



# City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center  
300 S. Church Street  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

## Meeting Minutes City Council

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Tuesday, August 5, 2025

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

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

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

#### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

#### 3. ROLL CALL (ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE) INITIATED AND CONFIRMED BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

**Present** 12 - Brian Emison; Chris Moore; Chris Gibson; David McClain; Joe Hafner; Kevin Miller; Anthony Coleman; Janice Porter; John Street; Charles Coleman; LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

#### 4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

*Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, well, good evening, Council. I wanted to bring a special note of attention to you all this evening. I think it's very prevalent that we speak, always highly, of our employees that excel, especially those that have to excel in line of duty when they are called upon. And this one in particular tonight I'm going to mention, it's a very unique program, and our Director of the 911 Center thought it was impeccable that we go ahead and move forward with training for life saving techniques and emergency medical dispatcher with CPR training. So this allows our dispatchers to do CPR training when they get a call. So it takes minutes off of lives if they don't get CPR functioning to the human being as soon as possible. So with that, I'm going to have Gracie Doty come forward. Ms. Gracie, if we would please come forward. She has her family with her tonight, as well. So a little bit of background, Ms. Gracie, I believe you started just in May of this year, correct? Come on up here. And just a month and a half later, after she went through the training, she received that phone call. Now, let me reiterated her manager was right next to her, but allowed her to do the thing. You did it impeccable and it a saved a life in our community. So with this, I would like to have a proclamation for Ms. Gracie Doty. Gracie Doty is a new member of the esteemed staff of the E-911 operators, having been employed for less than two months. She recently completed advanced training of the Emergency Medical Dispatcher with CPR Certification. On July 19th, 2025, at 7:48 p.m., she received an emergency call for a woman in a home environment who had suddenly stopped breathing. Gracie Doty remained calm and collected, asked another dispatcher to send the Fire Department. She instructed an untrained person present in the home how to administer CPR over the speaker phone. Gracie started a metronome and counted, reassuring and encouraging the attendant with every compression. Less than a minute after starting CPR, the woman began breathing. When the Jonesboro Fire Department arrived, the woman was sitting up and breathing and turned down transport to an emergency facility. I, Harold Copenhaver, Mayor of the City of Jonesboro, by the virtue vested in*

*me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby recognize Gracie Doty as a hero for saving the life of a Jonesboro resident. Thank you Gracie. All right, counsel, thank you for allowing those few moments. I always like a story like that. Doing good work, folks. Doing good work.*

## **5. CONSENT AGENDA**

### *Approval of the Consent Agenda*

*Councilmember Chris Moore asked to remove RES-25:093, RES-25:094, and RES-25:099 from the Consent Agenda.*

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

**Aye:** 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

#### [MIN-25:062](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON JULY 15, 2025

**Attachments:** [CC Minutes 07152025.pdf](#)

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

#### [RES-25:095](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO APPROVE THE ATTACHED FEE PROPOSALS FOR ADDITIONAL SERVICES FOR THE EAST JOHNSON AVENUE (STATE HIGHWAY 91) SIDEWALKS & LANE RECONFIGURATION PROJECT

**Attachments:** [Johnson Ave Sidewalks\\_Lane Reconfiguration Const Plans.pdf](#)  
[Johnson Ave Sidewalks\\_Lane Reconfiguration Construction Services.pdf](#)

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

Enactment No: R-EN-102-2025

#### [RES-25:097](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2612 CRAWFORD, PARCEL 01-144273-02300, OWNED BY RANDY & ALEY CRAWFORD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

**Attachments:** [01. 2612 Crawford Dr Notice of Violation.pdf](#)  
[02. 2612 Crawford Dr Billing Reqeust.pdf](#)  
[03. 2612 Crawford Dr Invoice.pdf](#)  
[04. 2612 Crawford Dr Council Notice.pdf](#)

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

Enactment No: R-EN-103-2025

#### [RES-25:098](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 211 PINE, PARCEL

01-144074-02600, OWNED BY REGINA STEELE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$315

**Attachments:**     [01. 211 Pine Notice of Violation.pdf](#)  
                              [02. 211 Pine Billing Request.pdf](#)  
                              [03. 211 Pine Invoice.pdf](#)  
                              [04. 211 Pine Council Notice.pdf](#)

