



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Finance & Administration Council Committee

Tuesday, June 10, 2025

4:00 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL (ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE) CONFIRMED BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

Present 5 - Joe Hafner; John Street; David McClain; Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

Absent 2 - Charles Coleman and Ann Williams

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[MIN-25:045](#)

Minutes for the Finance Committee meeting on Tuesday, May 27, 2025

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

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

Aye: 4 - John Street; David McClain; Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

Absent: 2 - Charles Coleman and Ann Williams

4. NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

[RES-25:057](#)

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH EAST ARKANSAS BROADCASTERS FOR RENTAL OF JOE MACK CAMPBELL SPORTS COMPLEX

Sponsors: Parks & Recreation and Finance

Attachments: [July 4th 2025 - EAB Signed Contract.pdf](#)
[JULY 4TH 2025 EAB 1.pdf](#)

Chairman Joe Hafner said, I will state that this is the normal contract that we do each year for this type of thing.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, I do have a question Mr. Chairman. So, I mentioned this last year, and I didn't know if they had considered this. I asked about the expenses of the usage of our employees and personnel and all of that, when we're only renting it for \$1,000. I know that this is a service to the people, but on the same

token, you know, how much more expenses is it in regard to renting the area for \$1,000. Is it comparable? Chief Administrative Officer Brian Richardson approached the podium and said, sure. And I actually talked to Danny Kapales about this a couple of weeks ago and we're actually, this year, put together a total of our total expenses on it. Just so we can see and exactly calculate what the expense is to the city. And then obviously there's a huge return not only for the community but for the region as well that comes to see this. So, I would say after... we can go ahead and plan on, maybe, the last Finance meeting of July I could have Danny prepare a report as far as what our expenditures were for this project. And for both of them really. And so, he's planning for that and he's going to kind of work that though as we start going through this process to keep track of all that.

A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 4 - John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

Absent: 2 - Charles Coleman and Ann Williams

[RES-25:058](#)

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH SAGA COMMUNICATIONS OF ARKANSAS LLC D/B/A JONESBORO RADIO GROUP FOR RENTAL OF SOUTHSIDE SPORTS COMPLEX

Sponsors: Parks & Recreation and Finance

Attachments: [JULY 4TH 2025 JRG.pdf](#)

Chairman Joe Hafner said, I think there was an "are" left out. Yeah, there was an "are" left out. City Clerk April Leggett said, I don't write these.

A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 4 - John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

Absent: 2 - Charles Coleman and Ann Williams

[RES-25:060](#)

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH DAIRY QUEEN FOR SPONSORSHIP OF ONE SOFTBALL FIELD AT THE SOUTH SIDE SOFTBALL COMPLEX

Sponsors: Parks & Recreation and Finance

Attachments: [Dairy Queen-Southside Softball 2025.pdf](#)

Chairman Joe Hafner said, I have a question before I get into this one. We've kind of got two contradictory things going on. On RES-25:058 we own and maintain Southside Sports Complex. On this one we lease and maintain. I'm just saying we need to... Can RES-25:058 be changed to City of Jonesboro leases and maintains Southside Sports Complex? Thank you.

Councilmember David McClain said, is it Dairy Queen or Roof X? Chairman Joe Hafner said, it should be Dairy Queen. Is the title wrong? The contract is Dairy Queen.

Chairman Joe Hafner said, this one is a total of \$7,500 over five years, so it's \$1,500 a year.

Councilmember David McClain motioned, seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison,

to amend the title only on RES-25:060 from Roof X Solutions to Dairy Queen. All voted aye.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, I do have either a question and/or just for the record. I mentioned this, I think in the last meeting, we talked about sponsorships, and I just want to make sure that we're on the record that it makes sense. Especially, our city is growing which means we have more eyes and ears and participation and blah blah blah. I just want to make certain that we are getting the best, I don't know what other words to use other than best bang for our buck. And with the \$7,500 sponsorship, and I know Danny mentioned it last time. I just wanted to make sure that it was on the record that we are considering this moving forward. Because we're talking five years, that's a long time for only \$1,500 with a long season, all year, you know. So, I just think we ought to reconsider that.

