



# City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center  
300 S. Church Street  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

## Meeting Minutes City Council

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Tuesday, September 20, 2022

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

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### PUBLIC SERVICES COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING AT 4:30 P.M.

### PUBLIC SAFETY COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING AT 5:00 P.M.

### PUBLIC HEARING AT 5:25 P.M.

*Mayor Harold Copenhaver asked if anyone in the audience wished to speak for or against the public hearing regarding the abandonment of a utility easement located on part of Lot 1 of HB Medical Holdings Apache Drive Minor Plat as requested by HB Medical Holdings, LLC. No one spoke for or against the issue.*

### 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 - Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Joe Hafner; David McClain; LJ Bryant; Ann Williams and Seth Speer

**Absent** 2 - Charles Frierson and Brian Emison

### 4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

[COM-22:029](#)

MAYOR'S YOUTH ADVANCEMENT COUNCIL (MYAC) PLANS FOR NEW YEAR PRESENTATION

*Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, we will start off with the Mayor's Youth Advancement Council making quick note as they have started already in the process for this calendar year. There are 66 participants from all over this community from private, home, and public schools participating and I am very proud as they engage themselves and I challenge them and you the public to work with them in all aspects of this community. So, at this point and time, I would like the Mayor's Youth Advancement Council Committee Members to please come forth and make a brief statement on your committees.*

*Nathan Sammons, Chair of MYAC, said, I would like to thank you all for thinking of us as being the primary benefactor of the pink trash can revenue and we are looking forward to raising more awareness for breast cancer awareness in this community and creating more community in Jonesboro for the youth of our town. And, we plan to come up with a lot in the coming months, but I will leave that more to the committee chairs.*

*But, we have, so far, streamlined our participation, activity tracking, allowing individuals to work well with coming up with time to fit into the schedule especially chaotic high school schedules allowing them to become more involved and allowing individuals to take credit for their own opportunities and not others. And, personally, as an inaugural member of the Council, last year as assistant treasurer, I thank you all for the opportunity of being on this Council last year and this year and we look very much forward to what we can accomplish this year. Thank you. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you so much.*

*Taylor Cunningham, Secretary of MYAC, said, today I will be stepping in for the treasurer and our current total is \$2,543.58. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you.*

*Jude Qualls, Chair of City Beautification, said, I am very excited about what we have planned this year. Currently on our plans we have, we are working on getting community gardens set up. I am meeting with Mayor this Wednesday to discuss locations and I have a lot of plans for that working with local groups and organizations to help build a community garden somewhere in our community. I am hoping to work to help encourage gardening and healthy living. We are also working on painting a sidewalk outside of a hospital in honor of breast cancer awareness. And, we are working on a seed fundraiser to donate to breast cancer awareness and survivors. We are working on yard work help to help those who are currently suffering from breast cancer and we are working on procuring gift cards to help and to donate to breast cancer survivors and those currently undergoing breast cancer treatment. I am also looking forward to working with the community in the future and working to get the youth and organizations involved in our future projects. Thank you. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you Jude.*

*Courtney Tate, Chair of Community Outreach, said, the goal for Community Outreach this year is to volunteer, support, and to help Jonesboro organizations. Like Mr. Copenhagen spoke about in his latest meeting about the previous Mayor's Youth Advancement Council being a blueprint for the new Council, Judy Kim did that for us last year. This year, the Community Outreach goal is to build upon that by providing and improving upon her work from last year. We are doing that by contacting more local nonprofits and asking and sharing what we do and what our taskforce does in the community and how our membership works. A day that she discussed that we should do is a way to serve day, a day where we reach out and help local nonprofits like FOA or the Humane Society. A past issue last year was lack of recruitment and retaining members. This year, Community Outreach is helping that issue by advertising it better and discussing to all Jonesboro schools to make them more aware of the opportunity of joining the Mayor's Youth Advancement Council, contacting more local media and ask for interviews regarding the Council and the Community Outreach mission to volunteer, partnering with Communications & Technology Taskforce, and providing volunteer support and spreading the word of the Community Outreach and the Mayor's Youth Advancement Council while partnering and discussing events this October starting with Pink Out with Health & Safety and adding a piece to it with a lunch and learn which is an event for the winners of the Pink Out that helped out which Janarie is going to discuss. Some events in the works that my Co-Chair Emma Martin discussed are partnering and volunteering to help with the Animal Shelter on October 29, 2022 and setting up a book drive for the city. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you so much.*

*Janarie Prince, Chair of Diversity & Inclusion, said, our mission this year is to help showcase the minorities and the minority groups to the public. And, we are starting off this year by partnering with city beautification with the breast cancer awareness mural. And, for the Day of the Dead, we are hosting a gathering at the E. Boone Watson*

Center and have panelists talk to students who are going through things that they went through and how they became successful. We are also working on partnering with school Spanish Clubs and we are also looking to find more fundraising donations and also trying to start a health exam for people who cannot afford it and the minority groups, the Hispanics and the Blacks. And, also, for Black History Month, I want to partner with KLEK to educate and do a pop-up fest so we can show people how to do culture appreciation and showcase small businesses that don't have enough recognition on social media. That's all. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you so much.

Dillinger Carr, Chair of Communications & Technology, said, our main mission with our taskforce is to get people to know what we are. I know a lot of people don't know when I say MYAC, like what is that. And, so, I would like to definitely show people what we do with our events and one of the things is to interview cancer patients, breast cancer patients, and obviously we can't just go to St. Bernards and give us some patients to interview so it would be good to find people who have had breast cancer or who are currently suffering from it and interview them and get their story. The next thing is to team up with Diversity & Inclusion for Hispanic Heritage Month. And, also, inform people of not only about what we are, but things like Hispanic Heritage Month is and also Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Our next plan is to arrange a meeting with the Jonesboro Economical Transit Director to inform the public of what the JET system is and how it works and how they can use it and also about the future hybrid trolleys that are coming to us. And, the last thing is happening towards the end of this month is a Downtown Trunk or Treat or something at Rotary Park. We would like to bring the youth downtown. I know it is a big thing that DJA is trying to do and so we would like to partner with them and the FOA. At Rotary Park, we have someone we would like to partner with to have a trunk or treat at the Rotary Park. And, that's it. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you.