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

Enactment No: R-EN-104-2025

[RES-25:100](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS, INC. TO ADD THE RADIO MANAGEMENT CLOUD HOSTED SUBSCRIPTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO SYSTEM FOR JONESBORO EMERGENCY SERVICES

**Attachments:**     [Radio Management Proposal](#)

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

Enactment No: R-EN-105-2025

**RESOLUTIONS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA**

[RES-25:093](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH BRACKETT KENNERICH & ASSOCIATES, P.A. TO PROVIDE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES FOR THE 911 AND REAL TIME CRIME CENTER PROJECT

**Attachments:**     [911 Crime Center.pdf](#)

*Councilmember David McClain said, Mayor, I've got one question about the agreement. So I know this is just for our architects. Are they going to partner with engineers according to this agreement? They will have an engineer. Okay. Mayor Copenhaver said, yes. Councilmember McClain replied, alright, okay.*

*Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road, said, I appreciate that we have the ability to pull something from the agenda, because I unfortunately, I had a emergency last week and couldn't attend to finance meeting. When reading this resolution right here is that it's 28 pages long. And, I looked at the top of it and it says that this agreement was done on June 12th of 2025. We received the bond on July 22nd. So this was already done, written up as an agreement with this company to do this. And if I'm correct, I don't know if it had a \$5.2 million that the owner would be responsible. I don't know if that is the price of the building that we're looking at, but I remember listening to one of the task force meetings that we already knew the cost of the building. And we had to decide which location we were going to be at, but the cost of the building was going to be the same. So I don't know if that is the cost of what their cost is going to be, but if it is, and if someone wants to correct me, I would appreciate it. But if you're looking at \$5.2 million and the bond is \$5.5 million, we only have \$300,000 to improve. I think what we've got to look at is, are we looking at the building, or are we looking at how best can we make this E911 center to be? And so if we use up most money on building a building, we won't have that money to get improvements to make it the best that it can be and I think that's what is important to the city. The problem with I have with passing this tonight is one, we don't even know where at the location's going to be*

right now, because the bond task force has not met to bring that up. I know at the last meeting is that there was supposed to be some professionals to give their ideas, and the pros and cons of it to make suggestions on which location was going to be the best. So we don't even know where this building is going to be. Who else is going to be in this building and what are the needs that we need overall? Because again, that was one of the task force meetings agenda to have. When you look at it, we don't even know which way is the front door going to be because we don't know what location it's going to be at. But when looking at this contract is that the contract assigned by Mr. Cook, which is the president of the architect firm on June 23rd, and it's just waiting for Mr. Copenhagen's signature on it. So it's already been signed by the company right now. I scroll down on the resolution right here, and it shows that on September the 27th of 2023, there was a meeting at E-911 emergency meeting talking about the general discussions of the items to be included in the E-911. So we already kind of know what we want. So it's kind of like, why do we have a task force if we've had this meeting already? So tonight, I look at all of you, and you guys are the ones to decide whether to prove this or not to approve it tonight. But without knowing where the location is, not knowing what the cost of either repairing or demolishing the justice building is going to be, I don't see how we can approve this right here tonight until we know where we're going to put it. So you as city council people are elected by the citizens in the city to make the best choice. So I hope tonight we can table this, wait till we get the task force meeting, find out where we're going to put the building, and then go from here because the plans seem to be already made up. So thank you.

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Gibson, seconded by Councilperson Joe Hafner, that this matter be Passed. The motion PASSED with the following vote, 6 AYE and 6 NAY. Mayor Harold Copenhagen voted in the affirmative to pass this matter and break the tie. The AYE vote included: Porter, Emison, Gibson, Hafner, Miller, Street. The NAY vote included: C. Coleman, Moore, Williams, McClain, A. Coleman, Bryant.

**A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Gibson, seconded by Councilperson Joe Hafner, that this matter be Passed. The motion PASSED with the following vote, 6 AYE and 6 NAY. Mayor Harold Copenhagen voted in the affirmative to pass this matter and break the tie.**

**Aye:** 6 - Brian Emison;Chris Gibson;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Janice Porter and John Street

**Nay:** 6 - Chris Moore;David McClain;Anthony Coleman;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Enactment No: R-EN-106-2025

[RES-25:094](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH BRACKETT KENNERICH & ASSOCIATES, P.A. TO PROVIDE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES FOR THE WINTER WONDERLAND RENOVATIONS