A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 4 - John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

Absent: 2 - Charles Coleman and Ann Williams

[RES-25:064](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE FY2026 SELECTIVE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM (STEP) FROM THE ARKANSAS STATE POLICE

Sponsors: Grants and Police Department

Councilmember John Street said, we've been very successful. We've gotten this every year. It has provided a lot of child safety seats. A lot of training to parents to install those things. We do have a lot of benefit from the increased enforcement for speed and seatbelts. I wish they would do distracted driving a little harder, but it's my understanding some of the judges won't enforce that. So, I still think we ought to do it. I think we should write it up and if the judge throws it out it's his call. But nevertheless, I think it's a valuable grant to get for Jonesboro. Chairman Joe Hafner said, I know these child passenger clinics can be pretty good, because I remember my daughter was a baby and I had her seat set up in our car, van, or whatever we had then. I thought I had it anchored in there nicely and I had it anchored on the seat release. So that would have been really bad if something would have happened. Thankfully the officer caught it and fixed it and there were no issues. So, I know these can be really, really important.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, I do have a question and I'm sorry for asking all of these questions. But John, I appreciate you John for sharing that because I think it's important. But that really speaks to my question with Grants. Are we required to keep this data or to report this kind of data? And if so have we reported... have we sent it? Because I haven't seen it. I mean not that I need to today but... Grants Department Project Coordinator Mark Coomes approached the podium and said, yes sir. The police department collects that data every year and it's part of the grant application. I've got a copy of it with me, and I'd be glad to give it to you so you can look over the statistics yourself. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, great.

Councilmember David McClain said, the only question I had, and I know the chief's not here. But what's the difference, I guess, from day to day with the grant? I mean, is there a difference in... I guess is there a more intentional focus during this time frame

or... Like I said, you can't probably answer that question. So, I didn't know if there's a... are we... Chairman Joe Hafner said, I think they can actually work more because it pays for overtime. Councilmember John Street said, yeah, it's just overtime for if an officer works his shift, then he'll sign up for 3 more hours. Chief Operating Officer Tony Thomas approached the podium and said, yes and also to answer the piggyback off that previous question. Those stats are included in the chief's monthly report or the crime analysis, she sends out that monthly report, that data is included in that monthly report. But as Mark indicated, he has a compiled list as well that is specific to the grant that can be shared with you as well. And then, yes. As a part of regular enforcement and overtime enforcement, officers do have specific tasks that are related to this grant application. This allows us to truly target those specific activities that are in this project and pay for the overtime that's associated with that. Traditionally, we do have officers who have overtime for various reasons for various things, but rarely is it just for those targeted specific activities that are related to this project. And we have to show that hey they are working and that they are actually being proactive in enforcement related to these specific activities. And then, as you also heard, not just from an enforcement standpoint but also from a public awareness and public safety perspective, they do other activities associated with the grant and the time is the only thing that's paid for by the grant. The overtime or the time that's worked, we include the benefits and the taxes, as well as the cost of car seats and different things like that as match related to this grant. Councilmember David McClain said, thank you.

A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 4 - John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

Absent: 2 - Charles Coleman and Ann Williams

[RES-25:066](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY ATTORNEY TO CERTIFY THE CITY OF JONESBORO 2025 ANNUAL FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA) CERTIFICATIONS AND ASSURANCES FOR THE JONESBORO ECONOMICAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM (JET)

Sponsors: JETS, Grants and Finance

Attachments: [2025 Annual Cert & Assurances.pdf](#)

Chairman Joe Hafner said, I just have a curiosity question if somebody can answer it. Why is it the city attorney in this case instead of the city clerk? I'm just curious. Grants Department Interim Director Alejandra Morales approached the podium and said, this kind of goes back to the opinion of council that we passed a couple, maybe a month or so ago. It just allows the city attorney to ensure that they have checked those regulations, and we are in compliance with that. So, it's just an extra legal step that they want to ensure. Chairman Joe Hafner said, ok, thank you.