Aiyden Kattaviravong, Chair of Planning & Engineering, said, so this year the Planning & Engineering Taskforce expects to develop and program an all-inclusive Jonesboro experience app which features a profile database with a point system that provides discounts from partnered businesses. We want to provide accessible parking solutions whenever citizens commute sustainably from biking, walking, carpooling, public transit and so on. On the app, we expect to have digitalized local media sources such as the Sun, KAIT, and the radio group. We also expect to have maps from around town and a lot more on the app. We also plan to dispense commercial bike racks around busy areas as well as partner with St. Bernards to open the Health and Wellness Center for an after school program for people who don't have anywhere to go after school and for schools who don't have amenities such as a pool, if they have a swim team that needs to practice. We also want to mend and repair damaged sidewalks and signs throughout Jonesboro.

Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you very much. I want to say and I think everybody in the room gives this group a round of applause because it is not easy to come up and do this. And, for those on the Council, they have already met with all of the Department Directors and we are challenging the Directors to do study within their departments for individuals that are interested to engage them with what the city is doing, but Arkansas State University, as well, is very interested in what the MYAC is doing and how they can partner. So, this is a win-win for our community and I appreciate all of you stepping up and being chairs of your committee. Thank you so much.

#### **Read**

[COM-22:037](#)

PROCLAMATION TO SBRMC DECLARING SEPTEMBER NATIONAL PROGRAMS OF ALL-INCLUSIVE CARE FOR THE ELDERLY (PACE) MONTH

**Attachments:**     [PACE Proclamation](#)

*Mayor Harold Copenhaver presented a proclamation to Becky McDaniel and Bob Harris from St. Bernards declaring the month of September as PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly) month in the City of Jonesboro.*

**Read**[COM-22:043](#)

## PRESENTATION OF STATE AWARDS TO JONESBORO PARKS &amp; RECREATION

*Parks and Recreation Director Danny Kapales recognized NEA Tennis with the award won at the Arkansas Recreation & Parks Association State Conference for the 2022 Program of the Year. Whitney Malone said, we are very proud to receive this. We enjoy being a part of Jonesboro Parks and Rec and we look forward to many more years.*

*Parks and Recreation Director Danny Kapales recognized Walmart and the Rotary Club for their help with raising funds to help improve the Allen Park Skate Park which won Park of the Year under \$200,000. Adam Sartain with the Rotary Club and Jerry Schaechtel with Walmart were in attendance and accepted the award and thanked everyone for their assistance in giving back to the community. The city thanks Walmart and the Rotary Club of Jonesboro for helping to double the size and improve the park.*

**Read**[COM-22:044](#)

## PRESENTATION OF APPRECIATION OF SUPPORT BY LOCALFEST CHAIR LUCAS TYLER

*Lucas Clontz, Director of LocalFest, presented Mayor Copenhaver with a signed Ward Davis poster showing his appreciation for all the help the city provided for the festival going on three years.*

**Read**[COM-22:039](#)

## PRESENTATIONS BY CANDIDATES FOR WARD 6 VACANCY. EACH CANDIDATE WILL BE GIVEN 3-5 MINUTES TO SPEAK.

**Attachments:**     [Anthony Coleman\\_Ward 6](#)[Kraig Pomrenke\\_Ward 6](#)[Seth Speer\\_Ward 6](#)

*Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, at this point and time, I am going to request that we move an item forward into tonight's agenda and the is item COM-22:039 and this is about the presentations by Candidates for the Ward 6 vacancy.*

*Councilmember Chris Moore motioned, seconded by Councilmember LJ Bryant, to move COM-22:039 from under New Business to Special Presentations. All voted aye.*

*Mayor Copenhaver said, before we go forward with this, first of all, I would like to say thank you for any and all who are willing to put their name on the line for public service. Whether it is long or short, this is a big commitment one way or the other for you the individual and to your family. So, again, I applaud your efforts and as we proceed through this process, I am going to ask in alphabetical order for the three candidates that have applied to fill this vacancy to the end of the year. After we have heard for three minutes from the candidates, then I will turn over Mayor Pro-Tempore Chris Moore to address an executive session. At that point and time, they will deliberate on a*

*candidate of their choice. After which, they will come back into the Council Chambers and be sworn in this evening so they may be able to participate in this evenings session. So, at this point, I would like to call up each candidate in alphabetical order.*

*Dr. Anthony Coleman came to the podium and spoke.*

*Craig Pomrenke came to the podium and spoke.*

*Seth Speer came to the podium and spoke.*

*Mayor Copenhavaer said, at this point in time, I will turn the floor over to Mayor Pro-Tempore Chris Moore. Councilmember Chris Moore said, thank you Mr. Mayor. As Mayor Pro-Tempore, I will make a motion to adjourn to executive session for the purpose of appointing someone to the vacant council seat. Councilmember Chris Gibson seconded the motion. All voted aye. Councilmember Chris Moore said, all right. Let's adjourn to the conference room on the first floor. Meeting was adjourned for the executive session at approximately 6:10 p.m.*

*At approximately 6:23 p.m., the City Council meeting was called back into session. Councilmember Chris Moore said, all right, I will call the Council meeting back to order. We have carefully considered deliberating on appointment to the Council. Do I have a motion? Councilmember John Street motioned to nominate Seth Speers to fill the vacancy left by Bobby Long. Councilmember LJ Bryant seconded the motion. All voted aye.*

