



City of Jonesboro

300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Thursday, March 6, 2014

5:30 PM

Municipal Center

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

PUBLIC HEARING AT 5:15 P.M.

No opposition was voiced.

PUBLIC HEARING AT 5:20 P.M.

No opposition was voiced.

PUBLIC HEARING AT 5:25 P.M.

No opposition was voiced.

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 8 - Darrel Dover; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; Tim McCall; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Rennell Woods and Charles Coleman
Absent 3 - Ann Williams; John Street and Mitch Johnson

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

COM-14:021 Presentation by Parks Director Wixson Huffstetler

Sponsors: Mayor's Office and Parks & Recreation

Attachments: [Presentation - PDF](#)
[Presentation](#)

Councilman Moore questioned what the city still lacks to build in preparation for the World Series at Joe Mack. Mr. Huffstetler stated they just need to finish building the fields and cleaning up some areas, but other than that the city is pretty much ready for the World Series. He added he would've liked to put in additional parking, but due to the expense it couldn't be included in this year's budget. The contract for the World Series will be signed in April at the beginning of the season for recreational baseball. Councilman Moore recommended having a big open house to celebrate the signing

of the contract since it will be such a draw for the city.

Councilman McCall asked for an update concerning the Miracle Field. Mr. Huffstetler explained they are still doing well with fundraising, but the weather has set the timeline back some.

Councilman Moore asked about the air conditioner for the Earl Bell Center. Mayor Perrin stated the city has already received bids for the contract, so work should begin within the next few weeks. Mr. Huffstetler added they are also putting in a new hardwood floor basketball court.

Councilman Dover questioned the need for a water park. He asked what the difference is between building 4 or 5 swimming pools strategically throughout the city as opposed to one big water park in terms of cost, maintenance and availability. Mr. Huffstetler said it would be a big cost in maintenance and staffing. He further explained a water park will bring in tourism, but a swimming pool will not.

Councilman Moore asked if the admissions price at the old YMCA pool covers the cost for staff. Mr. Huffstetler answered yes, adding the city actually profited in that area this year after adding in the profit from the concession stand. Councilman Moore then asked if the city built 4 or 5 swimming pools, if the admission price would cover the cost of the pool. Mr. Huffstetler stated he would anticipate the admission price covering the pool cost. He noted people from across town do not visit the existing pool; rather, it's local kids walking to the pool or parents dropping them off. Councilman Dover agreed, stating if there were more pools around the city that kids could walk to he thinks more kids would participate in using the pools. Mr. Huffstetler agreed. He added the city should also think about offering more classes, such as water aerobics, to help bring in more interest. He explained the city can only offer so many classes at this point because there's only one pool.

Councilman Coleman asked if there is enough ground at city parks to build a water park. Mr. Huffstetler answered no. Councilman Moore noted that the city was quoted in the past about \$7 million to \$8 million as the cost of an entry-level swimming pool. He stated that same amount of money could build several new swimming pools. He further explained that the city should look at building one pool a year for the next five years and build them at parks or community centers where there's already enough land. Mr. Huffstetler stated some of the community centers would already have enough land to house a swimming pool. He added if the city ever thought about building a water park it couldn't be small, which is something other cities, such as Paragould and Poplar Bluff, learned after the water parks were built. He estimated the cost of a sufficient water park would be about \$20 million. Further discussion was held concerning a water park. Mayor Perrin suggested performing a study concerning swimming pools versus a water park. Mr. Huffstetler added the city really needs to look at having an enclosed swimming pool so it will be accessible year-round, which is about a \$400,000 added cost.

Councilman Moore suggested building one more pool to see how it works and then consider another one afterwards.

Read

5. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Aye: 8 - Darrel Dover; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; Tim McCall; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Rennell Woods and Charles Coleman
Absent: 3 - Ann Williams; John Street and Mitch Johnson

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

Aye: 8 - Darrel Dover; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; Tim McCall; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Rennell Woods and Charles Coleman
Absent: 3 - Ann Williams; John Street and Mitch Johnson

MIN-14:019 Minutes for the City Council meeting on February 18, 2014

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

This item was PASSED on the consent agenda.

MIN-14:020 Minutes for the special called City Council meeting on February 27, 2014

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

This item was PASSED on the consent agenda.

RES-14:008 A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH CIVICPLUS FOR DESIGN, DEVELOPMENT, AND HOSTING OF A NEW CITY OF JONESBORO WEBSITE

Sponsors: Information Systems

Attachments: [TIPS Contract.pdf](#)

This item was PASSED on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-021-2014

RES-14:013 A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE CITY SALARY & ADMINISTRATION PLAN FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO ADD A CDBG SUPERVISOR IN THE CDBG DEPARTMENT

Sponsors: Grants and Human Resources

Attachments: [CDBG Supervisor](#)

This item was PASSED on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-022-2014

6. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

ORD-14:006 AN ORDINANCE ABANDONING AND VACATING A DEVELOPED STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY LOCATED IN:

REES COMMERCE DRIVE 1ST ADDITION, BEING PART OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 24, TOWNSHIP 14 NORTH, RANGE 4 EAST, JONESBORO, AR. PLAT RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK C AT PAGE 220 IN THE OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT CLERK FOR CRAIGHEAD COUNTY IN JONESBORO, ARKANSAS.

