



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

APPEAL HEARING AT 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC SAFETY 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 (ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE) INITIATED AND CONFIRMED BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

Present 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent 1 - Chris Gibson

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

[COM-23:049](#)

MAYOR'S YOUTH ADVANCEMENT COUNCIL SPRING UPDATE

Attachments: [MYAC Report to City Council Spring 2024](#)

Mayor Copenhaver said, I am always proud to hear and see again our youth. We just had our meeting out at Craighead Forest. We had over 60 youth that attended and again, I am looking forward to our updates as we move off into the summer time and what the group is doing. So, Ms. Shelly would you like to start us off please.

Good evening everyone, my name is Roman Hart and I currently serve as the Vice President of this year's Mayor's Youth Advancement Council. I would like to start things off by thanking the Mayor, everyone on the City Council and everyone here today for their continued support of the Mayor's Youth Advancement Council. Those of you who aren't knowledgeable about our organization, our primary mission is to involve the youth on community issues and decisions, to advise the Mayor and City Council of Jonesboro of the youth's perspective and to empower young leaders to become involved in their community. Our council is comprised of local 9th through 12th graders from all of the various Jonesboro area schools. And, from there, our students are split up into five different taskforces which you will hear from tonight. They are City Beautification, Communications and Outreach, Diversity and Inclusion, Health and Safety and Planning and Engineering. This year the students of the MYAC have had countless opportunities to engage with our communities, contribute to local initiatives,

and just develop as young leaders. We are beyond excited to share with you our progresses as from the 2023-2024 school year. And, once again, I would like to say thank you for believing in the potential of the youth and empowering us to make a difference in our communities. All of that being said, I would like to turn things over to our Treasurer, Gwendolyn Hutton, to continue tonight's report. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you.

Good evening everyone, my name is Gwendolyn Hutton and I am the current Treasurer for MYAC. We currently have \$1,085.02 in our account. As a registered 501(3)(c), we are required by law to be completely transparent with our books, our profit and loss statements can be made available to you at any time upon request. Currently, we are brainstorming ideas for a fundraiser. Some of these ideas include a 5K fun run, a record launch party for a famous popstar, and sponsorships for our city launch which Planning and Technology will speak more about. I would also like to take this time to say thank you to those who purchased a pink trashcan. MYAC receives any proceeds over the actual cost of the container. For those who have yet to purchase one, they are still available. Please call Jonesboro City Collections or the Sanitation Department for more information. Thank you Mayor Copenhaver and the City Council. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Gwendolyn.

Good evening, my name is Tobin Shimmel. I am the secretary of the MYAC. We have taken official meeting minutes of all board and membership meetings as our 501(3)(c) bylaws, rules, and regulations state are necessary. I would be happy to make those available to you at any time upon request. Over the course of this school year, the MYAC has achieved 1,640 total service hours. Also, I am happy to report that we currently have 42 new members, 38 returning members, for a total of 80 members. Thank you Mayor Copenhaver and the City Council for your time and support. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you.

Good evening everyone, my name is Julia Young and I currently serve as the Deputy Parliamentarian for the MYAC. My job is to overall make sure that the MYAC follows all of our bylaws and to make sure that those bylaws remain current to our current events. These bylaws can be made available to you at any time upon request and there have been a few noteworthy changes to these bylaws. These include the rules that state rising freshmen may join the MYAC. Rising Seniors may not join the MYAC as new members. And, all members must obtain 20 volunteer service hours over the course of a school year to be in good standing. Lastly, board members must inform their deputies at least 24 hours in advance if they are going to be absent from an event or a meeting. We believe these changes will help the MYAC run more efficiently and effectively. A special thank you to Mayor Copenhaver and all of you who serve on the City Council. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you.

Roman Hart came forward to speak. I am also filling in for department heads who couldn't be here tonight so to speak. So, on City Beautification, Ava, unfortunately couldn't be with us, but this year they have worked on, they participated in the Great Arkansas Cleanup. There are still plans to paint bathrooms at Craighead Forest Park and a couple of crosswalks downtown and they also plan to have a large mural painting plan to do this summer. Thank you guys for your continued support. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you.