**Attachments:** [Winter Wonderland Agreement.pdf](#)

Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road, said, and thank you again. On this one right here, I took the time to look at it and this is kind of weird. This agreement was made on the same date that the E-911 agreement was made on June 12th. So I guess they came here and did the Winter Wonderland and did the E-911. And if you look at the contract going through the pages, one is 28 pages, one is 33 pages, and they basically almost have basically the same kind of stipulations to it. The cost on this one right here is \$1.8 million. I don't necessarily know where the \$1.8 million dollars is coming from to

*pay for this, but once again, on this, if you scroll down on the resolution, is that it has been signed already on June 23rd by the architect right here and it's just waiting for Mr. Copenhaver's signature on there. And if you look in down the resolution is that they have the exhibit. They show the picture of what it's going to be like. There is six really pretty pictures of people walking around that they have. But, then, once again, on September the 2nd of 2024, it looks like the works have been in the cycle by then because they had a meeting and it was a general discussion of the items and the construction that was supposed to be there. So we've known about this for a long time. I don't know where the money's coming from on this one. Certainly is that I think people really enjoy it and it's happening in the downtown area. And the only thing that I would say on this one right here is that by this time that this opens up, if we do it, is that we have a way to go to a cashless system with all of our parks and recreations and fun facilities. So everything goes cashless in this city by then. So once again, you guys are elected and you guys are the ones that make the decision for the citizens. Thank you.*

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

**Aye:** 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

**Nay:** 1 - Ann Williams

Enactment No: R-EN-107-2025

[RES-25:099](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO ENTER INTO A TRANSIT SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY AND TO AMEND THE FY2025 BUDGET TO ALLOW FOR THE ADDITION OF FOUR FULL-TIME DRIVERS AND TWO FULL-TIME PARATRANSIT DRIVERS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE REQUESTED SERVICE LEVELS AS A PART OF THE AGREEMENT

**Attachments:** [Contract for Provision of Public Transportation Services](#)

*Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road, said, and I really like this because I think there needs to be more of a working relationship with ASU. So I think on that side of this it's just really good. I think on that is a three-year contract and it's starting August 16th. That's not next Wednesday, it's the following Wednesday. So we're going to have to be looking at hiring a couple of bus drivers by then. The win-win situation, the city gets \$518,000. The win for ASU is that they probably don't have to purchase a bus and we can use one of our trolley buses. You all have seen the back and forth that I've been going back with Donna talking about the mechanisms and all that, that we haven't received the mechanisms for that. So for these riders, I'm assuming for the teachers and for the students, all they have to do is show a pass and they can use one of the trolley buses. So we can use one of the trolley buses on that. So that's a plus there. I like that idea that they're going to have to pay for their own bus stops. Well, if we're going to make \$518,000, not clear, but we're going to make \$518,000, they're going to probably design a pretty nice bus stop. We probably, hopefully, can use that money instead of maybe going through Grants to buy and purchase or build bus stops throughout the city because some of these bus stops, I've noticed don't even have a concrete pad for the people to stand on. We've talked about it for a long time, but here we have a little bit of money. When looking at the locations, there's nine fixed locations. There's future expansion, which is good, but the problem with this is that looking at the locations that we have, I was thinking that they, we're going to be taking them to maybe Walmart or to Target or something, and maybe start producing revenue*

for the city. But when you look at it, they're limited, like the Embassy Suites and the Bookstores and stuff like that, but hopefully that will improve on there. When looking at the contract right here, this really needs to be amended, because when you look at, I don't know how we're saying that we need four bus drivers, full-time bus drivers. Because if you look at the JETS budget proposal, it's saying that they are going to be driving 13 hours a day, Monday through Friday. You could hire one full-time and one part-time person to do that. That's a Monday through Friday job, if you wanted to, or you can hire another JETS bus driver. Today, I saw that on the city's Facebook page that there was a notice saying that we need a transit driver, but five days ago, we needed a part-time transit driver and another transit driver. So we can't even hire our own bus drivers to do the regular route, at least, that's what I'm getting from it. How are we going to hire four more or two more? So I don't know what the need is to hire four, when it's only 13 hours a day. I was thinking it was going to be 24 hours a day, but that seems kind of unreasonable, but if it's only 13 hours a day, you add that up. That's, you know, a 40-hour work week, and then you've got four hours times five and you got 20 that's part time. So I don't know how we can justify that we even need to hire four, full-time bus drivers and two para-transit. And with the para-transit, I would imagine that those people right there have to make arrangements to be picked up on that. So, I don't know how that is going to coordinate with the bus that we have. But once again is that, you know, it's a win-win for a lot, but I think what we can do is that hopefully we can use the money, the \$518,000, and make our bus stops as nice as ASU or model what they're doing because you know that they're going to do the top notch idea. So the only thing on this one right here you guys, I don't know how we justify that we need four bus drivers to work 13 hours or five 13 hour days on that. I don't know how that works out unless we're going to use them someplace else and we can get paid by there. So once again, you guys make the decision. Thank you.