A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 4 - John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

Absent: 2 - Charles Coleman and Ann Williams

[RES-25:067](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE FY26 GREAT STRIDES/TRAILS FOR LIFE GRANT FROM THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT

OF PARKS, HERITAGE AND TOURISM

Sponsors: Grants and Parks & Recreation

Councilmember David McClain said, do we have any idea, Mr. Chairman or anybody that could update us, on where we're looking to put this, use this money? I mean, anywhere in particular? I've got a follow-up also, do we also... Can y'all provide an update on where we are as far as trails that we've already started working on, they've been approved, parks etc., that is where we are towards completion. We're at 20%, we're at 50%. Just to give us an overview of all the projects we have going on. Chief Administrative Officer Brian Richardson approached the podium and said, ok, let me tackle the first one. Councilmember David McClain said, go ahead. That's fine. Brian Richardson said, we're actually looking at a couple possible options here as we're designing out the park in northeast Jonesboro. You know, there's been some discussion about a piece that will fit in there, but we're also looking at some bike trails to kind of reutilize some of the old city landfill area. Just some downhill trails since the topography is kind of a natural for that. There has been some research and some potential tracking made as far as laid-out out there, so that would be an option too. Either of those would be good projects, and I think it's worthwhile asking for this funding for. So, as Parks and Connectivity Committee kind of look at that we'll update the council as we go if we get the grant as far as where we're going to put it. But those are really the kind of two leading candidates right now.

Councilmember David McClain said, and the second one? Brian Richardson said, the second one, as far as percentages off the top of my head... Councilmember David McClain said, I'm not asking you to give them to me. Can you send us something that shows us where we are. Brian Richardson said, sure. Yes, that won't be a problem at all. Councilmember David McClain said, ok. Thank you.

Chairman Joe Hafner said, I will say, the trail that's connecting Flint to Culberhouse, or Short Street to Culberhouse, I mean, that should probably be done, I would think, in the next month or so. A month or two, things sometimes move slower. But I was riding on those trails this morning. Craig mentioned in the Connectivity Committee meeting we had today that, I think the Marion Berry plans are 60% plans right now. And there's going to be another meeting held with ASU soon. Brian Richardson said, sure. We actually got a job number on that, so that's a pretty critical part as far as the ArDOT planning process goes. Because you know that's a joint venture supported by council and Arkansas State University on the repurposing of that overpass, for those that don't know exactly what Councilman Hafner's talking about. We also did get a permit from ArDOT for a shared use path alongside of Johnson. So, whenever that project receives funding, it will be ready to go. And that's been very fortunate that Engineering and ArDOT were able to get all the intricate details worked out about that. That's something a lot of people don't understand is how much detail you have to have planned out before you can get a permit to work in ArDOT's right-of-way. You know, for good reason. And then the next targeted pathway that's being discussed on the revenue bond would be a shared use path along Jefferson to make a connection over to Gee Street. And that would be all in city right-of-way, so much like the Culberhouse and Flint section of trails, that process is an internal design and so that will move along pretty quickly once funded.

Councilmember David McClain said, where are we on Aggie Road? Brian Richardson said, so Aggie Road, we are in the process of working through with ArDOT for final plans in some right-of-way acquisitions and estimates in that process. And also, kind of working with the Highway Department on how that interaction at the new 351 junction where it comes into Aggie is exactly going to work out. So, I'm really hoping that

actually goes to construction at some point this year. Again, it's one of those things that whenever we have to deal with multiple jurisdictions as far as right-of-ways and approval processes, it's just hard to really know for sure exactly when those final permits will come through. But I know Engineering and Planning are really pushing that pretty hard to get that started.

Chairman Joe Hafner said, I'll say one more thing about Marion Berry. I know ASU has been working on some designs for what the overpass would look like, as far as branding it with the ASU with the Red Wolf, and it looks... What I saw, I mean it's just preliminary something that's approved, looks really cool. With what they've done with the concrete wall, branding and stuff like that. Brian Richardson said, it's going to be really neat. And in case you didn't notice, when you walk outside the building you can actually see we're actively installing the street lights up and down Creath Street that were approved by Council, just what seems like a few short weeks ago. And I don't know exactly when that project is going to be complete, but I've seen one of those lights demoed in person at night and that's going to be a very bright street. And we're looking to kind of expand that along our system as we go. Chairman Joe Hafner said, and once again, I'll take this as a sign of progress, we were riding down the path this morning and once again we had people stop for us at Bridge Street in a crosswalk. A lot of times they'll just buzz through it. We've had people starting to stop and let us through, you know, since we're in a crosswalk. So, I take that as progress. Brian Richardson said, I see it more out my window every day so we're getting there.

