



City of Jonesboro

900 West Monroe
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Public Safety Council Committee

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

5:15 PM

Huntington Building

1. Call To Order

Mayor Perrin was also in attendance.

Present 4 - Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Mitch Johnson and Mikel Fears

Absent 1 - Chris Moore

2. Approval of minutes

MIN-09:016

Minutes for the Public Safety Committee meeting on February 17, 2009.

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

A motion was made by Councilman Mikel Fears, seconded by Councilman Chris Gibson, that this Minutes be Passed. The motion CARRIED by a Voice Vote.

Aye: 4 - Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Mitch Johnson and Mikel Fears

Absent: 1 - Chris Moore

3. New Business

Ordinances To Be Introduced

ORD-09:016

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY CODE TITLE IV BUSINESS REGULATIONS, CHAPTER 32: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, ARTICLE III, SECTION 4.32.31 (4) CHANGING THE SUPPLEMENTAL BEVERAGE TAX FROM THREE PERCENT (3%) OF GROSS RECEIPTS OF THE SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES TO FIVE PERCENT (5%) OF THE GROSS RECEIPTS OF THE SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Sponsors: Code Enforcement

Attachments: [Opposition material](#)

Police Chief Michael Yates explained the Finance Committee discussed the increase and asked him to draft an ordinance.

Dr. Dan Johnson, owner of the Brickhouse Grill, spoke in opposition of the alcohol beverage tax increase. He stated he has collected approximately 40 letters and 1,662 signatures from citizens, doctors, lawyers and retail owners in Jonesboro who also are in opposition of the tax increase. He then discussed the material he provided to

the Council.

Police Chief Yates explained state law allows cities to charge a maximum of 5% on alcoholic beverages. He added the City decided to charge only 3% initially because alcohol was not being served in Jonesboro. He noted the DUI arrest record rose 67%.

Chief Yates explained this ordinance was modeled after ordinances in other cities. He stated the City's ordinance is the most liberal. He added most ordinances governing the sale of alcoholic beverages have two provisions in them that the City's ordinance does not include. He also added the City might need to include those provisions. He explained the two provisions include the Council voting on all new alcohol permits and hearing all alcohol permit renewals. He stated the City will be hiring auditors to come in and find out who is paying their alcohol taxes properly and how the taxes are being accounted for.

Councilman Mikel Fears questioned if there was an impact on businesses after the 3% tax was implemented. Chief Yates explained it is hard to determine because some of the businesses were not in operation when the 3% was implemented.

Further Discussion was held concerning handouts from Dr. Johnson.

A motion was made by Councilman Chris Gibson, seconded by Councilman Gene Vance, that this matter be Tabled until the next Public Safety meeting. The motion PASSED by an unanimous vote

Aye: 4 - Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Mitch Johnson and Mikel Fears

Absent: 1 - Chris Moore

Resolutions To Be Introduced

RES-09:030

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION 09:017 BY AND ADDENDUM CONCERNING COMPENSATORY TIME OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO POSITIONS AS SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

Sponsors: Police Department

Police Chief explained the way payroll is kept for the School Resource Officers is violating the Fair Labor Standards Act. He added the practice is not violating the act, but the way the records are kept does violate the act. He stated it will help with overtime pay. He noted under the current rule the officers have to be paid for the hours they worked. He added if this ordinance was in place the officers would receive comp time instead of overtime pay.

A motion was made by Councilman Chris Gibson, seconded by Councilman Mikel Fears, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED by an unanimous vote

Aye: 4 - Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Mitch Johnson and Mikel Fears

Absent: 1 - Chris Moore

RES-09:031

A RESOLUTION TO Condemn property at 1700 Henry Street

Sponsors: Code Enforcement

Attachments: [1700 Henry Building Inspection Report](#)
[CONDEMNATION CHECKLIST](#)
[100 0885](#)
[100 0890](#)
[100 0891](#)
[100 0894](#)

A motion was made by Councilman Mikel Fears, seconded by Councilman Chris Gibson, that this matter be Recommended Under New Business . The motion PASSED by an unanimous vote

Aye: 4 - Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Mitch Johnson and Mikel Fears

Absent: 1 - Chris Moore

RES-09:032 A RESOLUTION TO Condemn property at 1014 S. Madison

Sponsors: Code Enforcement

Attachments: [1014 S. Madison Building Inspection Report](#)
[CONDEMNATION CHECKLIST](#)
[100 3135](#)
[100 3136](#)
[100 3138](#)
[100 3137](#)