*Councilmember Chris Moore said, Mr. Mayor, it is back to you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Council. I appreciate your deliberation and due process of what we go through and this is a process and congratulations again to all candidates for coming forward. Councilmember Speer if you would, please come forward. We do have an open office that we would like to take to swear you in at this time. City Clerk April Leggett gave the Oath of Office to Councilmember Seth Speer.*

**Read**

## **5. CONSENT AGENDA**

### *Approval of the Consent Agenda*

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

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

**Absent:** 2 - Charles Frierson and Brian Emison

[MIN-22:077](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 6, 2022

**Attachments:** [CC Minutes 09062022](#)

[RES-22:149](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO APPROVING THE PERMIT MODIFICATION REQUEST FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE CRAIGHEAD COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL AUTHORITY (CCSWDA) LEGACY LANDFILL

**Attachments:** [09.06.2022 CCSWDA Expansion--Supporting doc](#)

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-136-2022

[RES-22:151](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ACCEPT SIDEWALK EASEMENTS LOCATED ON AGGIE ROAD FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS

**Attachments:**     [Sidewalk Easement - 1212 and 1214 Aggie Road](#)  
[Sidewalk Easement - 1216 Aggie Road](#)  
[Sidewalk Easement - 1300 Aggie Road](#)  
[Sidewalk Easement - 1302 Aggie Road](#)  
[Sidewalk Easement - 1304 Aggie Road](#)  
[Sidewalk Easement - 1306 Aggie Road](#)  
[Sidewalk Easement - 1308 Aggie Road](#)

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-137-2022

[RES-22:156](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO APPROVE CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FOR THE CRAIGHEAD TECHNOLOGY PARK INDUSTRIAL RAIL YARD EXPANSION PROJECT - SECTION II TRACK CONSTRUCTION (2022:10)

**Attachments:**     [CTP Rail Yard 202210 Change Order 1 signed\\_07sep22](#)

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-138-2022

*RESOLUTIONS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA*

[RES-22:127](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 910 Hope Ave. Jonesboro, AR 72401  
Parcel #: 01-144184-11700 OWNER: Lyneal & Nellie Manning

- Attachments:** [910 Hope Signature Card Returned](#)  
[910 Hope Inspection Report](#)  
[910 Hope Map](#)  
[910 Hope Notice of Violation Certified](#)  
[910 Hope Pre-condemnation Notice](#)  
[WIN 20220609 10 53 57 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20220609 10 54 13 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20220609 10 54 24 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20220609 10 54 33 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20220609 10 54 37 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20220609 10 49 39 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20220609 10 49 51 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20220609 10 49 54 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20220609 10 49 56 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20220609 10 50 08 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20220609 10 50 10 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20220609 10 50 22 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20220609 10 50 25 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20220609 10 50 28 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20220609 10 50 31 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20220609 10 50 34 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20220609 10 50 52 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20220609 10 51 04 Pro](#)  
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[WIN 20220609 10 53 04 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20220609 10 53 15 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20220609 10 53 48 Pro](#)

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

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

**Absent:** 2 - Charles Frierson and Brian Emison

Enactment No: R-EN-139-2022

**RES-22:128**

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 1504 Danny Dr. Jonesboro, AR 72401 Parcel #: 01-144214-10800 OWNER: Kevin L. & Tonya Lyles

- Attachments:**    [1504 Danny Pre-condemnation Notice](#)  
[1504 Danny Inspection Report](#)  
[1504 Danny Map](#)  
[1504 Danny Notice of Vio Returned Back](#)  
[1504 Danny Notice of Vio Returned Front](#)  
[1504 Danny Notice of Violation Certified](#)  
[WIN 20211214 15 45 54 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20211214 15 45 56 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20211214 15 46 10 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20211214 15 46 20 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20211214 15 51 38 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20211214 15 54 20 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20211214 15 44 41 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20211214 15 45 15 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20211214 15 45 17 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20211214 15 45 27 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20211214 15 45 30 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20211214 15 45 40 Pro](#)

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

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

**Absent:** 2 - Charles Frierson and Brian Emison

Enactment No: R-EN-140-2022

**RES-22:129**

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 2501 Mary Jane Dr. Jonesboro, AR 72401 Parcel #: 01-144272-24200 OWNER: Kenneth L & Dena Bradway



- Attachments:**    [2501 Mary Jane Pre-condemnation Notice](#)  
[2501 Mary Jane Inspection Report](#)  
[2501 Mary Jane Map](#)  
[2501 Mary Jane Notice of Vio Returned USPS](#)  
[2501 Mary Jane Notice of Violation Certified](#)
- [WIN 20211029 11 02 40 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20211029 11 02 19 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20211028 11 06 48 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20211028 10 29 47 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20211028 10 29 57 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20211028 10 30 10 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20211028 10 30 18 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20211028 10 30 54 Pro](#)  
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[WIN 20211028 10 51 01 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20211028 11 05 41 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20211028 11 06 00 Pro](#)

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

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

**Absent:** 2 - Charles Frierson and Brian Emison

Enactment No: R-EN-141-2022

[RES-22:130](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 3406 Meador Rd. Jonesboro, AR 72401 Parcel # 01-144281-35600 OWNER: Hazel Watson

- Attachments:**
- [3406 Meador Pre-condemnation Notice](#)
  - [3406 Meador B&S Certified Returned Back](#)
  - [3406 Meador B&S Certified Returned Front](#)
  - [3406 Meador Board & Secure Certified](#)
  - [3406 Meador Inspection Report](#)
  - [3406 Meador Map](#)
  - [3406 Meador Notice of Condemnation Certified](#)
  - [3406 Meador Notice of Vio Delivered USPS](#)
  - [WIN\\_20220513\\_11\\_37\\_34\\_Pro](#)
  - [3406\\_MEADOR](#)
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  - [3406\\_MEADOR2](#)
  - [3406\\_MEADOR3](#)
  - [3406\\_MEADOR4 \(1\)](#)
  - [3406\\_MEADOR5](#)
  - [3406\\_MEADOR6](#)
  - [3406\\_MEADOR7](#)
  - [3406\\_MEADOR8](#)
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  - [3406\\_meador19](#)

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

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

**Absent:** 2 - Charles Frierson and Brian Emison

Enactment No: R-EN-142-2022

[RES-22:131](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 4405 & 4407 Janice Ave. Jonesboro, AR 72401 Parcel #: 01-144271-20300 OWNER: Charles Edward Noell, Jr.