Hi, my name is Isabella Hirsch and I have had the great opportunity of being the director for the Communications and Outreach/Technology Taskforce. So, first, we work with several departments within the City of Jonesboro to help keep us with current and emerging technology as well as finding improved ways to help us and the city as a

whole. This year the Communications and Outreach Taskforce has worked so much on growing our social media presence because we are still kind of small and we have actually seen a lot of growth throughout this year. And, we see this when we also were looking at festivals like Boo in the Boro which was very successful and also our spring festival which I believe is our second time hosting it and there was a lot of people within the community who were there and for me that was very awesome to see the community involvement and me being able to help head these festivals was very big for me at least. And, then we also hosted a bingo day for the community in which we collected canned goods that were given to Veteran Services. Lastly, we are proud of the growth of our membership and the effort we put forth to share the news about the MYAC. Thank you Mayor Copenhaver and the City Council. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you.

Good evening, my name is Joanne Kim and I am the taskforce department director of Diversity and Inclusion. We work with local businesses, schools, and more to better understand and learn more about the vast diversity within our community. We arrange events and/or invite culturally diverse guest speakers to better understand the community MYAC serves. This year the Diversity and Inclusion Taskforce volunteered a cultural fair featuring different ethnicities and their unique characteristics. We volunteered at events such as the Valley View Fall Festival, helping the NEA Indian Association with their holiday Diwali and volunteered at the Project Care Job Fair for people with disabilities. Diversity and Inclusion hopes to hold Christmas Around the World in the coming year where everyone gets a chance to explore how other cultures celebrate winter holidays. We are also looking to build a database of scholarships open to graduating seniors with diverse backgrounds. Thank you Mayor Copenhaver and the City Council for your time and support. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you.

Good evening, my name is Sophie Jackson and I am the Taskforce Department Director of the Health and Safety Taskforce. We work with several departments in the City of Jonesboro that all have to deal with Health and Safety. We work to brainstorm and execute ideas with these professionals so we can better protect our community. This year the Health and Safety Taskforce focused on projects involving pedestrian and traffic safety as a main issue in the City of Jonesboro. We would like to create crosswalks and collaborate with City Beautification to paint these crosswalks, especially near our schools where we have lots of children. We were also going to add or create hygiene closets at all Jonesboro area schools so all children have access to necessities. We volunteer at the NEA Food Bank at least one time quarterly. Beyond this, we are beginning to come up with ideas such as care packages to go to cancer patients in our community both at NEA Hospital and St. Bernards. This winter we also plan to create something called a giving tree. We plan to put, of course in bags, clean and dry clothing that is a necessity to our community. Thank you Mayor Copenhaver and the City Council. Thank you for your support and your time. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you.

Good evening, my name is Hazim Rajab and I am the taskforce department director for Planning and Engineering. We will work with several departments within the City of Jonesboro as well as the Mayor himself to plan for what is to come. This year, the Planning and Engineering Taskforce worked on building a Jonesboro citywide app. This app is a much smaller and more user friendly version of the City of Jonesboro's website and it contains all information and forms that is most like commonly needed by students. And, we will also be holding a summer camp by the end of like this month at Jonesboro School District in Mr. Simmons class. And, it is to give younger students the opportunity to learn computer coding through hands on learning and peer-to-peer instruction. And, that is because like there is new laws requiring computer

science classes, so I thought that would help students be able to get a better opportunity and to get a better grade in those classes. Okay. Now, thank you Mayor Copenhaver and the City Council for your time and support. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you.

Shelly Anderson said, that concludes the report of the 2023-2024 Mayor's Youth Advancement Council unless you all have any questions. But, I would also like to say thank you personally from myself. This has been one of the greatest honors of my career to serve this council. So, thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you. Council, I can't say enough for these youth and I think you have seen over the last four years how they have advanced, not only the Mayor's Youth Advancement Council, but they have done this majority of the work on their own. We guide them in certain areas. But, this is very impactful for our community. Their ideas are very important and we are learning from each and every one of you. And, I am looking forward to next year as well. So, many of you are going to be leaders among that group and some have moved on for graduation. But, thank you again for what you are doing for our community. I am very impressed with the thousand hours of volunteer work, but more importantly, you are taking care of other youth in our community as well. You are engaging them and providing them hope. And, that is what I like to see. And, I want to say thank you very much and I appreciate all of the work that you have done in the past year. Looking forward to it next year. Thank you.

Read

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Councilmember Chris Moore motioned, seconded by Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman, to adopt the consent agenda with the exception of RES-24:046 and RES-24:047. All voted aye.