John Thompson, Kays Hall-125 Dean Street, said, I came here today to express my support and advocate for this resolution. I also serve on the Student Government Association as the local government sustainability chair and it's kind of my job at SGA to watch you guys. And when I saw this, I got a very happy because this is a great resolution. Let me first tell you a little bit about myself. My freshman year I came to campus and I didn't have transportation. I didn't have a car. But I had a theater class, and it was in the Fowler Center and I had to walk there whether it rained, snowed and apparently Jonesboro gets a lot of snow. Rain, snow, or sunshine. Now, I'm not saying that's a completely difficult task. I'm sure that many of you went to college and got your education, you had to do the same thing, but just making this more accessible and convenient for students, it means that this city council cares a lot about our university and a lot about the students that come here to Jonesboro. So please let this happen, because I would have loved to road a JET trolley to my theatre class for free. And as she mentioned, you do only have to show, as the resolution stands unless you guys amended it, you do only have to show a student I.D. and you can ride for free and I really do believe that the student population at ASTATE, like myself, needs this and we will benefit from it greatly. So do whatever you have to do to it, amend it however, and I hope that students can ride for free on JET trolleys come August 16th. Thank you so much. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you very much for your comments. Very insightful.

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

**Aye:** 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Enactment No: R-EN-108-2025

**6. NEW BUSINESS****ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING****ORD-25:025**

AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO PLACE VARIOUS TRAFFIC SIGNS AT DESIGNATED LOCATIONS AS DETERMINED BY THE TRAFFIC CONTROL COMMITTEE

*Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-25:025 by title only. All voted aye.*

**Held at one reading**

**ORD-25:028**

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO ADD SECTION 50-40 ENTITLED PARK RANGERS

*Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-25:028 by title only. All voted aye.*

**Held at one reading**

**ORD-25:029**

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE APPROVAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR SHJ CONCEPTS, INC. DBA BRIDGE STREET BREWERY OF JONESBORO.

**Attachments:**     [Bridge Street Brewery Private Club Permit\\_Redacted](#)  
[Publication Receipt](#)

*Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember LJ Bryant, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-25:029 by title only. All voted aye.*

*James Elywn Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, said, this area where this is being located has had a lot of problems in past. It is an area that has been known for, very close to some illegal drug dealing. I have came because, you know, there aren't a whole lot of places you can cross the railroad track. You almost have to use Bridge in some areas. I saw what I suspect very strongly was prostitution. Folks, it is a proven fact that when alcohol is legalized, it results in an also in an increase of illegal drugs. I think this area has had its share of problems. We don't need to add more to it.*

**Held at one reading**

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS****ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING****ORD-25:026**

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE APPROVAL OF A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR SLATE ASSOCIATION DBA ROCK N ROLL SUSHI

**Attachments:**     [Private Club Permit\\_Redacted](#)  
[Publication Receipt](#)

*James Elwyn Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, said, by the way, after this one I'm going to be*

*leaving. I'm not mad at any of you. I just got some things I got to leave early tonight. This area is probably going to be seeing an increase in traffic in the near future and with that going on, I really don't think it's a good idea to add alcohol to the mix.*

**Held at second reading**

[ORD-25:027](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM I-2 TO C-3 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 500. N. CULBERHOUSE ST. AS REQUESTED BY 1ST PRODUCE AND FOODS.