- Attachments:** [4405 & 4407 Janice Pre-condemnation Notice](#)  
[4405 & 4407 Janice B&S Certified Mailed and Returned](#)  
[4405 & 4407 Janice Inspection Report](#)  
[4405 & 4407 Janice Map](#)  
[4405 & 4407 Janice Notice of Vio Cert Returned Back](#)  
[4405 & 4407 Janice Notice of Vio Cert Returned Front](#)  
[4405 & 4407 Janice Notice of Violation Certified](#)  
[WIN 20211110 12 50 53 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20211110 12 49 59 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20211110 12 50 31 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20211110 12 50 45 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20211028 12 29 19 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20211028 12 22 35 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20211028 12 23 11 Pro](#)  
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[WIN 20211028 12 23 37 Pro](#)  
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**A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Gibson, seconded by Councilperson Joe Hafner, that this matter be Passed. The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

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

**Absent:** 2 - Charles Frierson and Brian Emison

Enactment No: R-EN-143-2022

**RES-22:138**

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO CONDEMN CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE CITY OF JONESBORO AT 1001 CREATH AVENUE, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

**Attachments:**     [Appraisal - 1001 Creath Avenue](#)

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

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

**Absent:** 2 - Charles Frierson and Brian Emison

Enactment No: R-EN-144-2022

[RES-22:139](#)

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO CONDEMN CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE CITY OF JONESBORO AT 508 AND 520 CREATH AVENUE, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

**Attachments:**     [Appraisal - 508 and 520 Creath Ave](#)

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

**Absent:** 2 - Charles Frierson and Brian Emison

Enactment No: R-EN-145-2022

[RES-22:140](#)

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO CONDEMN CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE CITY OF JONESBORO AT 301 REEVES STREET, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

**Attachments:**     [Appraisal - 301 Reeves Street](#)

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

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

**Absent:** 2 - Charles Frierson and Brian Emison

Enactment No: R-EN-146-2022

[RES-22:141](#)

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING FREE UTILITY SERVICES FROM CITY WATER AND LIGHT FOR A TRAFFIC SIGNAL

*Councilmember John Street asked to abstain from RES-22:141 because he serves on the CWL Board of Directors.*

**A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Gibson, seconded by Councilperson Ann Williams, that this matter be Passed. The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 9 - Chris Moore;Mitch Johnson;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Joe Hafner;David McClain;LJ Bryant;Ann Williams and Seth Speer

**Absent:** 2 - Charles Frierson and Brian Emison

**Abstain:** 1 - John Street

Enactment No: R-EN-147-2022

[RES-22:155](#)

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO CONDEMN CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE CITY OF JONESBORO AT 901 CREATH AVENUE, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

**Attachments:** [Appraisal - 901 Creath Avenue](#)

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

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

**Absent:** 2 - Charles Frierson and Brian Emison

[RES-22:158](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FY22 RAILROAD CROSSING ELIMINATION GRANT.

*Bill Smith, 102 Academic, said, I wanted to voice great support for this project because this is something that we do need to have in our city and I wanted to have the opportunity to say that. At the same time, I wanted to make sure that it was on record that we were going to request bike/ped accommodations be a part of this bridge project. From my past service on the Master Streets Committee and the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), we have asked in the past about this circumstance and this is how we got the Highway 18 project in the state that it is currently in. We asked this at MPO, where is the bike plan that goes with this? Which part is going to have a trail? And, the answer was, well, no one asked. So, I wanted to make sure that it was on the record that someone had asked. Staff had indicated at that time that Highway 18 was 60% completed and we couldn't change the project because it was too far down the road, etc., etc., etc., etc. So, I know the city now has cross sections that now include bike/ped accommodations in our street plans. ARDOT has indicated that Airport Road bridge will have a bike/ped accommodation. And, in this, I just simply wanted to make sure that it was on the record for us that as we go forward that we are not going to have any more bridge projects because the biggest problem we have in this town is our connectivity across our railroads and our connectivity across our interstate. It divides our town. It divides us driving, but it really divides us when we walk or we ride. So, making sure that any accommodation that we build has to have that in there and we see it in the other cities in Arkansas. Russellville in particular did a project very similar to this recently and it included a side multiuse path. So, that is the main reason I wanted to come and put that in the record. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you for your comments Mr. Smith.*

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

**Absent:** 2 - Charles Frierson and Brian Emison

Enactment No: R-EN-148-2022

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

*ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING*

[ORD-22:039](#)

AN ORDINANCE VACATING A UTILITY EASEMENT LOCATED ON PART OF LOT 1 OF HB MEDICAL HOLDINGS APACHE DRIVE MINOR PLAT AS REQUESTED BY HB MEDICAL HOLDINGS, LLC

**Attachments:** [Abandonment](#)

*Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson to suspend the rules and offer ORD-22:039 by title only. All voted aye.*

**Held at one reading**

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

*ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING*

[ORD-22:038](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR SF2 INVESTMENTS, INC., DBA SALSAS GRILL

**Attachments:** [Salsa's Grill Application\\_Redacted](#)

**Held at second reading**

*ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING*

[ORD-22:035](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM C-3 TO RM-16 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT SOUTHWEST DRIVE AND THOMPSON DRIVE AS REQUESTED BY JEREMY MOORE

**Attachments:** [SWdrivePlat \(2\) \(5\)](#)  
[Application](#)  
[Certified Letters](#)  
[Invoice Paid](#)  
[Letter from Valley View School](#)  
[Rezoning Plat](#)  
[Signed Notification](#)  
[Staff Summary - C.C.](#)

*Councilmember Chris Moore had previously asked to be recused from ORD-22:035 due to the project being done by his brother Jeremy Moore.*

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

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

**Absent:** 2 - Charles Frierson and Brian Emison

**Recused:** 1 - Chris Moore

Enactment No: O-EN-041-2022

[ORD-22:036](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR ZRW Properties, Inc.