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

Aye: 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

[MIN-24:045](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MAY 7, 2024

Attachments: [CC Minutes 05072024](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-24:029](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ACCEPT A DRAINAGE EASEMENT FROM JOHN K. HOUSEHOLDER AND DEANA D. HOUSEHOLDER THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

Attachments: [Drainage Easement - Householder](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-038-2024

[RES-24:040](#)

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH ST. BERNARDS FOR SPONSORSHIP OF A BASEBALL FIELD AT JOE MACK CAMPBELL PARK

Attachments: [St. Bernards Sponsorship Agreement \(Joe Mack\)](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-039-2024

[RES-24:042](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AMENDED LEASE AGREEMENT WITH HYTROL CONVEYOR COMPANY, INC., TO CORRECT A MUTUAL MISTAKE AS TO THE DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY COVERED BY LEASES EXECUTED BY THE PARTIES IN 1969, 1973, AND 1988

Attachments: [Hytrol Lease Amendment](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-040-2024

[RES-24:043](#)

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH ROOFXSOLUTIONS FOR SPONSORSHIP OF ONE SOFTBALL FIELD AT THE SOUTHSIDE SOFTBALL COMPLEX

Attachments: [Sponsorship Agreement Southside RoofXSolutions](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-041-2024

[RES-24:044](#)

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH ROOFXSOLUTIONS FOR SPONSORSHIP OF ONE BASEBALL FIELD AT JOE MACK CAMPBELL SPORTS COMPLEX

Attachments: [Sponsorship Agreement Joe Mack RoofXSolutions](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-042-2024

[RES-24:045](#)

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO UTILIZE FEDERAL-AID TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM (TAP) FUNDS; AND, AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE FY24 TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM (TAP) THROUGH THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-043-2024

RESOLUTIONS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

[RES-24:046](#)

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO UTILIZE FEDERAL-AID RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM (RTP) FUNDS; AND, AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE FY24 RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM (RTP) THROUGH THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road, said, the reason why I pulled this is that I heard it, I think it was at the Finance meeting, and I heard the Higginbottom Trails and I thought where is that. It was said that it was over there along by where Home Depot is, where the creek is running along eventually to, I guess, to Craighead Forest Park. I know that we have a 16, I think it's a 16.9 multiuse trail, but I kind of feel like what we're doing in Jonesboro is that we've got trails everywhere and I was just wondering does the city have an actual, like a plan site of where we are putting these and that was my question that I needed to know. Mayor Copenhaver said, and just for record, that was actually pulled by a councilmember, not anyone in the audience, for discussion, but we do have a copy of exactly what you wanted to mention there. We can pass that out to council to show you the actual diagram of where that location of this is.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said, this is an item that was discussed at the Connectivity meeting, which was discussed and endorsed by the Connectivity Committee. And, also at the Finance meeting. I don't think there is anyone here tonight, but Mr. David Peacock, who lives in the area and is the president of a large manufacturer here in Jonesboro, he also expressed support for this project, not only because it would, for the benefit of a propriety to the people in that area and eventually tie into the Culberhouse Trail, but also, you know as we build trails, that helps attract people to Jonesboro. It helps employers. It helps everybody. So, I think this would be a very worthwhile project. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you councilman.

Chief Administrative Officer Brian Richardson said, I would just like to add, the Connectivity Committee actually presented and I know all of you all were here, but just for the public, a few weeks ago, the Connectivity Committee presented to both Public Services and the City Council. And, there is like a play-by-play map that shows the overall trail plan. It's kind of an interactive presentation that shows you how this piece fits into the bigger piece of the pie. So, if anybody wants to see that, I'm sure you can click back a couple of meetings and you can find it.

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

Aye: 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

Enactment No: R-EN-044-2024

[RES-24:047](#)

A RESOLUTION FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH RECOVERY INCORPORATED TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR PARKING LOT AND ENTRANCE MODIFICATIONS ACCORDING TO THE 2023 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

Attachments: [MOU Recovery Inc - ADA Parking lot](#)
[RES-23-099_CDBG2324](#)

Patti Lack, 4018 Forest Hill Road, said, this was another one I think that at the Finance meeting and so my question is that when I looked at the Recovery, Inc., I could not find it as a business in Jonesboro. And, so if I think of the word recovery, it's doing something health wise I would imagine. So, my question is, is that if it's doing business already, should it not have already been in ADA compliance already by doing business. And, if not, I'm glad that we've got funds to help it out, but are they already doing business and we are just catching up.

