



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Finance & Administration Council Committee

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

4:00 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

1. Call To Order

2. Roll Call by City Clerk April Leggett

Present 6 - Joe Hafner; Charles Coleman; John Street; David McClain; Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

Absent 1 - Ann Williams

3. Approval of minutes

[MIN-23:027](#)

Minutes for the Finance Committee Meeting on March 14, 2023

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

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

Aye: 5 - Charles Coleman; John Street; David McClain; Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

4. New Business

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

[RES-23:062](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXECUTION AND MAINTENANCE OF A LETTER OF CREDIT TO BE ISSUED TO THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT, DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (DEQ)

Sponsors: Engineering and Finance

Councilmember Brian Emison said, Mr. Chairman, I did have a question on this. Chairman Joe Hafner said, who is your question for? Councilmember Brian Emison said, on the \$500,000, it's for the dollar amount of \$500,000, but is that a \$26,000 origination fee? Director of Finance Steve Purtee approached the podium and said, when the landfill was closed in 1998, it was determined at that time that there would be a \$500,000 cost to close that correctly. Since that time, our obligation has been to provide a letter of credit representing 20% of the estimated ongoing costs to maintain that site. There in that \$26,000 represents an obligation of \$130,000 ongoing relative to

that, so our origination fee, our bankers allowed us to do that at zero cost. Councilmember Brian Emison said, that's great. I was going to say even based on that, it looks like it's a good deal. I didn't see an origination fee in there anywhere, so I figured Centennial was taking care of us. Thanks, Steve.

A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 5 - Charles Coleman;John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

[RES-23:063](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO APPLY FOR THE FY2023 BODY-WORN CAMERA POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM TO SUPPORT LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES THROUGH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

Sponsors: Grants and Police Department

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, I do have a question, Mr. Chairman. I don't if it is for Brian or Mr. Purtee, but the line that says whereas the FY2023 police budget will be amended if the grant is awarded. So obviously that means it was not on the original budget, and how are we allocating those, and just how are we paying for it? Chief Administrative Officer Brian Richardson said, well obviously this grant didn't exist whenever the budget was prepared, and you don't want to make the assumption that we're actually going to get the body-worn cameras grant. I think we applied for it last year and didn't receive it. Okay. So we received it last year, but didn't receive it the year before. What the resolution is basically saying is if we happen to receive it, then we have to bring it back to council for approving and accepting it. Chairman Joe Hafner said, this is just authorizing them to apply for the grant. Mr. Richardson said, correct. This is just simply to apply, not to accept. Chairman Joe Hafner said, and I 100% agree with the choice not to put grants that you haven't been awarded yet in the budget. That doesn't make sense. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, I mean, I understand. Mr. Richardson said, it's to try to keep down from also saying, if we do receive it, you have until approval resolution to both accept the grant and the approval resolution to amend the budget to accept the grant. The purpose is to streamline a little bit. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, thank you.

A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 5 - Charles Coleman;John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

[RES-23:064](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FY23 BUSES AND BUS FACILITIES GRANT PROGRAM.

Sponsors: Grants and Finance

Attachments: [FY23 Bus Stop Budget](#)

Chairman Joe Hafner said, Mr. Richardson, I do have a question on this one. I don't know if this is a you question or a Regina question. Can you kind of go over what the upgrades would be? Chief Administrative Officer Brian Richardson said, yes, Regina

can. Grants Director Regina Burkett approached the podium and said, so what we're hoping to do is put covers over all that we have. We want to put Wi-Fi access there. We plan to put something, not glass, but something to keep them enclosed so they can stay warm while they are waiting on a bus. We also would like to have a telemonitor, a TV that will show different times, you know show the bus routes. We'll probably sell some kind of advertisement on that, but let them know what is going on in the city. It's what we're hoping, but it's really there for safety. We also hope to have safety cameras there, so we don't have any violence. So that's what we're looking for to put there. I also want to explain while I am here. This is the grant that we received last year, and we are still working with DOT to close that grant out in agreement, because large grants like this usually they want more information after we receive it. So we are working on some different information they needed, and we should get that agreement any day from the one we received last time. We will be bringing that to Council to sign the agreement and accept that grant. Chairman Joe Hafner said, so that was an FY22 one? Ms. Burkett said, yes it was.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, I have a question. I'm sorry. I asked for permission, so I hope that I can make up for my last dumb question there. Ms. Burkett said, it's learning. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, I just didn't read the apply to, but anyway. So I'm kind of interested in when you said that having cameras there and for security and safety and I think that's phenomenal. Does the application request or ask for stats data as relates to if there has been any? Ms. Burkett said, no it did not. It did not last year. Now I'm not going to say we're not going to put in the one for this year. We might have put that in there. Honestly, I can't remember. We've done so much since then, I would have to go back and look. I really don't remember that, but safety is one of the things we want for sure. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, absolutely. I was just wondering if we even had that documented to where we can find those stats and data to even include that. Ms. Burkett said, I'll have to look in the grant and see what we submitted last year. Honestly, I can't remember right now. I know that was something we were looking at though, but I can't remember what we put in it.