**Attachments:** [ZRW Properties Private Club Application Redacted USE THIS](#)

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

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

**Absent:** 2 - Charles Frierson and Brian Emison

Enactment No: O-EN-042-2022

[ORD-22:037](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR THE HIGHER HEIGHTS LEARNING ACADEMY, LLC., DBA JW'S CIGAR LOUNGE AND GRILL TO BE LOCATED AT 3006 S. CARAWAY RD, JONESBORO, AR.

**Attachments:** [J.W. Cigar Lounge Redacted](#)

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

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

**Absent:** 2 - Charles Frierson and Brian Emison

Enactment No: O-EN-043-2022

## **8. MAYOR'S REPORTS**

*Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported on the following:*

*I would say that I would love to have a lot of comments this evening because there were lots of things going on in this community, especially the last two weeks and a lot of good things to come with some announcements made by this administration and the city, but I will keep it brief due to the length of the meeting tonight. So, for the first time in three years, we are going to be approaching the BBQ Fest. This one promises to be a great time for the City of Jonesboro. There are eight to ten departments in the city that collaborate with the community to bring this event to the City of Jonesboro. And, we, as a city, will be participating in many venues from Thursday all the way through the weekend from Friday to Sunday. So, I want to say thank you to the sponsors and the A&P Commission, Tim McCall and Jack Turner as well for their community involvement and other volunteers and downtown businesses who put together this great festival and we are looking forward to it. And again, thanking the many, many city workers that make this possible. Today, we saw the Parks*

*Department putting new flowers in planters. So many departments have roles of varying size, but I don't want to leave anyone out. This is very cool and impressive. This is what we do and the community appreciates it. Many residents participate as well and in neighboring communities. And, I hope everyone is going to have a great time this weekend.*

*Our Sanitation Department is providing free brush and leaf compost. Let me say that again. Our Sanitation Department is providing free brush and leaf compost. So, if anyone wants some, come by the city incinerator at 2650 Lacy Drive and get what you can for your garden.*

*We had a great, busy weekend. I started at Craighead Forest Park with Mothers of Angels gardens. These are mothers who have lost children which is as sad as anyone can imagine, but these mothers are finding a way to support one another and that is the spirit that I love in Jonesboro because they continue to provide support for other mothers that have lost children in this community.*

*I also attended a rededication of the Centennial Rotary Club playground of which almost every child in Jonesboro would recognize. They have been out there at one time or another. I would like to thank the Rotary Club and this would be for creating. They did new grass on the interior of this park. You need to go out and see it Council and those in the room. We have so many people who come to Craighead Forest and use our facilities and we have to continually upgrade it. I would say as well that our Parks Director was given an award by the Rotarians Paul Harris Fellow. This is a very high award within the organization and it is usually only it's given to members. They gave an award to Danny Kapales, as his personal dedication to the Parks Department and his achievement as well working with our community partners. And, I want to say thank you Danny. That is a very high award and he does appreciate that from the Rotary Foundation and both clubs in our community. So, good job Danny.*

*This weekend, we also had other events that were going on, soccer. We had baseball, softball and it is good to see all of our facilities being used. But, I want to say folks, we are hiring continually. Do you know someone who is looking for a job, go to Jonesboro.org. We need you and we have the work with great benefits for you and your loved one to come to this city. We have a lot of situations in our community to where this is a brotherhood of our employees. We have almost 600 employees. Today, I visited with two more, 10 and 15 years. You know, they celebrated with us what they have seen in this community and the growth. But, I want to say thank you to the community of Jonesboro because without you, they couldn't do their job. But, again, they are the unsung people behind the scenes providing services to you the community as well. So, thank you.*

[COM-22:040](#)

CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OVERVIEW, JULY 2022

**Attachments:**     [July 2022 Financials](#)

Filed

## **9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

*Councilmember John Street said, I just want to thank Danny Kapales again. I mean many times, but Danny you continue to amaze us and push the envelope and make Jonesboro a better place for everybody. So, thank you sir and welcome aboard Seth.*



*It may be short, but it will be an engaging period. So, welcome. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you.*

*Councilmember LJ Bryant said, congratulations to Councilmember Speer.*

*Councilmember Joe Hafner said, welcome aboard. Look forward to working with you and we can get a lot down in 2 ½-3 months. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Councilmember.*

*Councilmember Seth Speer said, thanks for having me. I'm looking forward to it. The minutes had us doing this after we had this so I didn't know I was voting today so, whoa, but thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Councilmember.*

*Councilmember David McClain said, I have a quick question. We got the Vector report on mosquitoes. Do we have anything from ASU as far as an update on anything that they have started or where they are at? Mayor Copenhaver said, actually Councilmember, last week the Entomology Department and we applied for a mutual grant along with them. They did not receive that grant. So, they are reapplying for that grant, but the communication is that we are going to have a meeting a week after next and if you would like to attend that, it would be fine. I think it would be good for you to be there as we move forward to how they work with Vector and so we can unify the services that way we have checks and balances with the system. Councilmember McClain said, okay, that will work. Thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you.*

*Councilmember Chris Gibson said, I think there is going to be some discussion coming up here in a bit that is going to warrant a Special Called Public Services meeting. So, I would like to call that on October 5, 2022 at 4:45 p.m. please. And, if I am wrong about the discussion, then I will cancel that shortly.*