**Attachments:**     [Zoning Application](#)  
                              [Certified Receipts](#)  
                              [Redemption Deed](#)  
                              [Rezoning Plat](#)  
                              [Rezoning Signs](#)  
                              [Warranty Deed](#)  
                              [Staff Summary](#)  
                              [Publication Receipt](#)  
                              [MAPC Minutes](#)

*Councilmember David McClain said, I have one question, Mayor, just about the, on the staff summary, it says the proposed district rezoning is not consistent with adopted land use plan. That was the only mark it had against it. Derrel Smith, Planning Director, said, it says that the district rezoning is not consistent with adopted land use. General commercial is not included in the moderate intensity growth sector. The current zone is also not consistent with the Land Use Plan. So what they have there right now is also not consistent. This with, we felt like, with the inconsistencies that it has right now will get it closer to what it needs to be than what it is now. Councilmember McClain replied, because it is currently industrial. Okay. Thank you.*

**Held at second reading**

**ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING**

[ORD-25:018](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO PLACE VARIOUS TRAFFIC SIGNS AT DESIGNATED LOCATIONS AS DETERMINED BY THE TRAFFIC CONTROL COMMITTEE

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

**Aye:** 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Enactment No: O-EN-027-2025

[ORD-25:023](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM C-4 TO RS-7 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 200 SARTIN LANE AS REQUESTED BY DAT NGUYEN

**Attachments:**    [Application](#)  
                              [Certified Mail](#)  
                              [Plat](#)  
                              [Property Deed](#)  
                              [Rezoning Information](#)  
                              [Rezoning Sign](#)  
                              [Staff Summary](#)  
                              [MAPC Minutes](#)  
                              [Publication Receipt](#)

*Councilmember David McClain said, just the same question, Mayor, same thing, the staff summary that says, same thing, doesn't meet the land use plan. Derrel Smith, Planning Director, said, right now, at C-4, they are wanting to live there in the existing house. They're not going to make any changes to it. So it's just going to remain a residence, but we're trying to bring it into compliance so that he can live there. Councilmember McClain said, okay, thank you. Stay close Derrel, I got one more for the next one. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Derrel.*

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

**Aye:** 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Enactment No: O-EN-028-2025

**ORD-25:024**

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM AG-1 TO RS-7 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT KATHLEEN STREET

**Attachments:**    [Application](#)  
                              [Certified Mail Receipt](#)  
                              [Cover Letter](#)  
                              [Property Owner Notification Letter](#)  
                              [Property Owner Notification](#)  
                              [Rezoning Plat](#)  
                              [Rezoning Signs](#)  
                              [Staff Summary](#)  
                              [MAPC Minutes](#)  
                              [Publication Receipt](#)

*Councilmember David McClain said, Mayor, same thing, it says it doesn't meet the land use plan. And, then also, I noticed that they've started dirt work on that. Do they have a grading permit already? Derrel Smith, Planning Director, said, this is an area that adjacent to it is already zoned for residential. They had to have this piece also for fire access because the number of houses. And, so what you're seeing the dirt work on is the part that's already been approved by MAPC for the subdivision. This will be a second part of, the second phase of that original subdivision. So yeah, it called for high intensity growth out there. Everything around it is going residential right now. That's one of the reasons we're looking at updating our comprehensive plan and everything is because some of these are getting pretty dated. Mayor Copenhaver said, this should be helpful. Derrel, I think, too, it would help and I appreciate the*

*councilman pointing it out. I think a side note would be good anytime we have that X for the explanation to help out. Mr. Smith said, yes sir. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you councilman.*

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

**Aye:** 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Enactment No: O-EN-029-2025

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

*Mayor Harold Copenhagen reported on the following:*

*Obviously it's been three weeks since we've met. It's almost a full month it feels like. Good evening, everyone, and I've got some really strong updates for us tonight.*

*First of all, I want to start off with First Security Bank Employee the month. She's Mary Caines. She's a paralegal out of Carol's office. (City Attorney Carol Duncan said, it's a tough job.) Carol describes Mary as an indispensable member of the staff who's really stepped up during the difficult time for that office shortage of staff and having to relocate. Congratulations to Mary on this well deserved honor. She gets a front parking space right here at City Hall. (Ms. Duncan said, she's super excited about the parking space.)*

*Next, I need to share some information with you as council as well. It's required that we go to a dot gov domain. So all government domains are required to use dot gov. So we'll be changing from Jonesboro.org to Jonesboro.gov soon. As the approval process moves forward, council members are part of the confirmation process, which you'll I believe be receiving an email just to confirm that you're in agreement. So if you receive an email regarding this and need your help, approving it, you can always reach out to my officer Jason Ratliff with IT if you have any questions.*