A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 4 - John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

Absent: 2 - Charles Coleman and Ann Williams

5. PENDING ITEMS

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, I do have a question, and this is for the Grants Department. I am aware of the governor and that up to \$1,500,000, I just wanted to see where we were on that and kind of what project we're looking at to apply for that. Chief Administrative Officer Brian Richardson approached the podium and said, so you know, Grants has been studying the details of that, and it looks like it really needs to be something that's close to shovel ready that you've actually got some plans and some deliverable completion times. We are looking at... We just started working on the narrative today a little bit for some possible funding for the Shoot Sports Complex to try to get that project completed. Of course, there could be any number of things, Jonesboro's got a lot of needs, but that's a project that needs to be finished up at some point. You know, it's hard for the city to swallow that entire bill without some outside support, so that's one thing we're looking at. But, happy if you've got any other thoughts on that but that's what we're looking at for it. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, is it ok to have more than one application? Chief Operating Officer Tony Thomas said from his seat, yes. Brian Richardson said, so, the answer was yes for the record.

Councilmember David McClain said, Mr. Chair... Brian if you don't mind to stay. The only question I had. At the last Finance meeting I asked you to send us... The bond counsel gave us some guidance on why we didn't bring the ordinance for the bond

back to Finance. Still waiting on that. And then also, the reason I'm asking that question, you know, Council has our rules, we have our procedures, just curious why we didn't. You don't have to answer that right now, but if you don't mind, I would appreciate just an email highlighting why number one, we're not bringing back and then number two, again what counsel has given you, what guidance they've given you guys. Brian Richardson said, sure, and I can get you a more detailed answer but the most simple one is that after speaking with bond counsel, city attorney and Councilman Hafner that, you know, it's a very common process and there's nothing in the state statute that requires a revenue bond be produced and represented to Council. Especially in the event that there's an authorizing resolution that proceeded the, I guess, the bond counsel and their underwriters to move forward with their marketing and selling of the bonds. But let me get you an actual professional answer from the financial advisor on that. But, you know, typically whenever these types of things are presented that's a very common practice. And you know, the bonds are being marketed and we need to lock in a rate, if it's approved, to ensure that those obligations and free cell commitments are made. Councilmember David McClain said, like I said, the only reason I'm asking... Correct me if I'm wrong, an ordinance comes to a committee first and then goes to the full Council if passed. If that's not the case and that's not our rules then I'd like somebody to give me some understanding of where or why it's different in this regard. Brian Richardson said, well I would just say in that regard, there was an authorizing resolution that was presented that did authorize counsel and the bond actionees to begin their process. As far as that goes, I don't know that we have any council rules regarding what manages how a revenue bond is produced. You know, that would be a localized question... Councilmember David McClain said, that's why I said I'm speaking on ordinance... Brian Richardson said, to Carol Duncan... Councilmember David McClain said, the ordinance number that you're going to get. That specific ordinance. City Clerk April Leggett said, I will let you know that, not specifically to a bond in particular but to an ordinance, there are ordinances for private club permits that do not go through a committee that goes straight to Council first. Councilmember David McClain said, ok. Brian Richardson said, and looking back in history on Legistar, of course you know, it's hard to take data from years and years ago, but there have been instances in the past where ordinances regarding bonds were committed directly to the City Council. But again, there's no state statute that requires that. The public meeting that we had a couple of weeks ago, that timeline was discussed and at that point there were not any questions about the process so they began their paperwork to market the bonds and to go through with that creation to gather the information that the Council will need to make an informed decision on the 17th.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road, approached the podium and said, I think I'm going to just kind of carry-on what David and Brian were talking about. And I think that's the one thing... Brian you are so far away over there... That's the one thing that I know that so many of the citizens are upset about. And I think the thing is, is that when you look at when the original bond was presented, it was back last year in September, and I know that it was passed. And I just want to state also too, I am not opposed to Jonesboro getting better. I've been here for like 30 some years and I volunteer as much as I can to make it better. But there's a process that we have even though other cities might do it in a different way. And I think a lot of people feel that this has not been as transparent as it could have been. And I think if you look at the old capital plan that was presented back in September, there were some items in here that is not mentioned in the bond that is being presented right now that we're trying to pass. And when I say that, is that it says the amount of it is the same and the three projects, but