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

Councilman Moore offered ordinance for first reading by title only.

Councilman Moore questioned whether there is any opposition to the abandonment. Mayor Perrin stated he doesn't know of any opposition to any of the abandonments on the agenda tonight. City Planner Otis Spriggs concurred.

A motion was made by Councilman Chris Moore, seconded by Councilman Chris Gibson, to Waive Second Reading . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 8 - Darrel Dover; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; Tim McCall; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Rennell Woods and Charles Coleman

Absent: 3 - Ann Williams; John Street and Mitch Johnson

ORD-14:007 AN ORDINANCE ABANDONING AND VACATING AN UNDEVELOPED ALLEY LOCATED IN:

LOTS 117-122 OF COLLEGE PLACE ADDITION, BEING PART OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 17, TOWNSHIP 14 NORTH, RANGE 4 EAST, JONESBORO, AR PLAT RECORDED IN DEED RECORD BOOK 48 AT PAGE 106 IN THE OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT CLERK FOR CRAIGHEAD COUNTY IN JONESBORO, ARKANSAS.

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

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

A motion was made by Councilman Chris Moore, seconded by Councilman Chris Gibson, to Waive Second Reading . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 8 - Darrel Dover; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; Tim McCall; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Rennell Woods and Charles Coleman

Absent: 3 - Ann Williams; John Street and Mitch Johnson

ORD-14:008 AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE AND ABANDON THAT PART OF AN UNDEVELOPED 10' ALLEY LYING NORTH OF LOT 7 AND A PART OF LOT 6 OF

GAMBILL'S ADDITION (RECORDED IN BOOK 23, PAGE 610), JONESBORO, CRAIGHEAD COUNTY, ARKANSAS.

Attachments: [Petition, Plat and Ordinances](#)
[Engineering Letter](#)
[Planning Letter](#)
[Utility Letters](#)

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

A motion was made by Councilman Chris Moore, seconded by Councilman Chris Gibson, to Waive Second Reading . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 8 - Darrel Dover; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; Tim McCall; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Rennell Woods and Charles Coleman

Absent: 3 - Ann Williams; John Street and Mitch Johnson

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

RES-14:011 RESOLUTION TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE ABANDONMENT OF AN UNDEVELOPED RIGHT-OF-WAY IN R.L. HAYES 2ND ADDITION SUBDIVISION AS REQUESTED BY SALLIE AND SAMMY BROWN

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

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

Aye: 8 - Darrel Dover; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; Tim McCall; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Rennell Woods and Charles Coleman

Absent: 3 - Ann Williams; John Street and Mitch Johnson

Enactment No: R-EN-024-2014

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

ORD-14:003 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, SECTION 117-32, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO CLARIFY THE APPEAL PROCESS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SITE PLAN REVIEWS BY THE METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING COMMISSION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY TO UPDATE THE EXISTING ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROMOTING AND ACCOMMODATING SOUND GROWTH WITHIN THE DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

Sponsors: Planning

Attachments: [MEMO Site Plan Appeal Text Amendment PublicWorks](#)

This item was Held at second reading.

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Perrin reported on the following items:

They met yesterday with the project managers concerning the Moratorium Committee suggestions. They have assigned several projects to department heads. The next meeting will be April 1st, then ordinances can be developed and will go through the committee process.

They have written a letter to the Highway Department for a guardrail on Parker Road and Highway 1B.

They have a vacancy on the MAPC. He requested any interested persons to send a letter and resume to his office. Interviews will be held by himself, the chairman of the MAPC, the City Planner and the chair of the Public Works Committee.

Red Wolf Boulevard will be overlaid from Stallings Lane to Centennial Bank. Video and camera equipment will also be placed at those intersections. The Highway 18 spur from Highland to the Highway 63 bypass bids also came in.

Traffic counts were done near Church and Cherry. He will send the information to the Council tomorrow. The traffic engineer's suggestion is to keep it a four-way stop.

The federal government released Tiger grants. Jonesboro will apply for a grant for future I-555. They will be working with surrounding cities to get information together for the project.

They held a phone conference with Union Pacific and Burlington Northern. They discussed applying for Tiger grants for railroad overpasses in the city. They have requested the railroads give them a breakdown of the cost of the projects and how much each railroad company would pay towards it. The next meeting with the railroads will be next Thursday.

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Dover motioned, seconded by Councilman Gibson, to suspend the rules and place RES-14:021 on the agenda. All voted aye.

RES-14:021

A RESOLUTION TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING TO ABANDON ALL OF THAT PORTION OF LARKWOOD DRIVE BETWEEN CREEK DRIVE AND FOREST HOME ROAD AS REQUESTED BY THE PROPERTY OWNER

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

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

Aye: 8 - Darrel Dover; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; Tim McCall; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Rennell Woods and Charles Coleman

Absent: 3 - Ann Williams; John Street and Mitch Johnson

Enactment No: R-EN-023-2014

Councilman Gibson questioned whether any progress has been made concerning the resolution he read at the last meeting concerning Sage Meadows. He asked if the Mayor's Office has spoken with APERMA concerning the matter. Mayor Perrin answered yes, but the position is still the same in that the city should continue to hold on the matter.

