



# City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center  
300 S. Church Street  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

## Meeting Minutes City Council

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Thursday, October 8, 2020

5:30 PM

Municipal Center

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

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR PERRIN AT 5:30 P.M.

*Mayor Harold Perrin was not in attendance. President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore presided over the meeting.*

#### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

#### 3. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK DONNA JACKSON

**Present** 10 - Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; David McClain and LJ Bryant  
**Absent** 2 - Ann Williams and Joe Hafner

#### 4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

[COM-20:058](#)

MARCH 28, 2020 TORNADO AFTER-ACTION REPORTS BY CHIEF OF STAFF MIKE DOWNING, FIRE CHIEF KEVIN MILLER, POLICE CHIEF RICK ELLIOTT, AND AIRPORT MANAGER GEORGE JACKSON

**Attachments:** [Tornado Review](#)  
[Fire Dept, Tornado Action Report 2020](#)  
[Police, Tornado After Action Report 2020](#)

*Chief of Staff Mike Downing said, on March 28, 2020, you can see this is the line of tornadoes. This map actually shows pictures at each of those dots where something was destroyed. Here are a few pictures. As everyone knows, we had significant devastation, but we were lucky in a lot of ways too. Things that we will talk about today is funding, property damage, airport damage and reconstruction, fire and police after-action report, and recommendations for future emergencies. We will have several staff members talk about their part of this. So, in summary, the best thing is there were no deaths as we all know. A lot of that was because of the pandemic and stores being closed or closed early. Had it not been for that, there would have been hundreds of deaths most likely. There were only 22 injuries. The property damage was about a half a billion dollars. We had significant response by our staff, the county, ARDOT, and others that came in and did what they needed to do, not necessarily their job but pitched in wherever possible and did some very brave and heroic things and we are very thankful for that. We also had a significant amount of assistance by volunteers and other providers to help with cleanup, money, supplies, you name it and they were there to help when necessary. And, I am just going to mention some of the primary aid*

organizations. I know that I am going to leave some out and I apologize for that, but these are just some of those that helped out. As you can see, there were a number of these. Now, given that, I do want to recognize one company that really did a significant amount of work and went to the aid immediately and helped out whenever they were, Shannon Kee Construction. Shannon Kee and Chris Matthews would you come up. We are going to give them a challenge coin by President Pro-Temp Moore and honor them. We appreciate all you did. It was quick and fantastic service. So, on behalf of the City of Jonesboro, thank you all.

Chief of Staff Mike Downing said, on the funding, the city costs on the left you can see where things like the Police Building at the airport, Airport properties which George is going to mention in a few minutes, traffic signals, replacement vehicles, salary overtime, and the landfill issue and debris hauling. The sources of that funding so far: FEMA, we are to get \$2,250,000 in FEMA Funds. Insurance is \$1,400,000 and the net city funds is \$930,000. However, I have to stress not all of that is cash. A lot of that is for depreciation, use of equipment, and things like that we used for local match for FEMA. We have a 25% city match on the FEMA funds. So, that is not an exact portrayal of the money that the city was out. I am going to guess that it is about half that much, but don't hold me to it. So, in the neighborhood of \$4,580,000 in what funding was involved in city properties and costs.

So, we will talk about the property damage a little bit. On the Residential, I am going to give you two different sources. This is what we reported by FEMA. As you can see, there were 163 destroyed or major damage and 464 minor. Now, that is the FEMA reported number. Code Enforcement did a survey soon afterwards along with Planning and Inspections. We put together this list based on destroyed with demolition permits and building permits and you can see the numbers, but what I do want to point out is on the damaged side and the destroyed side with no permit, that is a number that should be explained because a lot of those properties, especially in the damaged category, didn't necessarily qualify to need a building permit. There was relatively minor damage, cosmetic kind of things. We are concerned that a fair number of the destroyed and damaged that does not have a permit yet should start construction. Some of those sold out to developers and others, the ones that were demolished are still a piece of concrete, basically a slab of concrete and may not have anything happen for a while, but we will talk about that in a minute.

On the Commercial/Businesses, 63 at the mall and 45 non-mall commercial and business properties. And, you can see which ones have permits and have relocated and such. I will talk about the mall in just a second. Any questions so far? So, the mall is owned by Brookfield Properties in Chicago. That quote is what they gave me a few days ago. "We are reviewing the test options for the shopping center and community going forward. Due to the global pandemic, our timeline will be extended as we navigate this unprecedented situation." Basically, the pandemic has affected their timeline and they are working with their insurance company. Unofficially, the tell me and others have told me that they are looking at possibly refiguring the nature of the mall. A lot of the malls in the country have done that. So, it is still going to take some time yet to redevelop the mall and start on reconstruction. There were 63 businesses affected. As you can see, some have already reopened. Some have relocated. And, two that I am aware of are still undetermined, Best Buy and Barnes and Noble. A few days ago, Barnes and Noble indicated that they will likely stay in town, but move to a smaller location elsewhere. But, I would not say anything is set on Best Buy or Barnes and Noble at this time.

We had a 35 car train derailment. There were three that had flammable liquids with a

*small leak and Union Pacific Railroad took care of this. It was not a major concern. I think it was on the outset, but after some investigation, along with working with the Fire Department, that was not a significant concern.*

*The concern that we did have was fly-by-night contractors and roofers. And, for the first couple of days, this was a fairly significant problem trying to make sure the residents were not being taken advantage of. So, staff worked with others and implemented this placard for dashboards and we also clamped down on requiring a city or state contractor license. And, another thing I want to point out is that local contractors were really a lot of help by assisting and monitoring the unlicensed contractors and that helped our staff to weed some of those out and send them back where they came from. But, it was a problem for the first two or three days and took some activity to overcome that. The debris and vegetation the first few days was quite a stir. The landfill got backed up considerably. There was some confusion about what should be taken to Legacy Landfill. And, we were able to have the natural resources to open up the Strawfloor pit for vegetation and city construction debris. So, that was advantageous.*

*So, some circumstances, we still have some properties where the tornado debris hasn't been picked up. We have some property owners that haven't started reconstruction that should. Some are on a waiting list for a contractor. Some are still in the process of selling to a contractor. Some have insurance concerns. And, some have just abandoned the property. There are a few that and I have seen a few of these that are a significant issue of safety to neighbors and children which we have got to take care of quickly. So, here is what we are proposing and we want your comments on it. After November 1st, the city will impose the normal permit fees. I am sure that you know that after the tornado, we waived these permit fees for demolition and building construction for tornado affected victims. So, after November 1st, we will start imposing the fees. We have done this somewhat, but we want to accelerate this to notify property owners that have not applied for a building permit that should, that they need to get the building permit prior to December 1st and if they don't and they can't document an acceptable reason, such as insurance problems or other that is reasonable, that we want to start the boarding ordinance or condemnation depending upon the circumstances. And, then, the building permit lasts for six months and that can be renewed. So, again, our concern is that we just don't want some of these properties that have been neglected to be a blighting influence and a health and safety issue for adjacent property owners. And, then a few property owners still have debris. Mike Tyner and his staff have been enforcing codes and we think we will step that up more because it needs to be cleaned up for those property owners that haven't done that.*