*I want to give you an overview of the progress of some of our capital improvement projects funded by the revenue bond. Workers are laying concrete on Jefferson side path. An RFQ for the architectural and engineering services is in process for the Prospect Road Pedestrian Project. And the plans for the Johnson Avenue Project have been approved by ArDot and the city is working on the bidding process. We'll continue to give you and the public frequent updates on revenue bond projects, somewhat like we did on the demolition of the Citizens Bank Building.*

*Now, speaking of Citizens Bank Building, we did get the final numbers in on the demolition of that building, and this is all final numbers. It's a little over \$3.2 million. We're working with Legal on the next aspects of filing the proper city council actions to reflect the funding we have spent on the project. In the meantime, I have had and have been in continued conversations as early as 1:30 this afternoon with individuals from outside our community in my office about the ownership of the property and the options that could exist to redevelop the area to be a benefit to the community and the downtown area. I'm really looking excited to this. As the talks materialized and actual offers and ideas come forward, then I'm going to share that with obviously you council and the community as well to keep you updated.*

*I'd like to congratulate one of our own manufacturing friends, Frito Lay. Some of us had the pleasure of attending a ceremony last week at Frito Lay, which was honored as one of the top 30 firms in the country for supporting the Army Reserve and National Guard. Now, there are 1,400 industrial firms throughout the United States that applied for that and they finished in the top 30. So their goal is to be top 15. So that's the support of the employees for our National Guard Reserves and that sets a tone of who they are and then who are community is as well, and I appreciate that.*

*As many of you are aware we're about to have school starting again. Summer break, by golly's almost over. The city's worked well with the school districts ensuring safe traffic patterns and sidewalks. Please keep in mind the traffic laws regarding school buses will be very strict. And, I say that again, they're going to be very strict and fines are heavy. Let's all keep those kids safe by stopping for buses with extended stop signs and watching out for children in these areas.*

*Now, another aspect, and we talked about it earlier in our meeting was our park rangers. They're continuing their training. They are learning specific information about all of our parks, including interesting facts from plants, trees, and wildlife. But they're also learning defensive techniques and crowd control response. This is a unique program. We're not aware of any other city in the State of Arkansas having City Park Rangers. We're really proud of that and we're looking forward to that growth of that department. I appreciate Scott Roper and his team for working with them and coordinate the effort in the educational training part of that, Scott, I appreciate that very much. JPD has been very heavily involved. But, if you can tell, they've been out till 10 o'clock in our parks. It's already paid dividends for our community and I'm really proud of that.*

*We held a ribbon cutting for the official re-grand opening or reopening of Allen Park Friday. I'm pleased to tell you that the park is completely accessible. Danny's done a great job with that design. I appreciate that. And, a grant went through very well. And, it applies to kids of all abilities. A splashpad was a great hit. It was well used that evening, as a matter of fact. And we look forward to more inclusive park with retrofits throughout Jonesboro. Now, this is just another addition to the Master Parks Plan. So that's in conjunction with that.*

*Another successful neighborhood cleanup in Valley View last weekend shows an upward trend in collecting trash and tires. When the final total is in for trash collected, it will probably be more than nine tons of garbage and 79 tires were turned in. Now, what I've also asked the directors are to provide us the cost saving benefit of what we're doing. It's not going to be hundreds of thousands of dollars, but it will be tens of thousands of dollars that we don't have the tipping fee cost back to the taxpayer by providing this service.*

*So some of you may have seen, I made a quick trip to D.C. week before last, to continue our building our relationships with our congressional delegation. Senator Boozeman and Cotton and Congressman Crawford have been very supportive of this community and helped land more than \$25 million in federal funding for us in just the last few years. It's allowed us to expand our airport, our increased lighting in our community, and fund critical infrastructure projects like future industry. Now, I heard earlier about funding mechanism for our Real Time Crime Center, and this is one of the efforts that we hope to come out of by there with additional funding for the infrastructure on the internal side and the technology upgrades that we already have, that we've already invested in, and it'll make it even better. Senator Boozeman is very much on board, as well as the other Congressional delegation. And, they were pleased to hear about the updates we provided them on the revenue bond for continued*

