



# City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center  
300 S. Church Street  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

## Meeting Minutes City Council

---

Monday, October 4, 2021

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

---

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

### PUBLIC HEARING AT 5:25 P.M.

*Mayor Harold Copenhaver asked if anyone in the audience wished to speak for or against the public hearing regarding the abandonment of a drainage easement located on the south side of E. Highland Drive and on the East side of Great Dane Lane as requested by the Jonesboro Economic Development Council. No one spoke for or against the issue.*

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

### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

### 3. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

**Present** 11 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; Mitch Johnson; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent** 1 - John Street

### 4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

[COM-21:045](#)

PRESENTATION RECOGNIZING LLOYD WOFFORD FOR EARNING THE DISTINGUISHED WRIGHT BROTHERS MASTER PILOT AWARD

**Sponsors:** Mayor's Office

*Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, good evening council. I am excited to be in front of you this evening. We have several presentations, but I want to start off the evening by asking Lloyd and Linda Wofford if they would please come forward. And, I know that many of you know Lloyd and Linda. They are outstanding citizens, not only in our community, but in other communities as well. I've known Lloyd for quite a while. It goes back to Weiner and Weiner Days. His family is deeply rooted in their community and that is what Lloyd was brought up doing. And, so, I was very proud when I was asked to attend a reception for Lloyd and award that he received. And, I want you all to understand and this is the highest award that the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) can provide to any citizen in the country and Mr. Wofford received that award. So, I am here to proclaim Lloyd today as "Lloyd Wofford Day," a proclamation declaring that. Where Lloyd Wofford was raised to love aircraft, the son of an air crewman of the United States Navy during World War II, Lloyd and his father Tommy*

*founded Engines, Inc. in 1979. And, Whereas Engines of all types have been the vocation and avocation of Lloyd Wofford who is both active in the Jonesboro Aviation Committee and a veteran of the Mopar Drag Racing Circuit where his vehicles won numerous honors in the funny car circuit. Now, I almost have to say that Linda is adding to that as well because she has her own cars. So, don't race her you hear me. At the last meeting of the Arkansas Aeronautics Commission, Lloyd Wofford was presented the Federal Aviation Administration's highest honor, "The Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award." And, Lloyd recently received that Federal Aviation Administration and they call it the highest honor, "The Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award" and being nominated for this award, you have to have 50 years of combined experience in piloting and aircraft maintenance. And, Jonesboro is graced to count Lloyd Wofford and his wife Linda and their family because they are committed to their hometown. Now, therefore, I, Harold Copenhaver, Mayor of the City of Jonesboro by the authority of the virtue vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do proclaim today, Lloyd Wofford Day in the City of Jonesboro, Arkansas. In Witness thereof, I hereto set my hand and cause this official seal of the City of Jonesboro to be affixed this 4th day of October 2021. Congratulations Lloyd. Mr. Wofford said, thank you.*

**Read**[COM-21:046](#)

2021 MAYOR'S YOUTH ADVANCEMENT COUNCIL  
PRESENTATION/INTRODUCTION

**Sponsors:** Mayor's Office

**Attachments:** [MYAC 2021 Presentation 10042021](#)

*Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, Council, I am also proud to introduce to you the first Youth Advancement Council Executive Board and Taskforce. They are going to come before you this evening and these are the committee chairs. They have met and planned many exciting things to kick-off their initial projects and are here to tell you about them. They want the public and the council to be aware of good things to come. So, please let me welcome Coy Morris, Chairman of the Jonesboro MYAC, his board and committee chairs.*

*Hello, I am a senior at Valley View and my name is Coy Morris. I am serving as the Chair of the Mayor's Youth Advancement Council. I just wanted to say that I am really excited about this opportunity and I can't wait for a great year that we are having. Later, you all will hear from our committee chairs about the great projects we have planned and I just wanted to thank you guys for the great opportunity to allow the youth a voice in our community. Thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Coy.*

