanitation, streets, fire and police and everybody else to provide those services without a funding

*mechanism and to Ann's point, everybody else does it. We need to study it and get on it. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said the only thing I will say is we do a lot of studying and see a little bit of action. Chairman Joe Hafner said I know with the impact fees you have to have a study done to quantify everything, because if not your impact fees won't hold water in court. I know at one time Derrel had some groups that do the impact study, and maybe it's time to get the study done and see what sort of options we have and us discuss it. Brian said I've kind of diverted to Derrel on impact fees and I do know he's looked into it, and Jonesboro is a little unique in the way of how we require you to handle your stormwater. Which is a funding mechanism for a lot of other cities. Impact fees doesn't have the same requirements that we do, so think we need to make sure what we want to look at and assess and what that value would be and what we plan to do with the actual revenues. You have to be specific on how all that is handled. Chairman Joe Hafner said and it would have to be used in that area. You can't have an impact fee in Southwest Jonesboro and use it in Southeast Jonesboro. Brian said you have to make sure whatever that litigation looks like that it's well written and is properly enforced and enacted. I will ask Derrel Smith and Craig Light if there's any further information gathered on that and truthfully get their opinion on it. If you're talking about a major shift in the way that we encourage or handle the development in the city of Jonesboro.*

## **7. Public Comments**

## **8. Adjournment**

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

**Aye:** 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - John Street