Councilman Moore asked for an update concerning Envisions. Mayor Perrin explained he spoke with the Executive Director of the ABC Board, Mr. Langley. Mr. Langley indicated they have not made a determination yet as to how they are going to proceed. Assistant City Attorney Carol Duncan was also waiting to hear back from Mr. Langley concerning a decision, but neither of them have heard anything since last week. Councilman Moore questioned why the city isn't moving forward with its own process. City Attorney Phillip Crego discussed past history with other cases, one in which the city was sued and lost. The city has opted to wait until there is a decision by the ABC Board. He also noted a hearing was scheduled by Police Chief Michael Yates, but was then postponed. Chief Yates explained a few days before the hearing was supposed to take place they were contacted by an attorney representing Mr. Prunty, owner of Envisions, and were told they had a conflict with the day of the hearing. They agreed to allow the attorney to work with the City Attorney's Office to reschedule the hearing. That was the last correspondence with the attorney. Chief Yates also stated that the last suit City Attorney Crego was referring to, the city did not lose; rather, it was dismissed at the request of the plaintiff. Councilman Moore then asked if a request needed to be made to reschedule the hearing. Chief Yates answered it is up to the Council. He had initially expected action by the ABC Board in a reasonable amount of time, but it actually sat on someone's desk for six weeks before the issue was even addressed. Councilman Moore asked what the date was of the shooting at Envisions. Chief Yates stated he believes it was November 30th. He contacted the local ABC Board agent around January 11th because he had not heard anything and found out nothing had taken place concerning the issue. Later, they said they thought Mr. Prunty was going to voluntarily surrender his license. He has been waiting since then because he thought there would be some resolution by the ABC Board. He stated it would be nice to have some sort of resolution by the ABC Board before the city moved forward. Councilman Moore expressed concern as to why the city is waiting for the ABC Board since it is a separate entity from the city. City Attorney Crego agreed, saying the city does not have to wait on the ABC Board to move forward. Councilman Moore asked for a public hearing be requested from the Public Safety Committee concerning the issue. Chief Yates explained he would like to coordinate with Mr. Prunty's attorney as to a date and time for the hearing. Councilman Moore noted clarification needs to be made concerning the timeline for holding a hearing because they held hearings for two other entities, yet this one has been going on for 90 days with no action. He asked who is responsible for calling the hearing. City Attorney Crego stated the hearing has already been called and was postponed. He has not spoken with any attorney representing Mr. Prunty as to a hearing date, but he can do that and advise the Council at the next meeting. Councilman Moore asked for clarification at the next meeting concern whose responsibility it is to call the hearing.

Councilman Frierson commented that the agenda on the screen for the public to view didn't move at this meeting or at the last meeting. He questioned if there is anything wrong with the system. He noted the agenda doesn't move so the public can follow along with the agenda. Mayor Perrin stated they will find out why it's not moving. City Clerk Donna Jackson explained she has requested new technology at her desk because her currently technology doesn't allow the agenda to move. Councilman Frierson stated the agenda used to move and asked why it doesn't now. City Clerk Jackson stated the equipment isn't working in order for her to move the agenda and IT is getting new technology to make it work again. Mayor Perrin also noted they are looking at purchasing iPads for the Council members to allow them to follow along with the meetings.

Councilman Frierson then stated the Council doesn't have proper legal setup for holding hearings that can be properly appealed to the Circuit Court. He stated the city should have the proper setup and be willing to pay for it. Mayor Perrin clarified Councilman Frierson is referring to court reporters, etc. Councilman Frierson agreed, stating they should have court reporters, recorders and someone to control the process. He also noted the hearing should be conducted at another time, not before a Council meeting, so there is sufficient time for everything to be discussed and it should be conducted like a trial. He explained that would allow the city to make a record that can be used in a court trial if needed. Councilman Moore suggested City Attorney Crego make a presentation at the next meeting as to what needs to be done to hold hearings. He noted the whole process may need to be revamped. City Attorney Crego stated they are already looking at redoing the process.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

City employee Sharon Turman, 1916 Westwood Drive, discussed the Miracle Field. She explained the original project was \$1.2 million, but it is now \$2.9 million due to expansion of the project scope. She further explained they wanted something the City of Jonesboro could be proud of. The architects have finished the drawings. But, the weather has delayed the project by 45 days. They still need about \$800,000 to reach their goal. At the end of the month, they will have another fundraiser. Some Miracle League ambassadors will be at the next Council meeting and may be selling barbecue tickets for \$20 for the fundraiser.

11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Chris Gibson, seconded by Councilman Darrel Dover, that this meeting be Adjourned . The motion PASSED with the following vote:

Aye: 8 - Darrel Dover; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; Tim McCall; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Rennell Woods and Charles Coleman

Absent: 3 - Ann Williams; John Street and Mitch Johnson

_____ Date: _____

Harold Perrin, Mayor

Attest:

_____ Date: _____

Donna Jackson, City Clerk