Maddie Williams, CDBG Project Manager, said, so, Recovery, Inc. actually provides services for people that are recovering from alcoholism and services for the family members that are needing that support. Currently their parking lot does not meet the ADA Compliance at all. The slope of the parking lot is so steep that members that are participating in those services, if they are wheelchair bound, they are not able to get up. And, there has been somebody that has actually gotten to the top of the parking lot and then their wheelchair rolled all the way back down and they could not get access to the facility. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Maddie.

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

Aye: 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

Enactment No: R-EN-045-2024

6. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-24:013](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 TO C-3 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5415 SOUTHWEST DRIVE AS REQUESTED BY JEREMY MOORE

Attachments: [Appeal Letter](#)
[Zoning Application](#)
[Zoning Mail Receipts](#)
[Zoning Plat](#)
[Staff Summary 1](#)
[MAPC Meeting Minutes](#)

Councilmember John Street said, Mayor, as you know, earlier this evening there was a hearing at 4:30 p.m. scheduled. Due to the lack of a quorum of City Councilmembers, that had to be cancelled. We couldn't take action on it. So, I would move that we postpone this ordinance indefinitely. Councilmember Joe Hafner seconded the motion. All voted aye.

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

Aye: 10 - Brian Emison;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

Recused: 1 - Chris Moore

[ORD-24:015](#)

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTED PURSUANT TO ACT 1112 OF 2017, AND APPLICABLE ABC REGULATIONS APPROVING THE RESTAURANT PRIVATE CLUB APPLICATION OF BRICK OVEN OF JONESBORO, INC. D/B/A LA TORCIA BRICK OVEN PIZZA AT 604 E. HIGHLAND DRIVE, JONESBORO, CRAIGHEAD COUNTY, ARKANSAS

Attachments: [Brick Oven Application Redacted](#)
[Publication Receipt](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember L.J. Bryant, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-24:015 by title only. All voted aye.

Councilmember Janice Porter said, the Jonesboro Sun indicated that this location will be close to the All Saints Lutheran Church and School. And, I was wondering if someone could quantify that for me exactly how close it is. Councilmember Chris Moore said, it used to be part of the property and they sold the property. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, yeah, they sold the property to them. So, they are aware of the situation. Councilmember Moore said, it is directly beside it. Councilmember Porter said, I see. Thank you. And, a second question, is there any philanthropic purpose of the organization because I didn't see that. I read the packet and there was no mention of any philanthropic activity and so I just wondered. Mayor Copenhagen said, we can get that answer to you. Councilmember Porter said, thank you. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you.

James Elwin Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, said, I drive through this area a lot. I do happen to remember about a week ago, about a week and a half ago, I guess it is now, going through there and actually had to find a detour route to get around there because of an accident. I do know this is a heavy traffic area and adding alcohol to it is not a wise decision. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you for your comments.

Held at one reading

[ORD-24:016](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE APPROVAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR THE ARTS ANNEX INC.

Attachments: [Application Redacted](#)
[Publication Receipt](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-24:016 by title only. All voted aye.

James Elwin Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, said, I read about this in the paper and I noticed that it said that they would have prepackaged meals. There was a time in which they were supposed to have full meals. Now, we are going to prepackaging. Are we going to have it where all they have to have is a vending machine in order to get a liquor permit? I think we probably ought to stick with full meals.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said, yeah, I did have a question about what the

prepackaged concessions consisted of, if anybody here can explain that. Mayor Copenhaver asked, Chief, they went ahead and passed all of the criteria, correct? For the application process. Police Chief Rick Elliott said, on my end. It is still up to the ABC to follow up. Mayor Copenhaver said, we will have the applicant present. (There was discussion off mic which you cannot hear.)

Held at one reading

[ORD-24:017](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, ARTICLE III, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 6103 DALTON FARMER DRIVE FROM R-1 TO I-1 AS REQUESTED BY JOHN EASLEY ON BEHALF OF FARMER ENTERPRISES

Attachments: [Ordinance and Plat](#)
[Staff Summary - CC](#)
[jeasley](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember L.J. Bryant, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-24:017 by title only. All voted aye.

Mayor Copenhaver said, I do see Mr. Easley. He is here. So, I appreciate that effort. Thank you.