*Councilmember Ann Williams said, I have something in regards to pedestrian safety on Johnson. It continues to be a real concern of mine and people in that area. And, we were very grateful that ARDOT finally agreed to limit the speed limit to 35 mph. That is something that we had pressed for for a long time. I know John Street and I had brought it up at MPO meetings with ARDOT representatives and they were reluctant to lower it, but finally did and we were very grateful. Since the signs have been posted, I have noticed a decrease in speed which is very good to see. I think it has had a slowing effect, but that is not the only issue in regards to pedestrian safety that we need to be concerned about. We need pedestrian crossing somewhere between the stretch from Patrick to Marion Berry where the two traffic lights are. There are no traffic lights or really good pedestrian crossings anywhere on that stretch. And, for some time, I and I know other people have seen this, pedestrians attempting to get across and stopping in the middle lane and that is terrifying and it is going to continue to happen. I am afraid somebody is going to be killed and we have had pedestrian deaths in the past and we don't want to see anymore. It is so needed to have a pedestrian crossing somewhere in that stretch and I recommended and my observation shows that State Street might be a possible crossing point. This has been considered before because that seems to be a point where a lot of people do attempt to cross for various reasons because University Market is there. There is a laundromat there and it is a distance from Marion Berry. Maybe not as far as number of blocks, but the blocks in between that are very long blocks. So, it is a pretty good distance between Marion Berry and State Street. And, I think possibly it has been considered is Scott Street as far as a possibility as far as a traffic light. We do so need a crossing that is productive in some way. I know that a special concern is at night. And, if anybody has driven up and down on Johnson at night when they have seen people stopping in the middle lane*

realize what risk that is and when they are not visible. I know that Craig Light is working on a lighting plan that will illuminate Johnson much better. And, those that have seen that examples up, I don't know if Mr. Street has or not, but the kind of lighting that he is talking about on Johnson will be a benefit, but we still need a pedestrian crossing and I think that we need to renew our request or press ARDOT to assist with that and I am firmly convinced that we have to be aggressive as far as doing it because I don't think ARDOT will assist us unless we insist that we really need it and the urgency of this. Mayor Copenhaver said, okay, thank you Ms. Councilmember. I would say that I am really proud of what Craig and Regina have put together for the lighting. We are also looking at extending that lighting in conversations with Arkansas State University as well to take that on down to Red Wolf. Councilmember Williams stated, I understand it where it has been done elsewhere, it is very helpful. Mayor Copenhaver said, it is very helpful and so it is a very, it's not lit well and so pedestrian traffic along with and I concur with you on the traffic and I will say that it's very difficult to lower speed limits when it comes to our state and so any time that is accomplished by the city, a lot of conversations had to occur in order for that to happen. Councilmember Williams said, yeah. There was a lot of requesting and well John Street can verify that, that we made that request a lot at MPO meetings with ARDOT. Councilmember John Street said, Mayor, we sit on that committee too so it is going to take aggressive requests to ARDOT and a lot of things take years and years of just pursuing it and eventually we will get something, but I think if you have ever tried to walk across Johnson mid-day some time, I would challenge you to do it. I've done it. It's pretty tough. Councilmember LJ Bryant said, I would say let's set a time with the District Engineer and let's go across it together. Councilmember Williams replied, yes, yes. It is pretty horrifying to watch. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Councilperson, duly noted.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, I want to welcome Mr. Speer to the Council. Good luck on behalf of the Council. We look forward to working with you. There are a lot of good things going on in Jonesboro right now Mr. Mayor and I think you outlined several of them tonight, but I want to bring up my concern about homeless people sleeping on the street and sidewalks downtown and at Craighead Forest Park. It's not fair for the residents to have to deal with this and it's not safe for the homeless. A couple of weeks ago, I contacted you about a woman who was camped out next door to the United Way and I have got to say I honestly thought she was dead. She was laying half on the sidewalk, laying half out in the street. She had, the best that I can describe, a debris pile going for twenty feet. And, you and your department, they helped with that situation. The woman at Craighead Forest, she was living in a tent in the woods with seven children all summer. Now, think about that. Its 100 degrees with seven children in a tent. It's unconscionable. But, there are many more. It is not just those two. Last week, David McClain and I met with the City Attorney seeking some solutions. What became clear was it's not a simple issue and what we need is a plan. We need that plan sooner than later. One of the problems that the City Attorney articulated and I did more research was that in 2009 in Martin vs. Boise, Robert Martin and six other homeless men were fined \$150 a piece for sleeping on public property. They subsequently with the help of Legal Aid, sued the City of Boise and they were successful. In 2018, the 9th Circuit Court ruled, "enforcement of ordinances that prohibit sleeping or camping on public property against homeless individuals is unconstitutional when these individuals do not have a meaningful alternative which they defined meaningful alternative to be indoors." Boise appealed. It was a large settlement. Boise appealed to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court refused to hear the case so that is where we are at right now on legal precedence. One highlight of that ruling was that as a defense to this ruling, it was ruled that you could document available indoor space. A quote from the settlement by the court is as follows: persons