Councilmember David McClain said, Mr. Chairman, I had a quick question. It is in regards to this one, but also kind of the top of all the other grants that we're applying for so far. Are we planning to just amend the budget, or are we planning to use ARPA money for this? I know it says amend the budget, but are you thinking maybe we go and use that money for it or are we just going to use actual? Because we didn't budget for it. I want to make sure I am clear on that. Chief Administrative Officer Brian Richardson said, yes I would say that APRA money would certainly be an option to consider if we happen to get this Low Emissions grant. Councilmember David McClain said, this is the buses, but I am looking at all three. There are three of them totaling about little over half million, \$577,860.32. Mr. Richardson said, I think that would certainly be an option. I know for the Transit-related resolutions, they would certainly be ARPA eligible. We've talked about that internally about how that could be applied for. It's similar for the cameras and the surveillance type equipment, so I think that would certainly be an option. If we happen to get both of them, that will be something that we need to consider. Councilmember David McClain said, okay. I'm just curious how we plan on funding that once we got the money or if we were awarded the money. Mr. Richardson said, yes because we still have somewhere around \$10 million worth of ARPA funds, so we could certainly absorb that in those. That would be a worthy consideration. Councilmember David McClain said, okay. Thank you.

A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 5 - Charles Coleman; John Street; David McClain; Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

[RES-23:065](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FY23 LOW OR NO EMISSION GRANT PROGRAM.

Sponsors: Grants and Finance

Attachments: [FY23 Low-No Budget](#)

Chairman Joe Hafner said, I do have a question regarding this one also. So was it the FY22 one where we were awarded one bus? Grants Director Regina Burkett approached the podium and said, no we were awarded two on that one. Chairman Joe Hafner said, what is the status of those? Ms. Burkett said, okay that is also back to the agreement has not been signed. We have to work with MPO and the STIP program. We have to have that approved by the state and the federal government, and that takes a little while. So we've been waiting on that. What we have done, we've had to go back and update our timeline on this grant, and that agreement should be coming any day. We are working with DOT right now on that, a regional person. So that should be coming also any day along with the bus facilities. Chairman Joe Hafner said, so when do we anticipate having those two buses. Ms. Burkett said, it will probably take six months or eight after we order them. We will have to go through our process of bidding it out and all that before we can even order it once we sign the agreement. So we are ready to get the agreement, but we've been waiting on that STIP to come through from the federal government because it has to be approved before we can move forward. And we got it like a couple weeks ago, so we are working on that now. Chairman Joe Hafner said, okay thank you.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, I do have a question, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if this is for you or Brian, but I can't remember what meeting it was. They are all coming together, but I remember the gentleman who is over our JETS program talking about it. One concern he had was employees or employment coming. So I guess my question is, if getting bus drivers is an issue and we're still asking for buses, I mean, they have to work in line. Chairman Joe Hafner said, I think a lot of them are replacement buses. Ms. Burkett said, yes they are replacement buses, and the only thing is training is involved. The cost of the training is in this grant for service and driving. The training is in this grant. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, good. I didn't know that. Chairman Hafner said, it will also cut down on fuel cost because they are hybrid. Chief Administrative Officer Brian Richardson said, I just wanted to add to that. You know, our fleet out there is aging anyway, and this grant just so happens to come through at a time whenever we are either looking at purchasing new buses at full cost or potentially upgrading them with the hybrid style bus to where we are only responsible for about 20% of the share of that cost. Even though there is a 20% local match, in the long run that is actually cheaper on us because we're not having to pay full costs for new transit buses. So I do applaud the grants department for finding this, because it is going to save us a considerable amount of money. It just so happens because we have fleet out there that we need to replace anyway. I just wanted to add that in and let you know. Chairman Joe Hafner said, thank you.

A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 5 - Charles Coleman;John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

5. Pending Items

6. Other Business

7. Public Comments

8. Adjournment

A motion was made by David McClain, seconded by Brian Emison, that this meeting be Adjourned. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 5 - Charles Coleman;John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams