



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, December 16, 2014

5:30 PM

Municipal Center

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

SPECIAL CALLED NOMINATING & RULES COMMITTEE MEETING AT 5:10 P.M.

PUBLIC HEARING AT 5:20 P.M.

Regarding the abandonment of an undeveloped portion of a street right-of-way on Ginny Glen and Rubens Road as requested by David Cook

A representative for Ron McCullers spoke in opposition to the abandonment. It was explained that Mr. McCullers is a title holder to the last lot in that area not presently owned by Mr. Cook, which is Block 11, Lot 1. If this abandonment is approved, then Mr. McCullers will be land-locked. Mr. McCullers is currently working with Mr. Cook to find a resolution, but the representative further stated their objection and asked that the ordinance be held at just one reading.

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

3. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK DONNA JACKSON

Present 11 - Darrel Dover; Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Tim McCall; Gene Vance; Rennell Woods; Charles Coleman and Todd Burton

Absent 1 - Chris Gibson

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

[COM-14:094](#)

Presentation by Mark Nichols on Opticom

Sponsors: Mayor's Office

Attachments: [Presentation](#)

Mayor Perrin explained this year the city was able to get funding for Opticom, which handles traffic light management for the Police and Fire Departments at the major intersections. Traffic Engineer Mark Nichols discussed Opticom. Mr. Nichols discussed the how it works. He noted the system reduces crash rates and emergency response time by 20%. They were able to do 18 intersections out of the

83 in the city along with 13 fire trucks. He also showed the Council part of the log that is made whenever the fire trucks use the equipment.

Councilman Moore asked what the cost is to equip a vehicle after the lights are done. Mr. Nichols stated it costs about \$2,000 to \$3,000 per vehicle, with intersections costing between \$5,000 and \$7,000. He noted if new vehicles are purchased the new equipment can be moved from an older vehicle to the newer one. Councilman Moore then questioned whether the emergency medical service vehicles can also be equipped with this technology. Mr. Nichols answered yes. Councilman Coleman asked if the companies would have to pay for the equipment. Mr. Nichols explained since the EMS vehicles are from private companies, yes, they would have to pay for the equipment, but he thinks it would be a good addition to the vehicles.

This item was Filed.

COM-14:100

Mayor Perrin will recognize employees who have been with the City for 25, 30 and 35 years.

Sponsors: Mayor's Office

Mayor Perrin recognized employees with 20 or more years of service. The employees mentioned were: Mary Oliver, Mark Mosier and John Eidson, Jr. for 20 years of service; Brian Sawyer, Capt. Lynn Waterworth, William Haggard, Rosie Woods, Sgt. Steve McDaniel, Barry Harper and Ronny Stanback for 25 years of service; Steve Kent and Jerry McCormick for 30 years of service; and Michael Edwards for 35 years of service.

This item was Filed.

COM-14:101

Proclamation presentation by Mayor Perrin to the ASU Football Team for GoDaddy Bowl Game on January 4, 2015

Sponsors: Mayor's Office

Mayor Perrin presented the proclamation to ASU Football Coach Blake Anderson. He recognized the football team for their accomplishments and urged all fans to attend the GoDaddy Bowl in Mobile, Alabama.

Coach Anderson commended the football players and stated he couldn't be more proud of the players.

This item was Filed.

COM-14:102

Retirement presentation by Mayor Perrin to Phillip Crego, City Attorney

Sponsors: Mayor's Office

Mayor Perrin stated City Attorney Phillip Crego will be retiring at the end of this year. He thanked Mr. Crego for his service and presented him with a plaque for his 20 years of service. Mr. Crego thanked everyone for their support and for the recognition. He thanked all the elected officials and employees of the city.

This item was Filed.

Presentation by Police Chief Rick Elliott

Police Chief Elliott presented E-911 Director Jeff Presley and Les Haggard with the Police Department Life Saving Award for helping a citizen having a heart attack near the Police Department.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Councilman Chris Moore, seconded by Councilman John Street, to Approve the Consent Agenda. The motioned PASSED

Aye: 11 - Darrel Dover; Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Tim McCall; Gene Vance; Rennell Woods; Charles Coleman and Todd Burton

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

MIN-14:147 Minutes for the City Council meeting on December 2, 2014

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

A motion was made that this Minutes be Passed . The motion PASSED BY VOICE VOTE

RES-14:193 RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS REQUESTING FREE UTILITY SERVICE FROM CITY WATER AND LIGHT FOR THE WELCOME TO JONESBORO SIGN LOCATED AT 7001 JOHNSON AVENUE

Sponsors: Mayor's Office

A motion was made that this Resolution be Passed . The motion PASSED BY VOICE VOTE

Enactment No: R-EN-188-2014

RES-14:201 A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT A MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT FOR STORMWATER MANAGEMENT FACILITIES FOR WILDWOOD ADDITION PHASE 3B, A RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

Sponsors: Engineering

Attachments: [Maintenance Agreement](#)
[Plat](#)

A motion was made that this Resolution be Passed . The motion PASSED BY VOICE VOTE

Enactment No: R-EN-189-2014

RES-14:210 A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO PURCHASE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 916 HOPE STREET, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS FOR THE PURPOSE OF STREET IMPROVEMENTS

Sponsors: Engineering

Attachments: [Sallie Brown - Offer & Acceptance](#)

A motion was made that this Resolution be Passed . The motion PASSED BY

VOICE VOTE

Enactment No: R-EN-190-2014

RES-14:215

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO GRANT AN UTILITY EASEMENT TO CENTERPOINT ENERGY RESOURCES CORP., A DELAWARE CORPORATION, D/B/A CENTERPOINT ENERGY ARKANSAS GAS

Sponsors: Engineering

Attachments: [Natural Gas Easement - JETS Facility](#)

A motion was made that this Resolution be Passed . The motion PASSED BY VOICE VOTE

Enactment No: R-EN-191-2014

RES-14:216

A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT A MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT FOR STORMWATER MANAGEMENT FACILITIES FOR REPLAT OF LOTS 9-12 OF GERALD WATKINS SUBDIVISION, A RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

Sponsors: Engineering

Attachments: [Maintenance Agreement](#)
[Plat](#)

A motion was made that this Resolution be Passed . The motion PASSED BY VOICE VOTE

Enactment No: R-EN-192-2014

6. NEW BUSINESS**ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING****ORD-14:073**

AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE AND ABANDON THAT PART OF THE AN UNDEVELOPED STREET RIGHT OF WAY IN AN UNDEVELOPED PORTION OF GINNY GLEN AND RUBENS ROAD AS REQUESTED BY DAVID COOK

Attachments: [Petition](#)
[Planning & Engineering Letter](#)
[Plat](#)
[Utility Letters](#)

Councilman Street offered the ordinance for first reading by title only.

A motion was made by Councilman Darrel Dover, seconded by Councilman John Street, that this matter be Held at one reading . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 11 - Darrel Dover;Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Tim McCall;Gene Vance;Rennell Woods;Charles Coleman and Todd Burton

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ITEMS THAT HAVE BEEN HELD IN COUNCIL

RES-14:211

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO AMEND THE CITY SALARY & ADMINISTRATION PLAN FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO ADD A COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR POSITION TO THE MAYOR'S DEPARTMENT

Sponsors: Mayor's Office and Human Resources

Attachments: [Communications Director](#)

Mayor Perrin explained at the last meeting Councilman Street asked the resolution to be held in order to get more information on the position. He discussed the position, explaining the position will have oversight over Channel 24 and the new website, as well as keeping in touch with media. They will also be responsible for media requests and communications, including Freedom of Information Act requests. He further discussed the position and the job duties. Councilman Street thanked the Mayor for the information.

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

Aye: 11 - Darrel Dover;Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Tim McCall;Gene Vance;Rennell Woods;Charles Coleman and Todd Burton

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

Enactment No: R-EN-193-2014

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Perrin reported on the following items:

The new fire station on Neely Road will be moved into by December 29th.

The Jonesboro Recreational Center construction has been completed. New offices and a conference room were added and will open after the first of the year.