who are offered appropriate available shelter space, but refuse could still be cited for prosecution. The key to that was that you have to offer and document an alternative. As I said, a key to this defense is to provide and document alternative options to camping or living on public property. Now, fall is coming. We have the BBQ Fest, Joy Fest, and we have Winter Wonderland coming in our downtown area. We expect thousands of people to come to our city. We have outsiders come and camp at Craighead Forest. What I am asking for is that we develop a plan for everyone's sake. This has gone on for a long time. I think that with Carol's help and with direction from the 9th Circuit Court, we could tailor ordinances that would address some of these, but the key is that the city is going to have to document and they are going to have to have an alternative, otherwise, there is nothing we can do. It's not unlike the problem of panhandlers on the sidewalk. Our hands are tied. If we don't offer an alternative to the people sleeping on the street, they could basically camp right here. They can camp in any of our parks. They can camp on any of our city property. One of the things when I was doing the research that was interesting is believe it or not, most homeless people have cell phones. They have cell phones. They have Facebook access. A lot of the cities that have experienced problems have all of the sudden the problem has blown up because you will get a homeless group, they will say hey, look, all we need to do is go out here to Craighead Forest and camp. We have got bathrooms. We have facilities. It is a beautiful place. We can just come out here and camp and there is nothing that they can do to us. So, with that in mind, I would ask your administration to work with the city attorney and see if we can't come up with a viable option because downtown Jonesboro is a beautiful place. It breaks my heart when I have to walk my daughter downtown and we see four or five people laying on the sidewalk, defecating in the alleys. I mean it is not good for us, it's not good for them. Thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Mr. Councilman and I would like to elaborate and Mr. Councilman I do appreciate your efforts and this has been, unfortunately this is not a problem that we can solve overnight. The downtown situation, we have worked with DOJ and many business owners, in particular, downtown on how we can handle that in a judiciously and cautious way, but provide safety for our community. I think you have seen some improvements. You have talked about electricity. We have to deal with things like that. But, I would say today, even as of today, I met with Arkansas Department Finance Authority (ADFA) President, Executive Director Mark Conine. This is the third meeting that he has been in the City of Jonesboro. I also met with Senator Dan Sullivan to discuss options that we can provide and I think one of your comments was additional housing options that could be available for those. We are going to be reaching out and we are currently doing that for our community, our 501-3(c)'s, domestic violence communities, those who volunteer in this area to come together at one table to make sure as a community that we are addressing this. And, I appreciate you bringing this forward. It is happening all across the country. As I visit with other Mayors, especially in communities of our size, they are facing the same issues. And, so, we are going to look into this and we will continue to do so, but I appreciate your comments councilman and we will move forward in that direction.

City Attorney Carol Duncan said, Councilman Moore, I will also say after our conversation, I reached out and visited with the Arkansas Municipal League. I was concerned. You know we had discussions about some of the laws that had been passed in Missouri and other places and whether they were following those and what they knew about whether they were those were being challenged. And, I do think challenges are forthcoming on all of those. I don't think those laws will probably withstand constitutional muster once they are challenged. But, they do have, working for the AML, a person who is very involved in advocacy for the homeless and he has a lot of interesting ideas, different projects that different cities around the nation have tried that were helpful. And, so, I asked him to send me some information. Maybe we

can set up a meeting and talk to him about some novel ideas that we haven't tried here and that maybe nobody has tried in Arkansas, but they work in other places in the United States. So, I have reached out for that resource and hopefully will get some information I can get to you. Councilmember Moore said, as you know, the 9th Circuit Court is the Western court so Arkansas is not in the 9th Circuit District, but considering the Supreme Court refused to hear the case. It set precedent pretty much. Ms. Duncan stated, right, I mean that is a good precedent. Councilmember Moore said, pretty much we are going to have to abide by the ruling of the 9th Circuit Court and it was actually really simple and they narrowed the decision down. And, I read the entire opinion and it basically says that we can set whatever ordinance or whatever rules we want as long as we offer an alternative. Ms. Duncan said, right. Councilmember Moore stated, that is the key right there. Ms. Duncan said, and the alternatives are what he had novel ideas about that have withstood challenge in other places. So, I asked for some information and I will let you know what I get. Councilmember Moore stated, he may be novel, but they were pretty clear on the fact that it had to be alternative shelter and the court ruled it had to be because the first thing I thought was could we designate the camping area for homeless people, but the court was pretty clear. It had to be indoor shelters. Ms. Duncan said, I do think that has withstood the challenge in other places. So, we will talk about that. Councilmember Moore said, very good, thank you. Councilmember Chris Gibson said, Mayor, also, in regard to your not-for-profit comment, if you would like for the Public Services Committee to help mediate some of those conversations, we would be happy to do so. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you. And, you know, we have to move together as a community with a plan. And, it is important that we come together on a collaborative nature because then there are additional resources, funding, and opportunities if we do so in a collaborative manner. Again, we can provide resources to each other. There is additional funding with ADFA, but we have to do it in the right way and we have to have a plan of action. So, again, thank you and we are and I appreciate anybody's help on the Council that would like to be on that. Thank you.

## **10. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Kimberly Chase, 204 E. Nettleton, said, I appreciate what Councilmember Moore shared about. I was hoping that I could expand a little bit about the woman with the seven children. You know that I work for the HUB (Helping the Underserved Belong) and we have started doing a street outreach program every Wednesday and we have asked the community to contact us to let us know when they come across somebody who's homeless and then we drive out and look for people, give them supplies, food, and encourage them to contact the HUB and other agencies. And, we got a phone call about this woman and her seven children living in a tent and so we went out there and made contact with her. We were working with her providing the services that we can provide, but it wasn't... I hear what you are saying about we need to come together and help our homeless, but it wasn't the city that provided help to this woman. It was the HUB and a local church. And, actually, the local church is the one that got them shelter. We can do what we can do, but it is so limited and without a shelter in Jonesboro, without a supportive family home in Jonesboro, it's tough to get people off of our streets. It's almost impossible. What happens is they go from corner to corner to corner and we see this all of the time. Just drive downtown, the same people are on our streets and they are just moving from corner to corner. We don't have a viable option for them. I am asking tonight for a real commitment from the city, a financial commitment so that the HUB can open a supportive family living center where it is not an emergency shelter. They don't get out at 8:00 a.m. They can stay as long as necessary and we treat their issues in a holistic manner. We treat substance abuse, mental health, homelessness, lack of education, budget management, you name it, it

*is the whole gamut so when they do, when they are ready to move into stable living, they stand a much better chance of being successful and that's what we want, long-term living in a stable home. Thank you for your consideration on it. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you for your comments.*