it also says right here is that then we'll add \$8,250,000 from the remaining ARPA funds to do different projects. It's stated in here, it is not stated in the new bond on that. So that is kind of confusing to people. We approved that one so does that mean that we're going to use the \$8,250,000 in this one, because it's not mentioned. And then also too, here it says the land purchase is an integral part, a piece of the project. Well first, we were told in September that we were going to purchase the property over on Caraway, and that was because we were going to get congressional appropriations totaling \$4,000,000. Once again, it's in the old one back in September, it's not in the new one that's being presented. So, people are confused which one are we passing, because I agree with you, it was passed and we were looking at different... But if you think of looking at the timeline that was presented in that, is that what happened after we had the public hearing in September the 30th. We had the public hearings and then all of a sudden it just stopped. We didn't hear a single thing about it. Well, what happened during that time? Well, we had the election, you know, we had to figure out who was going to be mayor and we found out. And then we had to pass a budget so that kind of overtook the talking points and all that. But after that, we didn't hear anything until April, and that's when we got the new capital budget plan. But once again, are we talking still that we're going to use the \$8,250,000 and we've got that \$4,000,000 secured to purchase the land or demolish the one over downtown. That's where people are confused. So, it's not, you know, it's just being transparent. So, when we have rules and ordinances, they just need to be followed even though that this counsel says that's what other towns do. We don't have to follow what other towns do. So, you got the new one and here it is in April. We got all the designs, but when you think of it, is that this was back in September here it is June. So, we're talking six to seven months now. So, a lot of things have changed. And you look at those projects that we were going to do with the ARPA funds. Well, how much money do we have still in there, and are they going to be done? We don't know because it's not in this right here. It's not in the new bond agreement. The \$17,500,000, the amount is, but what about all the rest of it. And that's where people are confused. So, you look at from September the 19th, when it got passed and I'll go back on that that it was passed, but it's been six or seven months now. And which bond proposal are we talking about now? Because it hasn't, and I agree with you David, it has not come back to Finance so the people don't know what we're getting in it. And I think that goes back to being transparent. The other day when the downtown group was here, I think there was a lady that said well can't we put an emergency clause on it, and Chris Moore, and these were his words, is that's what constitutes an emergency clause, and he says, normally an intimate life or danger to property or to a person. So, do we have really an emergency clause here because that's not happening with this bond. So, I don't understand why we're having to put an emergency clause on this. And then the bid thing, it gives the public time to look at it, and after this meeting then it will appear on the agenda, and we'll have the three readings. Which we need to and first go back to the Finance and you guys could have done it right here and then it could have been just six weeks from now. And look how long we've waited for Caraway Road to get fixed. Look how long we've waited for this. So, six weeks is not going to be a big deal. But the main thing that Chris Moore said is that trust me it's a good idea not to put the emergency clause on because I don't think anybody's fighting it or opposing it. I don't think there's a lot of people that are fighting or opposing the bond. We need to, like Brian said there's a lot of needs here in Jonesboro. But it's just procedural. So, that means we have here in Jonesboro, we have our rules, we have our ordinances, and that's what people are disappointed in. One, they don't know which bond that we're talking about. Is it the one back in September? Is it the one that was presented here in April? And then all of a sudden, it's going to come up next Tuesday to you guys, and we're going to read it one time. There's probably not going to be a lot of questions and then it's going to pass because it's an emergency clause. And it's not emergency clause, because if you

guys couldn't do it for the people in the downtown area why do we do it for us then. You know, you've got to be fair to the same people, so that's what the people are disappointed in. And I think for all of you is that I wish that you guys would have brought it back even today. And talked about it and let one more time let the people and then just be really defined of what it is. So, I just want to let you know that's where a lot of people are in this town with it. People want the change and they need the help, it's to bad we have to borrow the money, but once again we have rules and policies and ordinances that Jonesboro follows. It might not be the same town like the counsel says, that's what everybody else does so let's do it. We don't have to follow what everybody does on that. So thank you.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, so can I make a comment on that? I have a question. Chairman Joe Hafner said, we normally don't make comments on public comments. Councilmember John Street said, I wish we could.

8. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this meeting be Adjourned. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 4 - John Street; David McClain; Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

Absent: 2 - Charles Coleman and Ann Williams