The city received a Parks & Tourism Grant for the trailhead at Craighead Forest Park walking and bike trail. The design will start in 2015. The city also received \$140,000 from the Arkansas Blue Cross Blue Shield Blue & You Foundation for workout stations on the trail.

A lot of work has been done for a new Land Use and Master Street Plan. Both plans should be completed by the end of the month. Public hearings will then be held so the citizens can see the work.

Assistant City Attorney Carol Duncan recognized the employees in the City Attorney's Office. She explained starting January 1st there will be a new assistant city attorney and office manager along with the existing paralegal position, as she will be taking office as the city attorney.

Mayor Perrin thanked the city employees and City Council for the work and many accomplishments this year.

COM-14:098

Governor Beebe proclamation stating State Agencies will be closed December 26, 2014 and so will County Agencies

Sponsors: Mayor's Office

Mayor Perrin informed the Council that Governor Beebe has declared Dec. 26, 2014, as a state holiday and several cities in the area have decided to close for that day, as well as Craighead County offices. He asked for Council to make a motion to close that day.

Councilman Dover motioned, seconded by Councilman Street, to approve the city being closed on December 26, 2014. All voted aye.

COM-14:099

Jonesboro Airport Commission financial statements through November 30, 2014

Sponsors: Municipal Airport Commission

Attachments: [Financial Statements](#)

Mayor Perrin noted the financials are better than they were last year. He thinks the increased visitation has helped, along with more citizens using the flying services. He added he hopes to get more grants for the airport with the new governor.

This item was Filed.

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Street wished the employees and their families a Merry Christmas. He also thanked City Attorney Crego for his service.

Councilman Johnson also thanked the city employees for their service.

Councilman Dover motioned, seconded by Councilman Street, to suspend the rules and add ORD-14:074 and RES-14:229. All voted aye.

ORD-14:074

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE ADOPTION OF A BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, FOR THE TWELVE (12) MONTHS BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2015, AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2015, APPROPRIATING MONEY FOR EACH ITEM OF EXPENDITURE THEREIN PROVIDED FOR, ADOPTION OF THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE FOR THE EFFICIENT OPERATION OF CITY GOVERNMENT, AND FOR THE FINANCIAL CONTINUITY OF 2015, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Sponsors: Finance

Attachments: [2015 Budget](#)
[Presentation of the 2015 budget](#)

Councilman Dover asked that the ordinance be held at one reading.

Councilman Dover offered the ordinance for first reading by title only.

It was noted there will be a special meeting on December 29, 2014, to further consider the budget.

This ordinance was Held at one reading.

[RES-14:229](#)

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ACCEPT THE PROPERTY DONATED BY THE CRUSE FAMILY TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO

Sponsors: Parks & Recreation

Attachments: [Deed](#)

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

Aye: 11 - Darrel Dover;Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Tim McCall;Gene Vance;Rennell Woods;Charles Coleman and Todd Burton

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

Enactment No: R-EN-185-2014

Councilman Dover, Councilman Woods, Councilman McCall, Councilman Burton and Councilwoman Williams wished everyone a happy holiday season.

Councilman Moore thanked City Attorney Crego for his service. He then questioned if there was an update concerning the Citizen's Bank Building. Mayor Perrin explained he has held discussion with the City Attorney's Office. They are waiting on the lease holder's attorneys to send a letter to the US Bank trust department in St. Louis. When the letter is received and there is an understanding that they will be delinquent and payments will not be made, then the land owners (the trust) will become the owners. When that is done, the city will be sending the trust a list of all the deficiencies with the property in order to get something done. Councilman Moore then asked when the letter will be sent. Assistant City Attorney Duncan noted she asked that a copy of the letter be sent to her when they send the letter to the trust, but she has not received anything yet. Councilman Moore asked if they would follow up on that and report back at the next Council meeting.

Councilman Coleman and Councilman Vance wished everyone a happy holiday season.