*Councilmember Bobby Long asked, how many homes or businesses will this affect and where are those mostly located? Do you know? Mr. Downing said, I don't know the number. Again, some of those of that listing I gave you are on residential properties and commercial properties earlier. Some of those did not have permits, but some were cosmetic where they don't need permits. So, we have not gone back to all of the properties since six months ago to determine which ones should be listed and I think we will start doing that, but we haven't done it yet. And where they are at? They are mixed all over. I have seen in different neighborhoods where there are properties that should be cleaned up or redeveloped and just hasn't yet for various reasons. Code Enforcement Director Mike Tyner said, we have been doing weekly follow-ups. We do a weekly status update on all of these since we have got the cleanup completed. We went back by today and we are looking at a handful, maybe 10-15 houses that are still needing work done to them. We have got a couple that are in dire condition and we*

need to demolish. For the most part, a lot of the commercial with the exception of maybe 3-5 buildings has either already completed the repairs or is in the process of it. So, we have had a lot of reconstruction and a lot of repair. Like I said, there are 10-15 houses that still haven't been touched and maybe a half dozen or so commercial properties. Councilmember Long asked, so are those houses located in a particular general area or are they scattered all over? Mr. Tyner said, no. They are anywhere from the neighborhood of the Woodfield area behind the mall to Prospect to Elizabeth to Nathan area and there is even one or two out in Bridger Place that still need some attention. So, it is a good mix of the largest impact areas. Each one still has a few in there that need to be taken care of. Councilmember Long said, okay, thank you.

Councilmember David McClain said, I know a few have been due to maybe contractors purchasing a home and then not doing anything unfortunately. We have seen that in our neighborhood and hopefully we can get some action. Mr. Downing said, yeah, I think that is our intent because we want to be compassionate about those who are trying to get things done, that are dealing with insurance companies and/or contractors. But, if they are not doing anything, that is a whole different story.

Airport Manager George Jackson gave an update on the Airport Reconstruction Report. Mr. Jackson said, thank you for having me. Let's talk about the airport. The airport took a pretty significant hit through the infrastructure areas, major infrastructure. Working through, we have got most of our cleanup underway or completed. I am pretty happy where we are today with what we faced. Working through right now, finishing out the insurance. We are looking, we are going to be just under \$11 million on our insurance payment. We are still working a little bit with FEMA on reconstructing some of the buildings. We have a few buildings that are undergoing a structural analysis. We have got one that we were looking at for some long term leasing. We started talking with the city on replacing that building or the FAA trying to keep some of the FAA guys on the field. The building is pretty much deemed structurally sound, but it was getting cost estimates in and we have decided to move on. And, that building will be demoed on the 10th. We had to go through a little bit of asbestos abatement process on that. That will kind of wrap up what buildings we have still to take care of from the damage. We are under construction on four of our t-hanger buildings. Those will house 20 individual planes. And, that is where we stand to get our lease rates of about \$5,000 a month. That is what that will generate. We have kind of been focusing on what will get us our revenue generation back into our bank account. Those are set to be completed on March 13th if everything goes well. We are underway on the Fire Station and the maintenance facility will be the next two that will go under construction. They are still in the design process, but those are underway. Kind of just some of the things that I have been wrapping up. We did dispose of 633 tons of combined metal and just trash material. That was a pretty interesting fact that I thought of what we actually hauled out of there. That is kind of where we are today if anybody has questions.

Councilmember John Street said, George, could you address the misconception some people have had about the airport being underinsured. Mr. Jackson said, right now, we don't. We had a professional engineering service come in on the first week and do analysis of what damage estimates would be. You really don't know until you start opening sealed bids. But, I think we are going to be fine on the insurance wise so far. We are still opening bids, but everything is looking to come in. I think or original engineer estimates were like \$17 million. We had \$10.3 million in coverage on property and then we had some side coverage. I think we are going to be pretty good. I am relieved a lot better than I was that first week after the tornado. Councilmember Street said, thank you. President Pro-Temp Chris Moore said, George, the other thing is that I get calls regular. Can you tell us about the essential air service? Do they operate

right off the runway or is it housed somewhere else? Mr. Jackson said, one of our main objectives after the tornado was to get everybody back in business. The general airport was opened four days after the tornado. We had Air Choice back under a shelter. Hytrol Conveyor did open their lobby to get Air Choice back in business. So they were without housing for a week I think now. After we got our main FBO building back up and going. They have been in there ever since. I would say I don't know how long it was after the tornado, but they have been operating. President Pro-Temp Moore asked, are they still flying their full schedule just like they were before the tornado? Where does somebody go if they want to get a flight, their building was damaged, do they come to the flight service building? Mr. Jackson said, when you come into the airport, it is building one. It is the main general aviation terminal building. They are located there right in the front lobby. You can't miss them. They are doing their three flights a day, round trip to St. Louis. There are some great deals on that they are offering. It is a limited number each month. There is a limited number of tickets, but you can go online and book your flight. It is jbr2020. I think you are paying the taxes. It comes to like \$7.50 round trip. President Pro-Temp Moore asked, to St. Louis? Mr. Jackson said, to St. Louis and back. There are some dollar flights during the middle of the week. It is there. It is operating and its never been a secret. I am glad that you brought up the essential air service. That whole service is subsidized and it is user fees, overflight fees from the major air carriers, international flights and a lot of that is where the funding is derived from. With our COVID situation, I am a little worried about the future of the Essential Air Service. We have always had a marginal operational enplanement numbers. We have got to use it or lose it. President Pro-Temp Moore said, I am hoping that at \$1 a flight round trip or \$7.50 round trip, we may be able to book a 9 passenger plane. Mr. Jackson said, actually, that was out there prior to the tornado. It has been there for a while.

Councilmember David McClain said, the conversation was brought up after the tornado, something about us expanding and possibly offering flights to different areas maybe to metropolitan areas. Is that something that we have discussed or explored and if so, what is that potential to expand look like? Mr. Jackson said, the way that the Essential Air Service is set up, your air carriers are the Essential Air Service providers. It is bid every four years. The Department of Transportation picks, with our input, they pick what service provider we will get. We have been pretty fortunate with Air Choice One. They have tried some trips to Destin, FL. I think there was two riders through that summer. You know, in the past history, we have had trips to Dallas-Ft. Worth. We were always on the chopping block. We have got a minimum number that the DOT pushes us to get. If you go below that number, you lose the service. The subsidy is what keeps that going. And, that is what allows these cheap prices to St. Louis and back. The whole intent of the Essential Air Service is to get you from Jonesboro to a major airport. It can get you to St. Louis and then continue your connecting flight from there, whether it be Delta or Southwest. We offer free parking at the airport. It is a one hour flight to St. Louis. So, your trip to Memphis, by the time you pay parking, your one hour drive and St. Louis historically offers a lower, more economical airfare than Memphis or Little Rock a lot of time. That varies by airport or time. But, we have got a great service. It's been one of the better historically number wise that we have had. I am a little afraid to venture off too much and lose the service all together.