*Whitney Malone, 711 Union, said, I had my speech ready, but I will have to read it now. I am here today to address the current panhandling situation in Jonesboro. I recently came across a KAIT news report which highlighted what another local town is doing to address this issue. There are many concerns to panhandling. First the danger aspect. Panhandling is dangerous and annoying to everyone. Of course, if someone is standing on a street corner with a bucket, this can cause accidents and traffic delay. I, myself, have witnessed several near accidents. However, I am not sure that most people understand the danger for the homeless. They can be robbed or can be hit. Many times the money that is collected on these days are not necessarily put to necessities such as food and shelter. So often, these panhandlers are not even homeless in our city. The only thing being accomplished is raising accidents, raising traffic congestion, raising crime, and lowering opportunities for our homeless to get off of the street. The city needs to look for a solution. Paragould and Mayor Agee which was featured on the news report, they have put up signs discouraging people giving to panhandlers while encouraging them to give to local charities. These local charities are offering viable assistance and making differences in these lives of the underserved community. I am suggesting that the City of Jonesboro look at these signs as a possible partial remedy to the panhandling remedy. While this will not end panhandling, it may help. Mayor Copenhaver said, okay. Thank you for your comments and I would like to elaborate a little bit further. The City of Jonesboro, as a matter of fact, we have ordered 100 signs okay and, but we are taking it a step further. We are also taking a step further. We are going to have a code on that sign to where individuals can use that QR Code and it will provide donation opportunities for those individuals. So, now the funding can be applied to the donations. They can directly affect either homeless or whatever donation entity that they want. We are also doing a collaborative effort with the United Way of Jonesboro as well to be on there so they can make sure that that funding opportunity goes to the correct resources. So, you will be seeing those signs. Like I said, we have ordered 100. I totally agree with the safety. Most of those individuals are not even from this community. You don't see them the next day. They are in a different location or a different city. We are well aware. So, thank you for your comments. Councilmember Chris Moore said, Mr. Mayor, to elaborate, I didn't know Whitney was going to talk about the signs, but in our conversation with Carol, Carol affirmed the fact, you know you would think it is common sense that people can't run out into the intersection and run down between the rows of cars and hold a bucket or whatever and collect money, but believe it or not, let them know Carol. Tell them what the problem is. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, believe it or not, they do it anyway. Councilmember Moore said, that's right. Ms. Duncan asked, what do you want? Councilmember Moore said, tell them about the City of Hot Springs. Ms. Duncan said, oh, yeah. You know, there have been lawsuits after lawsuits over this where cities have tried to impede the ability for people to do that and of course, it has been held to be a free speech right. You know, the only way you can stop them if they are impeding traffic, but I mean you better have really good proof that they are actually impeding the traffic right, and not, if the light is red, are they impeding the traffic? It's still dangerous and enforcement is an issue because the police officer has to see it happen. So, they have to be in the right spot at the right time to catch the person that's actually causing the traffic to be impeded, but it is super dangerous. And, I mean, it is dangerous when charities do it, but it is super dangerous when individuals that don't wear vests or that aren't marked in any way are walking up and down. Mayor Copenhaver said, and it is educational. Ms. Duncan said, right. Mayor Copenhaver stated, we have got to educate*

from the city and you the community on our feelings about this. We can put up signs, but if the community doesn't act, participate, so again, it's an educational resource that we are going to have to do as well. So, I appreciate everyone's comments. Councilmember Moore said, believe it or not, I blew into Carol's office and I was convinced that we could bust every one of them and fine them for being out there in the middle of the street. Ms. Duncan said, I am always the party pooper. Councilmember Moore said, yeah.

Patti Lack, 4108 Forrest Hill Road, said, I am going to change the subject here and you all know that I am interested in the Savannah Hills Apartments. They are now called the Savannah Hills Townhomes right now. They changed from apartments to townhomes because it sounds better from what I was told. But, yesterday, I wrote Craig Light and Derrel Smith, a letter saying if I could get a copy of the traffic report that Michael Boggs the engineer was to submit last week for the last site plan of Savannah Hills there. I don't know whether he got it or not. I didn't see a copy of it sent to me. But, the one thing that I want you guys to maybe be aware of, you need a bridge a little bit better gap between the MAPC (Metropolitan Area Planning Commission) and you guys. The reason why I am saying this is that I attended the pre-meeting and I attended the MAPC meeting last week and I listened to all of the conversation there. At the MAPC meeting, I told them to be aware of Russell Drive and Bekah Drive that it has caused a problem and we are looking at it to learn how we can either funnel the traffic from Savannah Hills a little bit better. I was told by Craig Light that maybe we are thinking about closing that exit entrance. I don't know if that is true or not, but we have got to do something about first the situation of Russell Drive. And, I know that was back in May where we had three or four of the residents there. So, I don't know what is going on there. But, the traffic study right now when we include the 14 triplexes that they are going to be building which is going to be 52 units plus the six four-plexes is that they are going to be adding 76 more units to that area. And, when you add up the number of units, there are 390 now so there is going to be over 450 on that. The roads cannot handle that much traffic. When I announced that to the MAPC people to be alerted about the traffic report, they said it is going to be revised. When I think of if you are going to revise a traffic report that means maybe they didn't make the traffic report, something was wrong with it. But, I hope you guys stop and think the next time that we get a request to build more units out there because we have got to do something about Bekah and Russell. We have got to do something about Craighead Forest Road because now we are going to have 460 units out there and if you multiply that times two cars per unit, you are going to have about 900 cars coming out of those streets there. But, I think, most of all, is that, how can I say this, is that the MAPC needs to know what goes on with you guys and what the MAPC passes on this one right here with the site plan because that traffic study is probably going to be passed and it is probably going to be approved, but we can't really afford to put any more units out there because the roads can't handle it. So, I hope there is a little bit better communication between the MAPC and you guys on there. So, thank you.

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

**Absent:** 2 - Charles Frierson and Brian Emison

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Harold Copenhaver, Mayor**

**Attest:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**April Leggett, City Clerk**