Councilman Frierson stated Jonesboro is a great place to live.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Discussion concerning police officer pay

Police Officer Tony Zaffarano, current president of the local chapter of the Fraternal Order of Police, stated they would like to know about the Police Department holiday pay. He explained they have been told it is included in their base pay, but when they sent an FOI to the city about the issue all they were told was that it's included in base pay. He stated they would like to have a meeting to address the issue as to whether or not it's included and then how much their base pay is without the holiday pay. He further explained it has been 10 months since they sent in an FOI requesting

information as to how much their base pay is without holiday pay and they have not received a response. They just get told the holiday pay is with their base pay and they don't think that is a sufficient answer. They would like the issue to be resolved and their questions answered.

Mr. Zaffarano also stated they have several employees who have work for the city a number of years that are making the same pay as a new hire. He stated experience matters, especially in this job. They are losing officers to other agencies due to higher pay. They would like their salaries to be looked at to get a pay scale in place. He noted the base pay for new hires is getting raised, but the pay for current officers is not except for cost of living increases.

Mayor Perrin explained he met with Mr. Zaffarano and several other officers earlier this year to discuss these issues. He noted they also discussed the take-home car program and the incentive plan, as well as the holiday pay. It was his understanding they met with Human Resources Director Gloria Roark. Mayor Perrin stated anytime they want to sit down and have another meeting, they will go through all the information and present them with any information possible.

Councilman Dover recommended forming a committee consisting of Mayor Perrin, the Finance Department, a Council member and several of the officers to discuss the issue and get something resolved. Councilman Johnson agreed, adding he thinks that would be the best way to get the answers to their questions.

Councilman Street explained he has discussed an incremental pay system for all departments because employees who are already working for the city bring more experience than a new hire off the street, so the current employees should be paid more than new hires. He asked that Chief Financial Officer Ben Barylske look into that. He stated they had that system at Valley View with it being capped off after so many years of service. It set employees up for more than cost of living increases. Mayor Perrin stated they will look into that. He noted he will have something on the Council agenda for the first regularly scheduled meeting in January to form the committee.

Mr. Zaffarano stated they would like to have the base pay and holiday pay looked at because experience should mean more to the job.

Mr. Phillip Cook, 5216 Richardson Drive, stated the comments by the officers tonight reinforces what he's been telling the Council. He asked the Council to get serious about getting the officers fair pay.

Discussin regarding flooding on Talley property, 318 Leslie Ann

Mr. Jeremy Talley, 318 Leslie Ann, discussed a flooding issue on their property that they have been working on with the city this year. He asked for an update. He noted the issue has been prolonged and they would like to have an answer. Mayor Perrin stated the Public Works Committee decided which option to go with, so the Engineering Department will be moving forward with that very soon. Ms. Priscilla Talley clarified they are going to have to purchase flood insurance even though they don't live in a flood zone, give the city part of their property for the improvements even though when the house was built it was already in the city limits, plus they will have to pay for the damages caused by the flood and have already been told their property will flood again. Mr. Talley noted they have been told that no matter what the city does in improvements, the property will flood again. Councilman McCall stated part of the question was the timeline on when the house was annexed into the city. Ms. Talley explained the property was annexed into the city in 1977, but the house

wasn't built until 1985 so it should have been built according to city standards. She expressed concern that regulations weren't enforced during the building of the house and questioned why they don't see that as a city problem.

Mayor Perrin stated he was not at the last meeting when the discussion was held, so he would like to discuss the issue with the City Engineer and they will get back with the Talley's by the end of the week. Councilman Johnson noted the recommendation was made by the Public Works Committee, but was not presented to the City Council. He explained they had questions about when the house was built and whether or not their house was the last residence built in the subdivision. He noted the committee never had clarification due to conflicting information. He added there were other residents that have issues with flooding.

Mayor Perrin reiterated they will get back with the Talley's by the end of the week.

11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Mitch Johnson, seconded by Councilman Rennell Woods, that this meeting be Adjourned . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 11 - Darrel Dover;Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Tim McCall;Gene Vance;Rennell Woods;Charles Coleman and Todd Burton

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

_____ **Date:** _____

Harold Perrin, Mayor

Attest:

_____ **Date:** _____

Donna Jackson, City Clerk