*progress. We also had the opportunity to visit Congressman Westerman, who I served with in the legislature, who is very open to helping Jonesboro and he needs to know what's going on here, as well, because he does represent the State of Arkansas. And, then we had an opportunity to speak with Speaker Mike Johnson, who only knew of one community in Arkansas. Now he knows of two. So that was a very, well received meeting, and it was an honor to meet Mr. Johnson and I know he was very busy. I never pass up a chance, though, to sell Jonesboro's story. It's an opportunity we can always provide for future industry. If all goes well, Congress and Senate can agree on to pass the FY2026 budget, we look forward to some additional funding for flood mitigation projects and our Real Time Crime Center.*

*As always, public safety is the first concern and most of you are aware of the shootings around State Street over the weekend. We simply won't tolerate these serious crimes. We have the tools and the officers, and I must say, they are being very proactive. We had a meeting on Monday. We are aggressively going after this. This is not what we are. We need to increase monitoring immediately and law-abiding citizens deserve and will receive a safer neighborhood.*

*The sales tax distributions for July, which are May sales, mark the third consecutive month of year over year improvement and significant increase compared to July 2024.*

*So I'll end tonight's comments with some excellent news. We were told yesterday in our meeting, the City of Jonesboro received another clean audit. As all audits, this one's really pretty special. It's 15 years of clean audits for the City of Jonesboro. Legislative Audit, which in my opinion, is the highest auditing firm the state can provide us. Also, there were no sub-findings. Now, folks, we're talking hundreds of thousands of documentation. That documentation is provided by all of our department heads to an auditor. They are here for over six months in our building going through our paperwork. And, for us to receive that, we hear sometimes of questionable things being offered within the city, where does the money go here? Where does the money go there? Well, this audit proves that it's a clean audit, and we're doing what we're supposed to be doing with our funding. I appreciate Steve Purtee and his team who could make this happen. The clean audit leads to excellent bond ratings. That's the reason we've received a AA bond rating. It allows us to have revenue bonds. They're preparing a detailed report on this, and I know Joe also has met with him, and he might have something to add. But, when it's ready, it'll be presented to council just in a few short weeks. I would like to mention, though, the individuals in Steve's office that work day-to-day, and we need to say thank you when we see them. Christy Wall does an excellent job. Paige Cook, Steve Kent, Teresa Shaver. So, again, thank you, Steve, and your team.*

[COM-25:030](#)

JUNE 2025 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**Attachments:**     [June 2025 Financials.pdf](#)

Filed

## **9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

*Councilmember Janice Porter said, I'm pleased to note that the federal courthouse in Jonesboro was recently the site of a naturalization ceremony for 12 new citizens. The prior ceremony was 25 years prior and I was pleased to get to attend and to greet the new citizens. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you.*

Councilmember Brian Emison said, I just want to say congratulations to the Finance Department for a clean audit, something to be very proud of, especially 15 years in a row. Great job.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, yes, just a couple things. I just wanted to touch on what the Mayor said about our cleanup with the Citizens Bank property. We have \$3.2 million invested in that property, and it's the largest piece of undeveloped property in the downtown entertainment district. With the right decisions, we can recoup that \$3.2 million through the development. We currently have liquor by the drink. We have a hotel room tax. We have a prepared food tax and we have a one cent sales tax. So with the right development on that property, we can recoup our money on that and add to the downtown. It's also in an economic development zone. So, it's very attractive. So I think it's important what the Mayor's doing is looking for a solution where we might be in control of what goes down there. I encourage you Mayor to pursue that. I'm also excited about Rick Crawford's proposed study for a direct road to Osceola. I mean, that's Steel Mill Capital of the world coming. We're fixing a have a road directly between Jonesboro and Osceola. Lots of people in Jonesboro work over there and drive back and forth. Contrary to public comment, liquor by the drink is a pretty big deal here. Mayor, the other thing, and I talked to Carol about it was about the State Street property. You know, that's the calls for service over there. Three people were shot this weekend alone. It looked like Keith Iman reported there were 22 calls for service in the last seven months that seemed fairly serious, including multiple fights, gunshots, whatever. So I hope you're and your staff and the city attorney are working on that. Carol assured me she was, so I'll be interested in the seeing what that plan is Carol. Mayor Copenhagen said, as we move forward to, and as I mentioned to you earlier, councilman, on that, obviously, when those occurrences happen, then we're working with the owner of the property. You know, sometimes it's individuals that move in our community and they don't learn to appreciate the community like we do. And we're working on it diligently. Councilmember Moore replied, I've been on the council long enough to know that one street over Cedar Heights, when it was the worst street in Jonesboro and I don't want to see that go back one over. Mayor Copenhagen said, that's correct. That's correct. Councilmember Moore said, thank you, Mr. Mayor.