Councilmember LJ Bryant asked, George, at the end of the rainbow if you would, how would we stand at capacity to how many planes can be on the field versus where we were at before? Mr. Jackson said, we hope to, when this is all over, actually, that has always been our goal before the tornado was to house. We were short on hangar space prior to the tornado. Now, we are really short. So, the plan is to get us back to the capacity that we were at and continue building hangars. We did have a hangar

construction going on prior to the tornado. It suffered some damage under the builders risk and we just got our certificate of occupancy before the first of the month. And, it immediately filled back up. So, and we get our T-hangars back. We have got plans. Our Capital Improvement Plan, we have kind of held it with the FAA to the runway strengthening project. It is getting some traction. And, I think we will keep going from there. As funding is available and with some help with insurance, this money I think we will be able to keep going on with some projects that we have had on the books for some time. We did get our lighting, our airfield lighting grant from the FAA. I think it came in after bids were opened. It was \$1.4 million and that was all discretionary funding. Those are usually 95/5 match grants and it is totally free. That was a big help. President Pro-Temp Moore said, George, thank you for the report. Mr. Jackson said, thank you.

Fire Chief Kevin Miller gave an update on the Fire Department After-Action Report. Chief Miller said, good evening, I will keep this pretty brief. I know that Mike has gone over a lot of the basic numbers so I am not going to go back and rehash a lot of that. I am just going to give you a basic, broad overview of the Fire Department's initial response covering basically the first 24-48 hours. On that day when it occurred, we had four major challenges that the fire department had to address, that the city had to address in general. Obviously, we had the impact of the tornado itself and the initial search and rescue operations that were going on throughout the city for the amount of structures that were damaged searching for the occupants that could have been trapped, killed, or injured. We also had a large commercial fire going in the Camfil-Farr Plant. We also had a train derailment that at the time we didn't know what all was involved there. 35 cars had been overturned. We had some that had potential hazardous materials that we were having to investigate. And, we were also doing this in the middle of a pandemic. So, it made for a very interesting day. But, all that being said, we were able to overcome a lot of those obstacles with a great, great turnout of our emergency personnel, fire and police both. And, Chief Elliott is going to give you a little more detail about that aspect. Starting out on that day, we had 29 personnel that were spread throughout seven stations. Immediately we realized the impact and size of the severity of what was going on so we activated our emergency call back system which brought in 85 firefighters that immediately responded back in that brought us up to 114 total people that were able to respond in the first few hours of that event. And, that was an amazing amount of people that came in. Now, you compile that with the number of police officers and the additional resources that we had coming from other places, it was quite impressive. We had people just from the fire department aspect of it side, pretty much every department in the county showed up with people and personnel. From Harrisburg, Weiner, Valley View, Bono, Brookland, Lake City, Paragould, we had contacts and people reach out to us from Little Rock, Hot Springs, El Dorado, Ft. Smith, Forrest City, Conway, Fayetteville, and everywhere in between offering resources to be able to come in and help us that day. But, the immediate resources we had here that day was almost overwhelming. Initially, after we got everything going, we set up a temporary command post there on the mall at Turtle Creek. That basically became ground zero where we set up our temporary command post which was able to operate for several days after that. And, at that command post, as Mike eluded to earlier, we had pretty much pick a division from the city and there was a representative there. But also, we had County Sheriff's Department, the county OES, utilities, City Water & Light, Entergy and the list goes on and on and on. One thing to go back to that we were most surprised about, most importantly, was that we only had 22 injuries, 3 of those requiring hospitalizations and zero fatalities. Let me say that again, zero fatalities. How many of us were watching it live that day on tv? Did anybody think that was going to be the outcome at that time? I will tell you right now, I did not. That has been truly, truly an amazing blessing. To wrap it up from there, we

basically came to the conclusion that due to certain aspects, the relatively low injuries, the low severity, and the no fatalities were basically brought about by three different things. The quick action of our county and city 911 to activate the emergency tornado system throughout the city and at the time, like I just mentioned, we had wall to wall coverage going on local tv and radio broadcasting to the individuals and the citizens of this community to be able to take cover. I will tell you right now, I know we have an election coming up and if Ryan Vaughn were to run for Mayor, he would win in a landslide. Councilmember David McClain said, he lives in Paragould, the wrong city. Chief Miller said, we don't care. He would still win. Their coverage was amazing and Trey Stafford and the Radio Group, they did an amazing job of broadcasting information not only during, but afterwards. Especially afterwards, trying to get information out and warning the citizens and trying to reduce the amount of people that were coming into the city at the time. Also, probably the last one that contributed, the blessing in disguise, the curse of the COVID-19 because of the things in the situation that was going on at the time, a lot of the businesses that were shut down, there were relatively few people in some of these major businesses that got hit at the time. So, compile all of those together, that in itself is really what we feel has contributed to the low number of injuries and no fatalities. That is a very big overview and very broad. I can't tell you how proud I am of the individuals of the fire department and all of the emergency services that showed up. It was a huge challenge. We did our best to try to meet that challenge. We have learned a lot from it and we are going to continue to move forward and learn more. Any questions? President Pro-Temp Chris Moore said, thank you Chief. Chief Miller said, thank you.

Police Chief Rick Elliott gave an update on the Police Department After-Action Report. Chief Elliott said, we appreciate the fire department assisting us in this operation. I will say that we are a blessed community because tragedy hit us and before I knew it I am standing in the middle of the mall parking lot. I have got 90% of my staff standing before me eager to go to work. I have 25 other law enforcement agencies represented standing in front of me eager to help out the people of Jonesboro. It was truly a blessing to have this kind of response, but I wouldn't expect anything less from this community because we live in a great community. The people in Jonesboro have always stepped up and we take care of each other and especially in times like this, they really came through. We had many volunteers, off-duty doctors, nurses, just people with chainsaws lining up on the lot eager to go to work and start helping people out. So, that was a great thing. On the police department's end of it, of course, we had many challenges early on. Of course, we have the structural damage. We had power lines down so we were getting resources to take control of intersections without power, block off roads with downed lines, getting into the stricken neighborhoods and trying to control the access and the number of people who are out rubbernecking just immediately right after this. We had some looting to start taking place within a couple of hours after some of these businesses by the mall got hit. We are taking these law enforcement resources and spreading them out and providing guards on these businesses until they could get someone there and secure their property. So, those were kind of our first challenges early on in that day. But, again, we stepped up and met those challenges and dealt with it as it came on. As Chief Miller said, we did have a command operation set up on the mall parking lot. Everybody county wide, this was our staging area, our work area. That was the place that we operated out of for about the following week. So, after the rescue was done and the first couple of days, things kind of came down to a calm. We had to start coordinating the city's efforts in getting Jonesboro put back together. And, as we look at the City of Jonesboro's Disaster Plan and the county's Disaster Plan, the question came up with who is responsible for coordinating everybody at this point. And, it is not written. We found a deficiency in the plan. So, I am over Code Enforcement, I stepped up and said Mike Tyner, you are the