*Hello, I am Jude Qualls. I am a sophomore at Jonesboro High School and the Chairman of the MYAC City Beautification Taskforce. My team's goal is to make Jonesboro a more appealing and livable city. We intend to accomplish this goal by creating beautiful community spaces, increasing green spaces, and promoting human services (sic) development. We also hope to maintain the beauty of our city by conducting cleanups and educating our people on how to create beautiful spaces. Currently, my team has scheduled our first cleanup two weeks from now and this is our first of many projects. Our plans for the future include wildflower pollinator gardens, protecting and creating greenspace, and one of our most ambitious projects is to help establish a community food garden to encourage community development and health. In keeping with Arkansas' motto of "the Natural State," we hope to "Keep Jonesboro Beautiful" and make it even better. Thank you all for your time. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you.*

*Hello everyone. My name is Kennedy Maloney and I am a senior at Valley View this year. I've been honored to be named the Communications and Technology Task Force Chair. My Taskforce will handle the social media, graphic design, logo making, media appearances, and press releases for all of the Taskforces on the Mayors Youth Advancement Council as well as the executive board. We will also be working to rebrand the Animal Control Center and JET Bus Systems to give them more positive reputations within the community and increase participation in the programs. In the spring, my taskforce plans to hold technology literacy and voting literacy events for the City of Jonesboro. I am so excited for you all to see what my taskforce will be doing this year and I hope to have the support of the City Council and the rest of the town behind us. If you want to follow us on social media, our handles are myacjonesboro on TikTok and Instagram. On Facebook, we are called the Mayor's Youth Advancement Council of Jonesboro, Arkansas. Thank you so much for having us and thank you Mayor Copenhaver for creating this. Mayor Copenhaver said, absolutely. Thank you.*

*Hi. I am Judy Kim and I am a sophomore at Valley View. I am the Chair of the Taskforce Community Outreach, and as Community Outreach, our goal is to work with local non-profits and businesses to schedule informative educational opportunities, guest speakers and tours of local facilities. Our tasks may include speaking engagements, planning fundraising events and communicating with decision-makers. Currently, there are a few projects we are working on. Most of you may already know that October is breast cancer awareness month. So, to support this, we have come up with a citywide "pink out" day which will be October 20, 2021. People that want to participate will wear pink on that day. We will also choose a best dressed winner through social media. Some other opportunities we are working on are scheduling an exhibition that explores storytelling through graphic novels and comics at the Bradbury Art Museum and scheduling a tour of NYIT for our council. We are also working to rebrand the JET Bus System and the Animal Control System. And, as a part of that, we will be working with the Health and Safety Taskforce to setup an adoption drive for the animals to find the perfect home. And, I am so excited to be a part of this council this year. Thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, awesome, awesome. Thank you.*

*Good evening, I am Jose Garza. I am a senior at Jonesboro High School and I am the current Chair for the Diversity and Inclusion Taskforce. Our current mission is to promote and honor the vast diversity within Jonesboro, Arkansas and all around. As of right now, we will work with organizations such as the Craighead County NAACP, the Hispanic Center of Jonesboro, Arkansas and etc. to honor those who create the diversity within our community. With that said, our first project will be a vaccine clinic that will highlight Hispanic Heritage Month. The clinic will be held on October 16, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. subject to change and it will be held at the Hispanic Center down the road. The vaccine will be administered through NYIT student doctors and volunteers will be from both the Health and Safety Taskforce and the Diversity and Inclusion Taskforce. It was an honor to speak before you all and I look forward to the future. Thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, we look forward to it and thank you.*

*Good evening, on behalf of the Health and Safety Taskforce, I am Elise Harris, a Jonesboro High School senior. Our Committee Chair is Valley View Senior Lonnie Erwin. The Health and Safety Taskforce will be working with health and safety officials in the City of Jonesboro to better our community regarding the health and safety of our citizens. Some projects that we are working on are partnering with the Diversity and Inclusion Committee for the vaccine clinic. We are also working on an animal adoption drive and a bike-a-thon, just to name a few. We are honored and thrilled about this year. Thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you.*

*Good Evening, my name is Parker St. Pierre. I am the Chairman of Planning and Engineering. I am currently a senior at Valley View High School. We have a lot of exciting things planned for this year. The Co-Chairs for this committee are Zach Day and Harrison Herget. Zach is a senior at Jonesboro High School and Harrison is a Junior at Jonesboro High School. After assessing the city needs with my council, we have established several goals. First, we would like to implement a plan to place trash cans into every JETS bus stop. We think this will eliminate trash left behind and will improve the appearance of all of these bus stops that we have in the city. We would also like to help improving parking within the City of Jonesboro. In addition, we would like to help the Christmas Decorations in the city downtown. Finally, we are considering adding scooters to the downtown areas similar to the ones at ASU. We would like to thank the City Council and the Mayor for letting us do this and we would like to thank you for your time. Mayor Copenhagen said, you bet. Thank you sir.*