Councilmember David McClain said, the only question I have Mayor, do we have an update as far as the plan for the flock? Not the flock, the crosswalk over off of North Culberhouse that's right in front of the Parker Park? I know we have plans to, I knew we had plans to do the same type of light fixtures over there. Mayor Copenhagen said, yes. Craig, where is that? Did they approve that? Craig Light, Engineering Director, said, we are trying to resolve one last issue with the proposed location. There's a residential driveway in between the stop bar and the traffic light. ArDot is having some issues with that. There's not really good place to put it other than there or at least in my opinion. We talking about maybe 10 vehicles a day using this driveway. The only other option is to put the signal right in the front of somebody's front door of their house which is not really a good option. So that's the last piece. We do have the equipment on order, so that's kind of what we're really waiting on is for the equipment to come in. So hopefully they'll tie in together and we'll be able to get that thing constructed. Councilmember Ann Williams said, Mr. Moore reminded me to mention that since the HAWK signal was put in on Johnson, installed there, there haven't been any pedestrian injuries or deaths and that's a good thing. And I think that the use of that has made people acquainted and accustomed to it enough that that will be prepared from one on 141N and North Main because once people use it, they naturally know and are familiar with it to use it and it just becomes, you know, a part of pedestrian regular practice to use it. And so that has been the experience in Fayetteville. After they got five of them, the people there were saying that they are just

part of you know, pedestrian customary use then. I think that we will see a benefit of already having people become familiar on Johnson with it, both drivers and pedestrians. Mayor Copenhagen said, I agree and I think, too, we saw an uptick in the Parker Park Pool and then the facilities over there are going to continually grow. And so with that, yeah, that investment is going to be well worth paying dividends. Thank you for your questions. Councilmember McClain said, last thing, just I know you guys are starting budget planning for next year. One position I would love for y'all to consider and we can talk offline, but somebody that's an arborist on staff, that they specialize, you know, obviously in taking care of our, I mean, we're building new buildings and we have locations around the city that we own, but somebody that goes out and they make sure that our facilities look nice in terms of the landscaping and giving them the ability to go out and take care of the property properly. I know that's probably under Parks right now, but in my thinking, it would be better to have that sectioned off because Parks is dealing with enough stuff as is. But we can talk again and we talk later.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, yes, real quick. I want to give another shout out about the parks. On this light note, I wasn't able to attend the ribbon cutting, but I did take my grandson the day before, and he really enjoyed it and had a good time, and of course, we frequent or he, my grandson, frequents Parker Park's pool, and so it's nice and I thank God that it's frequented. And so I appreciate that. So thank you for what y'all do in Parks.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said, two quick questions. Mayor, at the July 1st meeting, I asked about getting a capital improvement update. I was just wondering what the status of that is and when we might receive that. Mayor Copenhagen said, yeah, we're bringing that forward to you, probably by, what, Monday? I think we'll have all of the Capital Improvements, but we gave some tonight, but we'll have that next meeting. Councilmember Hafner said, all right, thank you. My other question had to do with a few months ago, we approved or appropriated about \$140,000 of the ARPA money for mosquito abatement. But looking at the June financials, I didn't see where any of that money had been spent. So I couldn't remember exactly what that was for, but I was just wondering when that money's going to be spent, because I think we still have mosquitoes. Mayor Copenhagen asked, didn't we talk to him today? I believe. Brian, do you have any update on that? Chief Operations Officer Tony Thomas said, since Brian has no update. Yeah, it was for just additional mosquito abatement. In the past we have used that funding for additional flyovers and additional sprays. And, at this particular point in time, we have not. I think you've heard that they have been pretty aggressive in a number of flyovers over the past couple of weeks. And so we've not contracted with the additional ones at this particular point in time, but it also with the dry weather that we've been experiencing, we've also seen a decrease I think overall in the population. So nothing has been used. No additional funding has been used, but that funding is still there available and accessible in the event that it is needed. Councilmember Hafner replied, thank you, that's all I had. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you councilman.

## **10. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Aye:** 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

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

**Harold Copenhaver, Mayor**

**Attest:**

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

**April Leggett, City Clerk**