designee. So, Mike helped coordinate events for the rest of that week as far as coordinating all of the city people, the streets, sanitation, building inspectors, and keeping everything and keeping a running list going of what needs to be done and what has been done and then updating us back in command. So, we did have good information going out and good information coming back in on what is going on. As Mike said earlier on, we did have a contractor issue early on with people coming in almost immediately trying to prey upon our residents to get them to sign up and start putting out money to put a tarp over your roof and things like that. So, that was another challenge of keeping these people who didn't have a privilege license out of these areas until we could thoroughly check them out. And, that is why we came up with the placard. We verified who you were and made sure you had the right to do business here in Jonesboro. As people were verified, they were hanging these on the mirrors of their vehicles and when they came up to a stricken area trying to give service to somebody, the officers would verify this information and then allow them in so this was a quick and easy way to control the access to the stricken areas and we found that was very beneficial to everybody involved. It was very efficient in doing this. So, that was a huge takeaway from this in all of this. Our after action report is attached into your packet of information and I do have some printed copies if anybody has any interest in those. Overall, there are some lessons learned from all of this, but, for the most part, I would say that we handled things pretty efficient and very well. I would like to thank the businesses in Jonesboro that stepped up and donated equipment. We had chainsaws donated, gloves, trash bags, things like that. And, then the many restaurants in Jonesboro that fed the command post and everybody working, three meals a day for a whole week. It got to the point where I had to have a person just to schedule the feeding of first responders and the utility workers. We were blessed with enough food that we were loading up food and taking it to the stricken areas and passing it out to those residents also. So, the restaurants that stepped up, brought grills out and cooked burgers and stuff right on site there for us was great. But, again, this is what happens here in Jonesboro. We take care of each other. Again, in a time like this, it really showed. Again, I want to keep this short and sweet and I know that Mike has more to cover on this. Do you have any questions?

Councilmember David McClain said, I know we came up with the contractor pass to get in and restrict access. When you are in the midst of all of that stuff going on, I know as someone whose neighborhood was hit, you feel like you are under siege by everyone whether it be somebody trying to help, whether it be somebody trying to steal, whether it be somebody trying to do business, whatever the case may be. I would love for us to not have to deal with this, but at the same time, to put in our playbook that how do we limit access with residents? That is something I know we had. Chief Elliott said, at our checkpoints, we had someone asking to see the driver's license to verify the address, that you live at that address or show us something that you live at that address. And, I know sometimes, you may have moved and not had that changed so it may take checking that individual out a little bit longer time, but that was one of the things that we started early on. We started the patrol of who goes into the neighborhood because you are right, those neighborhoods became under siege because one had residents trying to get in, residents trying to get out, family members trying to get in to check on people and immediately you have got contractors or alleged contractors trying to get into these areas and then on the other hand you have people that are trying to take advantage of stealing and looting. So, those were many challenges and when you start looking at the amount of law enforcement assets that takes to control all of the access points in this many different areas of the town, it is quite taxing on the department. But, again, with the help from other agencies, we were able to do so. And, then you add on top of it with the train car derailment, that neighborhood was under siege by gravel trucks. We couldn't even get the residents



*back in there because the gravel trucks were backed up trying to unload gravel and dirt so they could build the road bed up so they could get this train up off the ground. So, that neighborhood had it extra tough on top of this. So, you know, it was a calamity of disasters in one day with the pandemic, the tornado, and the train derailment. But, everybody did their part and everything came out and worked out well. Again, we are very fortunate as the Chief said and Mike said and that we all know from watching the video that we were very fortunate that day. Councilmember McClain said, I commend you guys on the job you did because it was a lot to have to deal with. I know it was a lot. I know a lot of my neighbors appreciated everybody being on the entrances and then also patrolling through at night and making sure that we were all safe and so we appreciate it. Chief Elliott said, it is a team effort. There is no one single division of the city that shined out more than another. Everybody stepped in together at the command post immediately. Mike and the Mayor was there. They had the County Judge there. Bill Campbell was there getting information out. My Public Information Officers were there getting information out. Of course, the Mayor is getting phone calls from our federal partners. I am getting phone calls from my federal law enforcement partners offering assistance. What do you need? Offering resources. So, there are a lot of moving pieces going on, but again, we are all there working together. Everything just fell in place for us and it worked out well. President Pro-Temp Chris Moore said, thank you Chief.*

*Chief of Staff Mike Downing said, alright a couple of more things to discuss. So, this is not the only type of emergency that we may face and I think it is important for all of us to understand how we deal with other emergencies and so you can see there are many different ones. And, which ones are the most significant, we are in the heart of the earthquake New Madrid fault area. You can see on the top map. And, on tornado activity, we are in the red spot for that as well. So, you know all about that. I did some research and this company called 427 indicated that relative to other areas in the country, the upcoming consideration that we have is extreme heat. I find that kind of surprising. They also said extreme rainfall also is going to be a concern for this area and Craighead County. We do have issues that we need to think about more comprehensively. Here is just some recommendations and some ideas and we certainly would take your suggestions as well. But, the Municipal League has a handbook called, "Emergency Preparedness for Arkansas Municipalities." I went through that somewhat and I think that we can get some good ideas out of that. We have what we call a "Business Continuity Program" that was updated in, I believe, 2019. As I went through this a few days after the tornado, I found out how out of date it was. Not only from staffing, but the assets that are listed and where they are at and how to access those. So, that needs to be updated and that is going to be a fairly monumental task as well. Also, the county was working on an emergency plan, an Emergency Action Plan and we need to coordinate with them to the extent on that with their plan. We have a "Building Security Plan" we need to update as well. And some of those things on clarification, talking to staff and the fire and police departments report and also George with the airport, we need to better clarify and identify some of those things. We will have another emergency. We just hope that it is minimal and we can handle it the best we can then. So, from there, I will take any comments or questions that you have about this or the other emergencies. President Pro-Temp Chris Moore said, thank you Mike. Mr. Downing said, thank you all.*

**Read**

## **5. CONSENT AGENDA**

*Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Bobby Long, to remove RES-20:126 from the Consent Agenda because the lien had been paid. All*

*voted aye.*

*Approval of the Consent Agenda*

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

**Aye:** 10 - Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;David McClain and LJ Bryant

**Absent:** 2 - Ann Williams and Joe Hafner

[MIN-20:088](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

**Attachments:** [CC Minutes 09152020](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

[RES-20:122](#)

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

**Attachments:** [915 W. Oak](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-116-2020

[RES-20:123](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 200 S. ALLIS, PARCEL 01-144181-40800, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY MICHAEL DUANE DARLING

**Attachments:** [200 S. Allis](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-117-2020

[RES-20:124](#)

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

**Attachments:** [204 Woodrow](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-118-2020

[RES-20:125](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 319 N. ROGERS, PARCEL 01-144172-18000, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY ERIC GRIGGS

**Attachments:**     [319 N. Rogers](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-119-2020

[RES-20:127](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 719 W. MONROE, PARCEL 01-143134-18400, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY DALTON MASHBURN

**Attachments:**     [719 W. Monroe](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-120-2020

[RES-20:128](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 405 STATE, PARCEL 01-144171-03500, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY CHARLES NOELL JR.