A motion was made by Councilman Mikel Fears, seconded by Councilman Chris Gibson, that this matter be Recommended Under New Business . The motion PASSED by an unanimous vote

Aye: 4 - Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Mitch Johnson and Mikel Fears

Absent: 1 - Chris Moore

RES-09:035 A RESOLUTION TO Condemn property at 2011 S Kathleen

Sponsors: Code Enforcement

Attachments: [CONDEMNATION CHECKLIST.doc](#)
[2011 Kathlyn St Building Inspection 102208.doc](#)
[100 3167.JPG](#)
[100 3168.JPG](#)
[100 3169.JPG](#)
[100 3166.JPG](#)
[100 3172.JPG](#)
[100 3170.JPG](#)

A motion was made by Councilman Mikel Fears, seconded by Councilman Chris Gibson, that this matter be Recommended Under New Business . The motion PASSED by an unanimous vote

Aye: 4 - Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Mitch Johnson and Mikel Fears

Absent: 1 - Chris Moore

RES-09:036 A RESOLUTION TO condemn property at 2009 S Kathleen

Attachments: [CONDEMNATION CHECKLIST.doc](#)
[2009 Kathlyn St Building Inspection 102208.doc](#)
[100_0443.JPG](#)
[100_0444.JPG](#)
[100_0445.JPG](#)
[100_0446.JPG](#)
[100_0447.JPG](#)
[100_0448.JPG](#)

A motion was made by Councilman Mikel Fears, seconded by Councilman Chris Gibson, that this matter be Recommended Under New Business . The motion PASSED by an unanimous vote

Aye: 4 - Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Mitch Johnson and Mikel Fears

Absent: 1 - Chris Moore

RES-09:037 A RESOLUTION TO condemn property at 1809 Arch St

Attachments: [CONDEMNATION CHECKLIST.doc](#)
[100_0875.JPG](#)
[100_0877.JPG](#)
[100_0879.JPG](#)
[100_0880.JPG](#)
[100_0881.JPG](#)
[1809 Arch St Building Inspection 103008.doc](#)

A motion was made by Councilman Mikel Fears, seconded by Councilman Chris Gibson, that this Resolution be Recommended Under New Business. The motion CARRIED by a Voice Vote.

Aye: 4 - Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Mitch Johnson and Mikel Fears

Absent: 1 - Chris Moore

RES-09:045 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE POLICE CHIEF AND FIRE CHIEF OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO APPLY FOR FEDERAL GRANT FUNDING RELATED TO HOMELAND SECURITY, THE ECONOMIC STIMULUS AND RECOVERY ACT AND OTHER FEDERAL GRANTS ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Sponsors: Fire Department and Police Department

Police Chief Yates explained this resolution has been discussed in department head meetings. He added the time frame to apply for federal grant funds has been shortened due to the way the federal grant funding program has changed.

Chief Yates explained this ordinance would authorize the Fire Chief and Police Chief to apply for grants without going through the approval process first. He added the City could miss out on grants if they do not change the process of applying for grants.

Chief Yates explained the C.O.P.S. grant requires the City to keep the officers a year

after the 3 year grant expires. Mayor Perrin noted the C.O.P.S. grant is financed 100%.

A motion was made by Councilman Gene Vance, seconded by Councilman Mikel Fears, that this Resolution be Recommended to Council. The motion CARRIED by a Voice Vote.

Aye: 4 - Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Mitch Johnson and Mikel Fears

Absent: 1 - Chris Moore

4. Pending Items

5. Other Business

Discussion concerning the Letter to the Editor on first responders

Councilman Chris Gibson discussed the letter to the editor concerning the fire department responding to first responder calls. He added he thinks the City should educate the citizens on this matter. He noted he is in the process of contacting the gentleman that wrote the letter to the editor to address his concerns.

Fire Chief Leonard Jadrach stated the fire department is in the process of trying to minimize calls while still providing services to the citizens.

6. Public Comments

Ms. Wannda Turner

Ms. Wannda Turner asked if the amended dog tethering ordinance has to return to the Public Safety Committee before it could go before the Council. Acting Chairman Mitch Johnson stated he had made the motion on February 17, 2009, seconded by Councilman Chris Gibson that the ordinance be recommended to Council. Police Chief Yates stated the amended portion was just housekeeping on the ordinance.

7. Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilman Mikel Fears, seconded by Councilman Chris Gibson, that this meeting be Adjourned. The motion CARRIED by a Voice Vote.

Aye: 4 - Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Mitch Johnson and Mikel Fears

Absent: 1 - Chris Moore