*Good Afternoon, my name is Lilly Gaines and I currently have the privilege of serving as the first ever treasurer for the Mayor's Youth Advancement Council. First, I would like to thank Mayor Copenhagen and Ms. Shelly Anderson for giving us all the opportunity to be part of something bigger in our community. As treasurer, I oversee the council's finances and make reports and then verify with the executive board and chairs. In addition, I also work with our taskforce chairs to ensure that they are provided with the necessary equipment and materials to carry out their projects. Overall, I am more than thrilled to be a part of such a special group building off of each other's ideas and utilizing our diversity allows us to come together and do things that Jonesboro has never seen before. I cannot wait to see everything that this council does and decides to do after us. In addition, we are also in the process of establishing a bank account. Since we cannot use taxpayer money, any private or public entities that are open to making donations to MYAC, feel free to send them to the Mayor's Office initialized to the Mayors Youth Advisory Council. Again, thank you to everyone here tonight and I am so excited for everything that we have planned. Mayor Copenhagen said, awesome job. Thank you.*

*Mayor Copenhagen said, well, thank you all committee members and I appreciate you all stepping up to the plate for our city and this is your future and I appreciate you all participating. Council, I know you all are as excited as I am. These are bright minds in our community and I am looking forward to how they can move it forward because it is their community in the future. Thank you again you all. Councilmember Bobby Long asked, is there a way to setup a donate now button to where people can do that online? Is there a way to do that? Mayor Copenhagen said, I am sure we can/they can make that work I promise you. Councilmember Long said, I bet they can. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you.*

**Read**

## **5. CONSENT AGENDA**

### *Approval of the Consent Agenda*

**A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Moore, seconded by Councilperson Charles Frierson, to Approve the Consent Agenda. The motioned PASSED**

**Aye:** 11 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; Mitch Johnson; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - John Street

[MIN-21:082](#) MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

**Attachments:** [CC Minutes 09212021](#)

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

[RES-21:170](#) A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH CITY WATER AND LIGHT (CWL) FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLE STATION EQUIPMENT (EVSE)

**Sponsors:** Engineering

**Attachments:** [EVCS Agreement \(CWL and City of Jonesboro\)](#)

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

[RES-21:173](#) A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL RIGHT-OF-WAY AT 805 CREATH AVENUE FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

**Sponsors:** Engineering and Finance

**Attachments:** [Offer and Acceptance - 805 Creath Avenue](#)

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

[RES-21:174](#) A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL RIGHT-OF-WAY AT 707 CREATH AVENUE FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

**Sponsors:** Engineering and Finance

**Attachments:** [Offer and Acceptance - 707 Creath Avenue](#)

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

[RES-21:191](#) A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ACCEPT A PERMANENT DRAINAGE EASEMENT FROM SCOTT YOUNGE THE PURPOSE OF MAKING DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

**Sponsors:** Engineering

**Attachments:** [Permanent Drainage Easement - 4119 Stadium Blvd](#)

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

[RES-21:192](#) A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

AUTHORIZING THE OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL RIGHT-OF-WAY AT 233 S FISHER STREET FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

**Sponsors:** Engineering

**Attachments:** [233 South Fisher - Offer and Acceptance](#)

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

[RES-21:193](#)

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL RIGHT-OF-WAY AT 812 CREATH AVENUE FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

**Sponsors:** Engineering

**Attachments:** [Offer and Acceptance - 812 Creath Avenue](#)

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

[RES-21:194](#)

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL RIGHT-OF-WAY AT 1112 CREATH AVENUE FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

**Sponsors:** Engineering

**Attachments:** [Offer and Acceptance -1112 Creath Avenue](#)

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

[RES-21:197](#)

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL RIGHT-OF-WAY AT 232 S BRIDGE STREET FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

**Sponsors:** Engineering

**Attachments:** [Offer and Acceptatnce - 232 S Bridge Street](#)

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

[RES-21:204](#)