Held at one reading

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[ORD-24:011](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO PLACE VARIOUS TRAFFIC SIGNS AT DESIGNATED LOCATIONS AS DETERMINED BY THE TRAFFIC CONTROL COMMITTEE

Held at second reading

[ORD-24:014](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 TO C-3, LUO FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4002 MT. CARMEL ROAD AS REQUESTED BY HORIZON LAND SURVEYING ON BEHALF OF RICK WHITE

Attachments: [Application](#)
[Rezoning Plat](#)
[Cert Mail Receipts](#)
[Adjoining Property Owner Notification](#)
[Signs](#)
[Staff Summary](#)

Tommy Gray, 4404 Jeannie Lane, said, I am president of the Layman Crest Property Owners Association. We got behind on this and where y'all are at with it and I know it's just a second reading. What we really want is to meet. I talked to the Mayor just a little bit and I think he may take care of it, but we think we need a traffic study for the intersection of Keller's Chapel and Mt. Carmel with going commercial down Keller's

Chapel. And, that is all that we are asking for to try to come up with a plan that we will know what's happening in the future as that does develop. At one time the city had a plan. I'll get with Derrel. But, before the third reading is approved, we'd like to see a little more information on what's going to, how it's going to be handled as we go down there. I've been in Jonesboro 40 years now. At one time when that was going to go to commercial, the city had a plan that only so many feet down Mt. Carmel could go commercial and would be froze to stay R-1's. So, I am asking the council consideration in trying to come up with that plan before this is approved on the third reading. Thank y'all. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you Tommy for coming forward.

Michael Boggs, Tralan Engineering and Horizon Land Surveying representing the owner on this, said, this property in question is being rezoned, but it still will go through all of the duties and things of, to be developed in a traffic study would be required at that time, at the time of design and development of this property. So, I'm just letting that be part. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you sir.

Held at second reading

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-24:012](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM I-1 & I-1 LUO TO C-3 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2800 INDUSTRIAL DRIVE.

Attachments: [Cover Letter](#)
[Rezone Application](#)
[ALTA SURVEY](#)
[Vicinity Map](#)
[Vesting Deeds](#)
[Mail Receipts](#)
[Signs](#)
[Staff Summary-CC](#)

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

Aye: 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

Enactment No: O-EN-016-2024

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Copenhagen reported on the following:

As I begin my comments this evening, I want to remember the lives of former councilmember Rennell Woods and Jimmy Don Ashley. Both of these men served the city in various capacities, enhancing the lives of Jonesboro residents. Rennell Woods served on the council from 2009-2016 and was very active with the city throughout the years, serving on the A&P Commission, Finance & Administration Council Committee,

Nominating & Rules Council Committee, as well as the Public Services Council Committee. He was an advocate, advisor, a dear friend to many in our community as he focused on improving the lives of our youth in our city. As we move forward, we will look for an appropriate venue to honor Rennell's service to our community after visiting with his family. Jimmy Don Ashley served on the council from 2005-2006. He participated in the Citizen's Police Academy and was involved with the Fraternal Order of Police. He proudly served as a reserve dispatcher for our 911 department for many years. Jimmy was a tireless advocate for ensuring compliance with the American with Disabilities Act within Jonesboro, resulting in significant improvements within city accessibility infrastructure. As we continue to work within council and throughout other city business, let us remember these men and carry on their legacy of service for the good of our entire community. As many in the community gathered in remembrance of Rennell and the Fisher Street Community in Action Fish Plate giveaway was being prepared, a fitting event to carry on Rennell's heart of the city. And, Dr. Coleman, thank you for serving our community with the fish plate giveaway and in many other ways for all these years. This encompasses the best part of Jonesboro's hospitality and community willing to serve. I believe you served over 350 plates, is that correct? Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, we served 371 plates. Mayor Copenhaver said, 371 to be exact. Job well done councilman, thank you.

Less than two weeks ago, the Jonesboro Fire Department graduated ten new rookies who are eager and ready to serve our community. As many of our long-time Fire Captains are retiring after 25 years of service, we are grateful to have the up and coming firefighters to continue to keep our Fire Department well staffed as the safety of our residents is a top priority.

As May is Foster Care Awareness Month, we want to thank CASA and all of the entities that specifically serve foster children and families within our community. There was a proclamation event at the Craighead County Courthouse last week to emphasize the commitment from multiple agencies, city, county, non-profits, and private sectors to serve some of our most vulnerable population.