**Attachments:**     [405 State](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-121-2020

[RES-20:129](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4405 JANICE, PARCEL 01-144271-20300, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY CHARLES NOELL JR.

**Attachments:**     [4405 Janice](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-122-2020

[RES-20:130](#)

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

**Attachments:**     [1014 S. Culberhouse](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-123-2020

[RES-20:131](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1212 FRENCH, PARCEL 01-144073-11000, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY ALFONSO JUAREZ

**Attachments:**     [1212 French](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-124-2020

[RES-20:132](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3206 FAIRVIEW, PARCEL 01-144281-29000, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY ERIC GRIGGS

**Attachments:**     [3206 Fairview](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-125-2020

[RES-20:133](#)

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

**Attachments:**     [2101 S. Kathleen](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-126-2020

[RES-20:134](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1328 WEST HUNTINGTON, PARCEL 01-144133-18100, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY DKI LLC C/O RICHARD KNIGHT

**Attachments:**     [1328 Huntington](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-127-2020

[RES-20:135](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1506 PRATT CIRCLE, PARCEL 01-144082-9900, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY CHARLES H BOWMAN

**Attachments:**     [1506 Pratt Circle](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-128-2020

[RES-20:140](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AMEND THE JETS 2020 BUDGET FOR THE CARES ACT FUNDING

**Attachments:**     [JETS Cares Act Funding 2020](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-129-2020

[RES-20:154](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT TO PROCEED WITH THE DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY (DRA) FOR FUNDS FOR THE "TECHNOLOGY PARK OPPORTUNITY ZONE LEAD RAIL EXPANSION PROJECT"

**Attachments:**     [DRA Award Agreement](#)  
                                  [DRA Grant Agreement](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-130-2020

[RES-20:155](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO APPLY FOR THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS AND RECORDS COMMISSION, ACCESS TO HISTORICAL RECORDS; ARCHIVAL PROJECTS GRANT

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-131-2020

[RES-20:156](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH CONTINENTAL UTILITY SOLUTIONS, INC TO UTILIZE 2ND FLOOR OFFICE SPACE IN THE MUNICIPAL CENTER

**Attachments:**     [CUSI Lease Agreement](#)  
                                  [email from mdowning 9292020](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-132-2020

[RES-20:157](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS (OJP), UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ), JAG LOCAL FUNDS

**Attachments:**     [JAG Local Grant notice and agreement](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-133-2020

[RES-20:158](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH THE SUNDERLAND FOUNDATION FOR A DONATION TOWARD CONSTRUCTION OF THE VETERANS VILLAGE OUTREACH CENTER

**Attachments:**     [Sunderland Foundation Grant for the Veterans Village Business & Community](#)  
                                  [Press Release - Sunderland Foundation \(002\)](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-134-2020

*ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA*

[RES-20:126](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 346 & 348 N. ALLIS, PARCEL 01-01-144181-01600, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY MICHAEL & BARBARA PEARSON

**Attachments:** [348 & 346 N. Allis](#)

*Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Bobby Long, to remove RES-20:126 from the Consent Agenda because the lien had been paid. All voted aye.*

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

**Aye:** 10 - Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;David McClain and LJ Bryant

**Absent:** 2 - Ann Williams and Joe Hafner

**6. NEW BUSINESS***ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING*

[ORD-20:035](#) AN ORDINANCE TO PLACE VARIOUS TRAFFIC SIGNS AT DESIGNATED LOCATIONS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE TRAFFIC CONTROL COMMITTEE  
*Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson to suspend the rules and offer ORD-20:035 by title only. All vote aye.*

**Placed on second reading**

[ORD-20:038](#) AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR CITY ATTORNEY RETIREMENT BENEFITS  
*Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Bobby Long, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-20:038 by title only. All voted aye.*

**Held at one reading**

[ORD-20:041](#) AN ORDINANCE FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR EVERYDAY ASSOCIATION TO BE LOCATED AT 515 S. GEE STREET

**Attachments:** [Application Redacted](#)  
[baker](#)  
[EverydayAssociation.FictitiousNameReg.Page1](#)  
[EverydayAssociation.FictitiousNameReg.Page2](#)

*Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson to suspend the rules and offer ORD-20:041 by title only. All voted aye.*

*Zac Baker, 110 W. Huntington, Suite A, said, I represent Everyday Association. I*

*spoke with Carol Duncan. She instructed me to notify the City Council that the applicant had amended the dba on the application and because the ordinance only used the non-profit's name and not the dba, there are no changes that have to be done to the ordinance, but the application has the dba or fictitious name of Native Brew Works and that has been changed to Native Restaurant. So, I just wanted to inform you of that. I believe that has already been posted online, that change, Deputy City Clerk April Leggett threw it up real quick. It couldn't have made the agenda because it was too late, but those documents are online. President Pro-Temp Chris Moore asked, is that a major change that is going to require resubmitting the application Carol? City Attorney Carol Duncan said, no, it shouldn't. I mean the application, it basically is just changing the title that the restaurant or whatever it is going to be will be called, it doesn't have anything to do with the non-profit or anything to do with the ordinance that they submitted. So, I just wanted them to make it clear to the council that there was a change and to submit the correct application that they would be submitting to the ABC should it get approved by council.*

**Held at one reading**

## **7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING**

#### **[ORD-20:036](#)**

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 FROM R-1 RESIDENTIAL TO C-3 GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT LIMITED USE OVERLAY FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3707 S. CARAWAY ROAD AS REQUESTED BY JOSHUA MOSS ON BEHALF OF SOUTH CARAWAY BAPTIST CHURCH

**Attachments:**      [Application \(2\)](#)  
[19313-01 rezoning](#)  
[Staff Summary - City Council](#)  
[Legal Description](#)  
[Map of Zonings Marked \(1\)](#)  
[Returned Signed Notifications](#)  
[Rezoning Plat \(2\)](#)  
[USPS Receipts](#)

*Joshua Moss, 244 CR 9602, Brookland, said, I am the realtor here on behalf of the South Caraway Baptist Church located at 3707 South Caraway Road. We have a contract for purchase on the church as they have a need to sell. It will require this rezoning from the R-1, Residential to the C-3, General Commercial. The purchaser is going to operate a childcare facility out of that location.*

**Held at second reading**

#### **[ORD-20:037](#)**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, FROM CR-1, COMMERCIAL RESIDENTIAL MIXED USE DISTRICT TO C-3 GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT LIMITED USE OVERLAY FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 911 PARKER ROAD AS REQUESTED BY ASHLEY TALLANT

**Attachments:** [Application \(3\)](#)  
[Staff Summary - City Council](#)  
[Plat](#)  
[email](#)  
[Warranty Deed](#)  
[Legislation Details of Rezoning from 2007](#)  
[Returned Property Owner](#)  
[Rezoning Plat \(3\)](#)  
[USPS](#)

Ashley Tallant, 673 CR 338, Jonesboro, said, I am requesting a rezoning on 911 Parker for a C-3 with a Limited Use Overlay. I think we discussed this at the MAPC meeting and the last City Council meeting so if you have any questions, again, I would love to answer.