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE 2021 BUDGET TO INCLUDE GRANT FUNDING FROM THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, HERITAGE AND TOURISM AND THE CITY MATCH TO DEVELOP UNION STREET PARK IN DOWNTOWN JONESBORO

**Sponsors:** Grants, Engineering and Parks & Recreation

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

[RES-21:208](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO APPLY FOR THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS AND RECORDS COMMISSION, ACCESS TO HISTORICAL RECORDS, ARCHIVAL PROJECTS GRANT

**Sponsors:** Grants and Parks & Recreation

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

[RES-21:209](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH THE ARKANSAS STATE POLICE AND ACCEPT THE 2022 SELECTIVE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM (STEP) SUBGRANT AWARD

**Sponsors:** Grants, Police Department and Finance

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

[RES-21:210](#)

A RESOLUTION TO RETAIN EFS GEOTECHNOLOGIES FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO REVIEW CITY OF JONESBORO WARD BOUNDARIES AND OFFER GUIDANCE ON ANY NEEDED WARD ADJUSTMENTS TO ENSURE FAIR AND EQUAL ELECTORATE REPRESENTATION

**Sponsors:** Mayor's Office

**Attachments:** [Jonesboro Mayor Redistricting Proposal 09222021](#)

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

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

### *ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING*

[ORD-21:044](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO CONTRACT FOR PAYROLL AND HR SOFTWARE, WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND APPROPRIATE FUNDS

**Sponsors:** Human Resources

**Attachments:** [Vendor Selection SyncHR](#)  
[Master Subscription Agreement SYNC HR](#)  
[SyncHR by PrimePay Proposal for City of Jonesboro](#)  
[Email from Frank McNamara at PrimePay 09222021](#)

*Councilmember Mitch Johnson motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-21:044 by title only. All voted aye.*

**Held at one reading**

[ORD-21:045](#)

A ORDINANCE TO VACATE AND ABANDON A DRAINAGE EASEMENT LOCATED ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF E. HIGHLAND DRIVE AND ON THE EAST SIDE OF GREAT DANE LANE AS REQUESTED BY THE JONESBORO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

**Attachments:** [Petition](#)  
[Resolution](#)  
[Ordinance](#)  
[Plat](#)  
[Abandonment Letters](#)

*Councilmember Mitch Johnson motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson,*

to suspend the rules and offer ORD-21:045 by title only. All voted aye.

**Held at one reading**

[ORD-21:046](#)

AN ORDINANCE LEVYING A TAX UPON THE GROSS RECEIPTS OF PREPARED FOODS BY ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE CITY OF JONESBORO; PRESCRIBING THE PROCEDURE FOR THE COLLECTION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE TAX; PRESCRIBING THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH REVENUES DERIVED FROM COLLECTION OF THE TAX MAY BE USED; AND PRESCRIBING OTHER MATTERS PERTAINING THERETO

**Attachments:**     [Jonesboro Advertising & Promotion Commission Presentation handout](#)  
[Jonesboro A&P Commission Clarification of Misinformation](#)  
[ORD-21-046 emails Must have a residential address which is within the city |](#)

*Councilmember Chris Gibson motioned, seconded by Councilmember Mitch Johnson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-21:046 by title only. All voted aye.*

*Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, before we move forward Council, we do have Ms. Tracey Owens here and she can provide us with a presentation that was provided to the Finance Committee last week and we do have Jerry Morgan, I believe also, on the telephone if questions need to be answered.*

*Tracey Owens said, thank you. Thank you Council for allowing us to be here tonight to speak on behalf of this ordinance and this proposal. I am Tracey Owens and I sit on the A&P Commission. As Mayor Copenhaver said, our Chairman Jerry Morgan is joining us through zoom so if there are questions, he is available to answer those. But, to get into this, we have a presentation to show you. The Jonesboro A&P Commission was established in 1973 and is governed by state statutes established specifically for A&P Commissions throughout Arkansas. The Commission determines the use of city A&P funds. The Commission, including the Executive Director, answers to a board. Membership of the Commission is comprised of seven members. Currently, we have four owners and managers of businesses in the tourism industry. Currently, three of those are restaurant owners, one restaurant and hotel owner), two city councilmembers, one at-large member from the public who is Mr. Morgan. The purpose of the A&P Commission is to promote tourism in the city and to produce a positive economic impact on the businesses of the City of Jonesboro through the funding and promotion of advertising in events held in the city. The use of the funds collected has very specific criteria for what they can be used for and governed by the statutes that I mentioned earlier. And, very specifically, they are not allowed to be used in the city general fund.*