May also brings many graduations, both high school and college and all deserving recognition and praise. But, I think one of the most impactful graduations to attend was Project Search graduation. Project Search is an international organization that provides nine month internships for those between 18-35 with disabilities. We are fortunate to have this program here in Jonesboro through St. Bernards. And, I am proud that the City of Jonesboro is in the top ten employers for Project Search graduates in the state of Arkansas. But, I am incredibly proud of each and every one of these graduates who gave their own speeches. Many shared news about employment as well at graduation. This is what it is all about folks.

I am proud to share that our JET Transit Department received the Best of NEA Gold award for the transportation services category. Thank you to Director Lee Wells and the staff for all of the hard work and improving services and earning that award.

We had an opportunity to speak as well this past week for the Rotary Club as well as large business networking group and I have enjoyed that over the past several weeks. Sharing updates on the city business and discussing ways that we can work together to improve the city. I am grateful for these opportunities and the ways to make these organizations continue to grow in Jonesboro.

I spent a day in Little Rock with my Communications team lead by Director Donna Malone. We had numerous meetings throughout the day with State Commissions and

Entities to advocate for opportunities and economic development and amenity improvements on behalf of the City of Jonesboro. And, I am proud that there were roughly half a dozen ribbon cuttings as well since our last City Council meeting. Although I personally cannot make it out to each ribbon cutting, I am always glad to see and celebrate those ribbon cuttings. The birth of new businesses in Jonesboro signifies economic growth and development, something worth celebrating.

I don't know if you have been out to many of the parks on the weekend, but let me tell you, we are always moving. Danny Kapales and his staff have been doing a wonderful job as well as all of our departments, many that we take for granted. On Mother's Day weekend alone, I started the day out at the Miracle League Park and participated in many events there from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Then, I moved on to Southside Softball Facility, we had 32 teams competing in a one day tournament at Southside. Then, I went onto Councilman Gibson who is not here this evening, participation at our Y. We had over 100 swimmers in our community. And, then I moved on out to obviously Joe Mack Campbell Park. We had 64 baseball teams and a one day tournament event. It was amazing. That's hundreds of people in our community. We also had then the soccer stars participating at the same time. And, then we had football from 3rd through 6th grades. Many of those participants came from Memphis, TN. So, they enjoyed our new turf fields. And, this was just a one day event that was happening and occurring in Jonesboro, not to mention other various things. Our community is moving in a very fast pace. And, I challenge each and every one of you to go out and see what is going on in our parks. I love to see the children and youth engaged and families supporting them in their activities.

The Impact Fee Review Committee met earlier today for their very first meeting and I want to say thank you to all of those who were willing to serve in this capacity. They met in this room to begin that discussion of impact fees for our community.

As Memorial Day approaches, I want us to take a moment to remember all of those who have given their lives to serve our country. A solemn holiday, please join us for a Memorial Day Service in front of the Craighead County Courthouse at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, May 27th.

The monthly neighborhood cleanup will take place at 8:00 a.m. on June 1st at Fisher Street United Methodist Church and it will gather up all disposable items and drop them by. We anticipate another great cleanup.

Also, the first of KLEK's Juneteenth events will begin with a Juneteenth Kickoff Soul Food potluck and Legends Barbeque at 6:00 p.m. on June 1st. Keep an eye on the city's social media accounts for the information of the events all month long including a fireworks show at the University Parks on June 19th.

The next low cost vaccination clinic is scheduled for June 8th. Pre-registration is required by noon on June 5th, as hundreds of low cost vaccinations are provided. Thanks again to Larry Rogers and the Animal Services staff as well as NAFA Rescue and Laura Dacus for helping to provide this service. Thank you all for continuing to work together for the good of everything in our community.

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember John Street said, I would just like to thank Shelly for all of her work with the Youth Council. I know she does a great job. I am very proud of the young people, these young adults that step forward and fill those roles. It's really good to see