**Held at second reading**

#### ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-20:033](#)

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING BY REFERENCE THE GUIDELINES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT IN THE DOWNTOWN JONESBORO AREA AND PROVIDE MORE WALKABLE, VIBRANT, AND MIXED USE NEIGHBORHOODS

**Attachments:** [DJRDworking document\\_1](#)  
[CORE Mixed USe Districts](#)  
[Downtown Jonesboro Redevelopment District Code \(DJDC\) \[Read-Only\]](#)  
[BLong email 10062020](#)  
[Weinstock email 10072020](#)

Councilmember Gene Vance motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to amend ORD-20:033 and substitute the new map provided by Derrel Smith and change the district boundary that shows Main and Church from Oak to Nettleton as being Neighborhood Transitional District instead of Core Mixed Use District. All voted aye.

Planning Director Derrel Smith said, after speaking with several councilmembers and looking at the Core Mixed Use District, originally, our Core Mixed Use was as it is shown on this map. It stopped at Oak Street. At the Planning Commission, it was suggested that we carry it all the way to Nettleton. And, so that is what you were presented with originally. That area is mainly residential right now and it has a lot of our historic homes. There was some concern about allowing a lot of commercial in that area. So, what we did was after looking at it, we decided to change and extend the Neighborhood Transitional District over in that area. What that does is, it still will allow for some mixed use, but it is going to be more residential in character. So, we haven't changed the boundaries that we originally shown in our public hearings and all of our documents. The boundaries are going to remain the same. And, that area from Nettleton to Oak that was originally shown as Core Mixed Use at the Planning Commission is actually going down in usage to a neighborhood zone.

Councilmember David McClain said, I want to make sure that I am clear. So, you are saying, in the Neighborhood Transitional District, if I do put some type of building that is not residential, it has to look similar to the residential. Mr. Smith said, there will be



design guidelines so it will look residential. Councilmember McClain said, gotcha, thank you.

City Attorney Carol Duncan said, while we are waiting on that Councilmember Moore, we did receive an email I believe that was forwarded out to the full council. There was a request in that email that it be read at the meeting and I wondered the desire of the Council as far as that email. President Pro-Temp Moore asked, does it have a name and address associated with it Carol? Ms. Duncan said, it has a name, Howard Weinstock and it gives Wilkins Avenue. President Pro-Temp Moore said, that is Howard's address. Let me look at it real quick and make sure. Ms. Duncan said, there is a portion of it that really has more to do with the 5G than this, but there is also a section of it that has to do with this ordinance. I know that now we have opened up the meetings, we aren't necessarily reading every email that comes in. I just want to know of the desire of the Council. President Pro-Temp Moore said, I don't see anything that if I am looking at the right email, I don't see anything that pertains to this particular business item. Which page are we looking at Carol? Councilmember Gene Vance said, that is the way that I read it. Ms. Duncan said, well, at the bottom, it says reference the DJDC, the following is highlighted by the annotated copy attached and then it goes through some page numbers, but again, that was the only concern. Councilmember Charles Frierson said, I don't think we should do it. President Pro-Temp Moore said, well, I just read the email and I don't see anything that particularly pertains to this item before us.

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

**Aye:** 10 - Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;David McClain and LJ Bryant

**Absent:** 2 - Ann Williams and Joe Hafner

Enactment No: O-EN-034-2020

[ORD-20:034](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, FROM C-3, GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT TO RS-7 SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1330 WEST MONROE AS REQUESTED BY ALBERTO MORALES.

**Attachments:** [Staff Summary - Council APPLICATION](#)  
[Residential Application](#)  
[Plat](#)  
[Rezoning Plat](#)  
[House Plans](#)  
[Pictures of Rezoning Sign](#)  
[Aerial](#)  
[Property Owner Notifications Returned](#)  
[USPS Receipts](#)

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

**Aye:** 10 - Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;David McClain and LJ Bryant

**Absent:** 2 - Ann Williams and Joe Hafner

Enactment No: O-EN-035-2020

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

*President Pro-Temp Chris Moore said, I have several things here that the Mayor has presented. I will go down them fairly quickly.*

*The first item on the Mayor's Report is that the Mayor requests that we move the November 3rd Council and Public Works Committee meetings to November 5th due to the election. Councilmember Mitch Johnson and Councilmember Gene Vance motioned, seconded by Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman, to move the November 3, 2020 City Council and Public Works meetings to November 5, 2020. All voted aye.*

*The next item: September Financial Report: The year-to-date surplus is \$4.1 million up compared to budget. I assume that is going to be county sales tax and rollbacks so the Mayor's Report here indicates that we are quite a bit ahead, almost 5% of last year's budgeted expenses.*

*Last Monday, the city was awarded grant funds in the amount of \$2 million from the US Economic Development Administration and \$500,000 from the Delta Regional Authority. These funds will be used to build four dead-end railroad tracks in the Craighead Technology Park that will create space to store an additional 120 rail cars for the existing industries. It will also be used to attract new industries. This will also keep rail cars from getting stacked onto MLK Jr. Drive, causing traffic problems.*

*On October 1st, at the Chamber of Commerce's Annual Meeting, Mayor Perrin received the Roy Jolly Volunteer Award. That is another award that goes with the many that the Mayor has already accumulated. So, I congratulate him on that.*

*The census and an update: the census counting was extended to October 30th. To access, they request that you either call 844-330-2020 or go to [www.my2020Census.gov](http://www.my2020Census.gov). It is very important that everyone in the city participate in the census.*

*The Shooting Sports Complex is working on getting restrooms constructed, hanging the shot curtain, and getting the wetland plantings done. The estimated completion is March 2021. I believe the Chief mentioned to me earlier that there is an updated Shooting Range promo available on the City of Jonesboro website. It is a drone flyover footage. So, if you want to view the current progress out there, go to the Jonesboro City website and you will be able to find it.*

*The Beautification Commission is starting promotional efforts. They are emphasizing changing attitudes about litter and its effect on the community. We will be looking forward to Beverly Parker and her groups work.*

*The City received \$2,664,809 COVID CARES Act grant through the state's Department of Finance and Administration that will be going to the Finance Committee next week. Clarifying eligibility reimbursements and costs.*

*The Recreation Events last weekend, the Red Wolf Softball tournament hosted 80 teams. Jonesboro Open disk golf tournament had 270 participants come to the City of*

Jonesboro. It is good to see all of those people coming and visiting our city.

"Fill the Food Bank" competition going on until November 6th. You can see it at: [www.foodbankofnea.org](http://www.foodbankofnea.org).

Mike gave me an updated list of City Council presentations that will be coming forward in the next few weeks and that will include a presentation about state highway improvements, the Jonesboro economy, A-State Initiatives and Future Development.

One of the things that Mike also asked me to mention, we had a city employee die in a tragic motorcycle accident yesterday. So, our thoughts and prayers go to him and his family. His name was Roger Krupicki. He worked for the Sanitation Department. He died last night due to a motorcycle accident. There is a benefit account set up for his two children at Simmons Bank. So, if anyone would like to contribute to that.

Craig will you come up and give an update? We had one other item. I did receive an email and request about property behind the 5000 block of Yukon Drive. Basically, what it is, is where the train derailed during the tornado, some of the public right-of-way and the utility right-of-way is damaged and the City of Jonesboro had a retention pond at one point that was in that. The best that I could tell when I went out Craig and looked at it and the retention pond is pretty much non-existent and the grass is overgrown. I know there are several residents that live within that block that would like an update on where we are at on that. Director of Engineering, Craig Light, said, we have received several calls about it since the tornado and have been trying to make some progress with the railroad to try to get that area restored. We have made very little progress with that. We have been in contact with the contractor. B&P is the contractor. They used to do some work for us. We have been in contact with them. They are trying to get authorization from Union Pacific to go back in under their existing contract to get that work completed. We have not gotten a final date from them yet. I do have the contact for the Public Affairs person with Union Pacific. I have been hesitant to reach out to him yet, but I think it is to that point that we are going to have to do that to actually get them to get that work complete. But, it is something that we are actively working on to get the detention area reconstructed as well as the ditches along the railroad track which are also pretty beaten up from the railcars having fallen over into them.

President Pro-Temp Chris Moore said, Craig, one of the issues that the gentleman at 4800 Yukon was concerned about was on the retention pond. The railroad track right-of-way is an eyesore and a blight. It is tall grass and you can't mow it. I mean that is one thing. Him and his neighbors were concerned whether or not the absence of the retention pond might subject their neighborhood to flooding. Do you have any concerns about that? Mr. Light said, I do not. The detention pond on their property is really to protect downstream flooding, not necessarily the flooding of that neighborhood. The water is going to go underneath the railroad track and continue downstream. So, what you may be potentially impacted by it would be say the Industrial Park area. But, the size of that pond is not going to have a dramatic impact in and of itself on the overall system. All of the detention ponds in that system would have to be clogged up before it really had a significant impact on the floods in the Industrial Park area. So, I am not tremendously concerned about that particular pond, but we do need to get it back and get it back operational because every one of them does add a little bit to the system. President Pro-Temp Moore said, one of the questions that was asked of me and I gave them the answer that I knew but I would like for you to verify it. Will you also state the fact that the City of Jonesboro cannot go on the railroad right-of-way and correct their problems? Mr. Light said, that is correct, we do not have the rights to go onto their property. When we enter their property, they are supposed to be present and be done

*under permit with flaggers and everything. They generally charge for those. We have worked out in the past where we have been able to do that free of charge. But, yes, there is a process. We just don't have rights to go on there and do work. President Pro-Temp Moore said, thank you Craig.*

## **9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

*Councilmember LJ Bryant said, I will just briefly say that in our recap tonight, it is amazing that we had no major deficiencies. I mean it was obvious that things seem to have gone extremely well from the response standpoint. But, it is amazing to see that hold up in the reports as well that everything went so smoothly. So, thanks to everyone for their hard work. President Pro-Temp Moore said, Mr. Bryant, when Chief Miller gave his four reasons, I think he left off reason number 5 which was divine intervention. We are all fortunate and appreciate everyone's work that participated in the cleanup. Thank you for your comments.*

*Councilmember John Street said, there were so many people to name and I know that Chief couldn't name them all, but I have to say that UPD did work that first night real hard. Paragould Police worked two or three nights and stayed with us even when everybody else was dismissed as well as Arkansas Game and Fish, and that is the first time that I ever remember them being out, but they stood a full shift for the first two or three days as well and did a great job. Everybody did a good job and we are blessed to live in a community that does care about each other like Jonesboro residents and to have such an outpouring of care from everyone. Thank you to everybody in this city and everyone surrounding us.*

*Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I want to thank everybody that came out on October 3, 2020 for the cleanup. I was really impressed, even more so with the city with what they did and Mike Tyner and that crew. I have always thought that they needed raises so I am going to also say it again. I think you need more money. Those guys did a heck of a job. The other thing that I was very excited about was the Judicial System Action Center that sent people out to help. Also, Guy Purdew, I want to make sure I bring his name up. He brought several people out. Between all the people that showed up, even people from Scenic Hills, even though they are going to have a cleanup on October 10, 2020, they showed up. It was a really good day. I don't know the amount of the poundage that was taken. I think Mike Tyner would give a report on that probably later or next week or whenever. I also want to thank Beverly Parker who is over the Beautification Committee. She came out. It was just a really good day. It was a really good job and people worked. I also want to thank the Police Department for cooking the hot dogs, they relieved me of my duty. I was very grateful. I just want to thank the city, the people, they do a heck of a job. I know that even though some of them came out on Saturday and have to do things they normally don't do, but I just want to say again, thank you Mike Tyner, thank you for the city, thank you for those people who really did a great job. President Pro-Temp Chris Moore said, thank you for the comments Dr. Coleman.*

## **10. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*James Ransburg, 8 Willow Creek Apt. 8109, said, I was here about six weeks ago and I shared some data with you that I received from the Human Resources Department here in Jonesboro and it was pretty disappointing to me. A lot of the departments here in Jonesboro have no minorities at all that work in them. I would like to address three of them. The majority of them have none at all, but I would like to address three of them today because I haven't heard from anyone on the City Council or from the City*

with regards to my concern. As a matter of fact, I think I have been told by Human Resources and several other Department Directors that they are not allowed to speak to me and that I should speak directly to the Communications Director which I haven't been able to talk to or haven't been contacted since our last meeting here with the council. One of the concerns that I have, not only the discrepancy with the employment of minorities is that the Fire Department has 122 employees. 121 of those are white male and one is a white female. Our city has in excess of 1/3rd of the city's minority. The same applies to the Parks Department or Parks and Recreation. And, the same applies to the Police Department. I think the Police Department has maybe six minorities out of 177. I am not sure if that is correct. That is the information that I have gotten from Human Resources and that information is not correct also because I found some of the personnel listed in the overall Human Resources report are not actually minorities and they are not actually full-time employees. And, so, that report and that data that I shared with you the last time I was here was inaccurate. It is worse. And, so, I did a little research of my own to find out what might be the problem. The last time I was here, I was not able to stay and I did not hear the comments of the Chief in regards to hiring and how it is difficult to get minorities to apply for the positions. I wanted to know, why is that? So, as I did research, what are a couple of things real quick that I found out? The Fire Department has been that way for ten years. There haven't been any minorities there for ten years. I didn't say Black. I didn't say Hispanic. I didn't say Asian. I didn't say Native American. I said minorities. And, that was disappointing to me. The Fire Department and Police Department has the same story. And, of course, the Parks Department. So, I am very concerned because I am not hearing any chatter or getting any information back or any invitations to come here to talk to share why this is such a problem. Now, I am a retired military officer. I am a retired Marine. I served in Vietnam in 1974-1975. As a Naval Officer for 20 years, and then also as an athlete that played basketball for a small college in Tennessee, Temple University in Chattanooga, Tennessee. I was coached by a man named Ron Bishop. One thing about my career as a Military Officer and a Marine and an athlete is that they all had the same philosophy about leadership. My coach taught me is that Ransburg, everything that succeeds or fails based on leadership. In the military, if I were to go to my commander and he wanted to know why we have a problem in this area or that area, I couldn't tell him, well, it is my troop's fault. They are not doing what they should do. That is a failure of leadership. I know that is not the opinion of this entire council, but there are some on this council that believe the person, it is a minority's fault. I think I have an email that says they are not team players and there are a list of reasons why we haven't hired minorities in this city government in the past ten years. For me, that is not a good excuse. That is not a good reason. That is an excuse. Leadership is not blamed. The citizens, the constituents, you don't blame them for the failure in doing what the law says we should do. In Chapter 6 and Chapter 7 of the Civil Rights Commission, we know what it says. We shouldn't discriminate whether it is intentional or unintentional. And, so, I am here to ask if there is anyone that I could work with or that I can get in contact with and not be shunned when it comes to employment here in the City of Jonesboro with regards to minorities. One thing I would like to share with you. If minorities make up a little bit more than 33% of the population here in Jonesboro, at the end of this month, I am sure it is going to exceed that. We have had a big influx of minorities since I have been here for over a year now. I looked at the budget and saw that we bring in about \$55 million each year, primarily in sales tax. That includes poor people, rich people, average people, we all pay sales tax. And, so, that makes, when I do my math, that makes about \$18 million of this economy is paid for by minorities. When I look at the employment in this city, zero is how much we get back in return for our contributions to this city. And, so, here and I will sum this up. I would just like to know, what is the plan that the city has to deal with this discrepancy and this problem that we have with employment? One-third

of our city, which I believe is going to be about 90,000 people at the end of this month when the census is done. And, if you tell me we can't find two or three or four people out of 30,000 minorities in this city that can work for the Fire Department, that can work for the Police Department, that can cut grass for Parks and Recreation. I think we really have a serious problem. And, so, as I said, as a retired naval officer, as a retired leader, and potentially a leader here in the city, I am not interested in politics at all. I never have been. I like my life, but I am retired and I live here in this city and this is where I make my home. I plan on buying a home in a couple of more months. And, so, that is my concern is what does the City Council plan to do to deal with this discrepancy as far as employment is concerned? You have my number. I have contacted every last one of you guys on the City Council. I have not heard back from one of you, not one. Maybe one person. But, I would like to be able to meet with someone, a point of contact where we can discuss what the city's plan is. I know the Mayor mentioned back in June this very same subject and he said he had a plan, but no one can tell me what it is and no one can tell me where we are with that plan. And, so, that is what my objective is. I have a little thing and then I will be done. Abraham Lincoln said in the Gettysburg Address, we all heard it. He said that our government is a government of the people and it is by the people and it is for the people. And, when I speak for the city, not just Hispanics and not just Blacks, not just Asians or Native Americans and not just women who make up 51% of the population. I speak for all of us. I speak for all of the people. I am going to stop right there. I think I have made my point. But, now, I turn it over to the leaders of this city. I turn it over to you to answer that question. What do we do? What are you going to do? And, please, let's stop relying on those who have gotten used to it being this way and have basically given up. And, let's lead. That is what I am asking for the City Council to lead, the City Administration to lead. That is our responsibility not only to each other as far as man and woman are concerned, but as Mr. Long prayed as far as God is concerned. He mentions in Matthew, when you have done this to the least of these, you have done it to me whether it is good or whether it is bad. The Lord says, when you have done this to the least of my brethren is what he called us in Matthew chapter 5, you have done it to me. So, I appreciate you and I appreciate your attention. And, like I said, you have my number. You know how to get into contact with me, you all do. And, so, I would love to hear from you so I can support you and say that they really do care about all of the people of Jonesboro. Thank you very much. President Pro-Temp Chris Moore said, thank you sir.

Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road, said, I am just following up on an ordinance that was back in December of last year and February 4th of this year. It was ORD-19:083 and it was the waste yard where we were talking about paper and plastic, about what we were going to put our leaves in. I know that it was postponed indefinitely. I know that Mike Downing was supposed to bring it back to the Public Works meeting at the beginning of March and let us know about some comments and some research that he was going to do with other cities. I was just wondering where that ordinance is right now because I know Bobby Long had brought up about maybe purchasing a truck to pick up the leaves. Do we have a limit on bags? Are we using plastic or paper because it is going to be fall time soon and the leaves are going to be coming down from the trees and I just want to know what we need to do and where that is at. President Pro-Temp Chris Moore said, alright Patti. I will pass that along and see if we can't get you an answer to that. Thank you for your comment. Ms. Lack said, okay. Another question too, I know the city incinerator started to open up on September 12th on Saturdays and just what are the items people can take to the incinerator? That was a question that a lot of people had. President Pro-Temp Moore said, your question is, what are the items that can go to the city incinerator? Is that correct? Ms. Lack said, right. President Pro-Temp Moore said, it will be residential yard debris, leaves, limbs and

such. Ms. Lack said, okay. If you could find out about the paper and the plastic, is there a limit to it because that was supposed to be followed up in March? President Pro-Temp Moore said, alright, anything else? Ms. Lack said, that is it. Thank you. President Pro-Temp Moore said, alright, thank you.

Kimberly Chase, 204 E. Nettleton, said, I am the Director of the HUB which is a homeless resource center here in Jonesboro. I know that last month we tabled a discussion about the Allen Street property for consideration. But, I wanted to take this opportunity to reiterate how important having a homeless shelter in Jonesboro is right now. I invite everybody to come, to volunteer on Tuesdays or Thursdays from 11-1. We give out lunches which is pretty much the only thing that we can do right now because of Covid. Next door is the Care Center and they were giving out lunches during the week. They are closed down. Most of the clothing closets are closed down right now. So, every resource that was available to our homeless population is either cut way back or completely closed right now. And, so, our homeless population is out on the street. Currently, we have the Salvation Army which I believe has 16 beds and you have to leave the facility at 8:00 a.m. in the morning, return at 4:00 p.m., line up and hope that you get a bed. Just because you had a bed yesterday does not guarantee that you have a bed today. That is all we have for Jonesboro right now. So, I am just here speaking from the heart on behalf of my homeless people in Jonesboro reminding you that we have a serious need for a shelter in Jonesboro. Thank you. President Pro-Temp Chris Moore said, Kim, will you give the address of the HUB for anyone who need it. Ms. Chase said, the HUB is located at 711 Union. We are in the Christian Activities Center of First Baptist Church. Our office door is right under the glass walkway. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, we sit outside of our door with a table and we provide hot lunches for our homeless people. President Pro-Temp Moore said, thank you very much. Ms. Chase said, thank you.

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Aye:** 10 - Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;David McClain and LJ Bryant

**Absent:** 2 - Ann Williams and Joe Hafner

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

**Harold Perrin, Mayor**

**Attest:**

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

**Donna Jackson, City Clerk**