*Our current funding sources that the A&P Commission uses are currently funded through a 3% tax on hotels stays within our city. On average, we have collected about \$641,000 per year over the past three years. And through those funds, we meet about one time per year and we go through applications from a lot of different people, a lot of different organizations that are looking to get even a slice of that \$641,000. We have a lot of organizations that come in with really, really worthy programs that they are trying to do, tournaments, theatre, different organizations, gardening. And, it is depressing sometimes when you sit on that commission as you know to have to say no or to have to limit that. But, we do get to fund a lot of really wonderful programs. For example, the Foundation of Arts, we fund through that; the Karate Tournaments; Hijinx has a national bowling tournament that is featured on ESPN every year; Downtown Jonesboro Association events; the Hispanic Community Center events; Disc Side of Heaven; and*



professional theatre. And some of our larger projects that we have funded through the A&P, one that we are quite proud of is the Joe Mack Campbell Turf Project. This was a \$1.1 million project that was used and built and funded through participation through the city and also through the Jonesboro Baseball Boosters. Other projects that we have funded are major improvements to the Southside Softball Complex. It was used for lights. That deal was about \$1 million that has been spent out on the Southside Complex. And, that is great to see because we know that tournaments are coming in there.

The Embassy Suites Convention Center, this was a project that the city did not have to put any funds to. It came through the A&P Commission. This is a ten-year project reinvestment of \$2.5 million. So, essentially, the tax revenue that comes in from the Convention Center is actually put back into advertising and promotion. Up until as recently, we only had one part-time employee. Everyone who works for the A&P Commission is a volunteer. Christy Applegate is our coordinator for grants. She is a part-time employee. But, just this year, we were able to get one full-time employee, Ms. Renee Golas who is here with us tonight. She is our Director and Coordinator of Sports Promotion. So, she is working diligently to bring in quality tournaments and quality teams into our city. Every time we bring in a team, every time we bring in someone into our city, we have the opportunity to show off all of the wonderful things we have here in Jonesboro and Northeast Arkansas.

This next slide, if you can see it, is a graphic that was produced through Arkansas Business recently, their magazine. And, it shows, kind of the top 13 cities across the State of Arkansas and their revenues. So, you can see Jonesboro is there at number 11. We kind of come in 11th in the revenue that we bring in for advertising and promotions. To the right, you can see exactly what those cities levy. Also, you can see about how much they have been able to bring in. And, for example, if you look at Conway, they are at \$4.13 million that they bring in. This next slide, if you look at that, is another slide that kind of breaks it down by population. It is interesting to see. This is a combined three-year collection of A&P funds by cities. So, again, just taking a look at where we are with our population of 72,000 people, we have a hotel tax of 3%. We don't currently have a prepared food tax. We have a general sales tax of 8.5%. So, over three years, we are looking at right under \$2 million that the A&P Commission has been able to have to promote Jonesboro and to make the economic impact that we are charged with. Compare that to Conway, who has 65,000 people in population, a 2% hotel tax, and they do have a 2% prepared food tax, their general sales tax is higher than ours. And, over three years, they are at almost \$13 million in revenue that they have to promote their city. This is the most typical way that cities pay for and promote create parks within their communities.

So, our proposal is really two-fold. We would like the council to implement a 2% prepared food tax to be used for the construction and operations of a Community Indoor Sports Complex. With an estimated income from the tax would be about \$2.9 million per year. The second portion of this proposal that we all will talk about further in other council meetings is moving the current 3% hotel tax, moving it from 3% to 4%. This increase alone would bring in an additional estimated \$225,000 to \$275,000 per year. And, again, these funds would be designated towards the sports complex and towards our existing park facilities. I think it would be interesting to note that the two people who came to us about raising that hotel tax are actually hotel owners here in the city. So, I am going to ask Danny Kapales to come up and please talk about other similar projects. As we have looked into this, we have tried to do our homework and be diligent to see what other people, what other cities have been able to do.