kids being active in the city and supporting Jonesboro. Mayor Copenhaver said, I concur, thank you.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, yes, a couple of things, Parks, yes sir, ditto. I've been out there. It's great. My grandson, in fact, I am rushing now to go and see him play. But, the other thing is I just want to mention, I know Brian and I have shared with Tony as well, but Prospect Road, I don't know who is Streets and Engineering, but I just want it on the record that we talked about it, that that needs to be a priority because of the traffic and it's really heavy and I saw some kids and pedestrians on that street and it's just not safe at all. And, so, we just want to make sure that it is on the list of priorities. And, I did appreciate the MYAC, the Mayor's Youth Council. And, they mentioned one thing I thought was really neat was that hygiene closet cabinets, something. I don't know how we see those things and make those things into fruition, I'm not sure, but I would like to see that happen for sure. And, I think it is an excellent idea. Thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you councilman and I will just give you a little update on that. They actually had that at Northside Park. They had over 40 vendors and the Optimist Club also cooked as well. They ran out of hot dogs. They served over 300 hot dogs. They ran out. But, what they did, they provide and they went out and got the community to donate those items that you mentioned and they ran out of those items at that event. So, it's great for them.

Councilmember Ann Williams said, I was just going to mention that the MPO Joint Policy and Technical Committee met on Thursday and by resolution voted to obligate some available TIP funds from 2021 to 2023 toward a public transportation system and this will be very helpful. We, also, I understand will be getting around \$20,000 in funds that Hot Springs will not be using that they will be making available to us to use as well.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I thank the Mayor for mentioning the cleanup program on June 1, 2024. On that same day, we are starting a feeding program which will be Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from June 1st to August 5th. We have a lot of homeless people in the community. I know somebody knows somebody and they can talk to them and they can come and get a lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. beginning June 1st to August 5th. The cleanup program will be across the street. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you councilman.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road, said, so it was back on March 14th when a company applied to put a business, a storage unit facility next to the Neighborhood Walmart out on Parker and Harrisburg Road. And, one of the conditions that they had to meet was to make Elmhurst one of the streets which there is only three streets, exits and entrances, if some of you are familiar with that area. There is only three ways in and out of that area right now. And, one of the conditions was to make Elmhurst a designated city street and I know that Craig Light is the one going through the process to see whether it is going to be approved or not. But, I want to let you know and I know I sent you guys this pretty map that I drew. And, on there, you guys have to remember that Harrisburg is going to be expanded to five lanes pretty soon. So, if you are coming down Harrisburg Road and you pass Parker Road, that first entrance right there is a truck entrance. There is a way out of there and it is a right hand turn lane, but people always want to turn left, really, really close to that traffic signal. I have seen too many close, very close accidents ready to happen. So, that is a truck entrance and only a right hand turn lane. If you go down just a little bit, you have the Exxon station right there. That is really owned by, from my understanding, by Walmart. You can turn left if

you want to or you can turn right. But, when we have a five lane road on Harrisburg, there is going to be three lanes of traffic that that person has to cross if they are turning left onto Harrisburg. It's going to be pretty dangerous there. If you go on the other side of Elmhurst and that is where the oil changing business is, that is Elmhurst and that is the one that they want to become a designated city street. And, now looking at that we're going to have a trail there, you are going to have a bunch of people probably parking there to walk on the trail. If you look at that road right there going onto Parker Road, you have a right hand turn lane and if you legally turn to the right, you are supposed to turn into the right lane first, that is a right hand turn lane going onto Harrisburg on there. You can turn right, but all of those people turn left onto Parker. They are crossing over three lanes of traffic on that. So, now you are going to put a storage unit building on that piece of property in the back, you are going to have traffic right there. You are going to have traffic by people using this sidewalk that is going to be proposed that will probably go through and then you have got a whole bunch of acreage that is still potential businesses. There is not adequate entrances and exits on that area if we are going to expand it to five lanes. But, one of my main concerns you guys, and I drive it every day and I know probably LJ and Mr. Street you do too on there, is that I see people crossing at the Exxon Station trying to cross over to get to the bus station or trying to get over to the Dollar General. And, what they do is that they stand in the middle of the road waiting for you to go this way and now all of a sudden you are going to have five lanes of traffic right there that they are going to have to cross over. So, a big concern before we say okay to this storage unit and we make Elmhurst as a designated street, we really need to consider what we are going to do with that and make it safer for everybody whether you are driving or whether you are walking because if you look at Johnson Avenue where the people just try to you know take a chance is that we are going to have some fatalities because those people think that we should be watching out for them. You know, they are not watching out. You know, here we come, just take a chance on that. So, it is a concern that I hope that you can consider and also too, Craig, that looks at because that is just going to get busier, especially when we do the five lanes at the end of this year. So, thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

_____ Date: _____

Harold Copenhaver, Mayor

Attest:

_____ Date: _____

April Leggett, City Clerk