*Danny Kapales, Parks and Recreation Director, said, thank you Tracey. So, as we move into facilities, I had the pleasure of visiting quite a few facilities and then I researched a lot. As you look at these facilities, you will notice a lot of these were built in 2016, 2017, and 2018, back at the time that we were originally looking at doing this. So, this isn't something new. This isn't something that we just decided right now to do. This is something that we have been looking at for quite a long time. This is a project that we have needed for a long time. This is a project that we should have moved on a long time ago. We would already be in this facility. We would already be having games and having economic impact if we had this facility in place. So, as we move forward, looking at Finley Center in Hoover, Alabama built in 2017 at a cost of \$20 million. You look at a facility with 11 basketball courts, 17 volleyball courts, 3 meeting rooms, a walking track, a climbing wall, a full-service kitchen, and a food court. As you can see there, a packed out facility for children playing volleyball. Jonesboro is known for volleyball. We have some great volleyball players, teams, organizations, leaders here in Jonesboro. People want to come here to Jonesboro and play against what we have. They are begging our teams to come play in their tournaments. So, let's have a facility so that they will come play in ours. As you look at that city, that city is 86,000, so very similar to Jonesboro. They had an economic impact in the first quarter of 2018 after building this of \$3.6 million. I would be happy with that type of impact right here in Jonesboro.*

*As you look at the Pacers Athletic Center, a smaller facility that was built for \$5 million. It has eight basketball courts that turn into eight volleyball courts. It has the concession stand, office, and observation deck. That facility there was built in 2016. It had an economic impact in June of 2020, during Covid, of \$2 million. During the time that we were all struggling to have activity and to find what to do, but they had a facility that they were able to spread out in and they were able to bring people to and have activity.*

*Hammond Sportsplex in Hammond, Indiana, we are looking at a facility that was built in 2018 at a cost of \$17 million. It has six basketball courts that turn into either six volleyball courts or you can do the cross courts, that are actually twelve which is what we are looking at with a facility. They also have two regulation-sized indoor soccer fields which we do not have. We do not have indoor soccer facility or football facility or baseball facility. We do not have a place for our kids in the winter months to train and practice. Jonesboro is wet through the winter months. We are usually wet until the end of May. So, right now, we have a hard time of having any training for soccer or any of those other sports. Fortunately, this weekend, if it wasn't for the A&P helping to build the baseball complex and adding the turf, we wouldn't have had the tournament this weekend because of the rain. If you came by Joe Mack this weekend, you would have noticed that we had baseball. We had over 60 teams out there playing. Softball, we had to cancel the tournament because it is dirt, but the turf, we were able to have that facility operational this weekend. That facility is built in a city of 74,000. It is a smaller facility than what we have. Estimated weekend tournaments are \$1 million for one tournament in that type of facility.*

*River Center in Benton, Arkansas, a wonderful facility, it has got a little bit of everything. You notice there that it has got a pool. I don't want to take any thunder away from JETS because I know there are some people here that will probably get up and talk in a little bit. But, they have got a lot to brag about. This past weekend, I know that we have got some people who went down and competed very well. We have got kids that are training in a 25 meter pool, open to the elements right now that can only train a small part of the year. But, we are competing and beating other facilities. We have got the people. We have got the coaches. We are just missing a facility.*

*That is what we are missing right now. If you look at what they have, they have four basketball courts, eight volleyball courts, exercise room, walking track, an aquatic facility, pavilion, recreational pool, soccer fields, baseball fields which we have the soccer fields and the baseball fields and we keep them very busy. If you go out there, you will see we have a lot going on in the facilities that you all have provided. This is in a city with a population of 35,000, half the size of Jonesboro. How did they get it? That is a good question. Why doesn't Jonesboro have it? That is another really good question.*

*Rocky Mountain Event Center built in 2018 for \$51 million. It has 8 basketball courts, 16 volleyball courts, multi-purpose events/shows. If you look right there at the bottom picture, that type of facility, if we are able build 12 basketball courts that turn into 24 volleyball courts and we are able to lay an event court within that facility that has bleachers, all of a sudden, we are hosting state competitions. We are having the state volleyball tournament. We are having the state basketball tournament. We are having organizations like Under Armor, Nike, Adidas, bring 250 teams to Jonesboro for the week for an event if we look at building a facility like this, 4,200 seat facility. It doesn't have to be that big, just enough space to get the fans in and have a space to watch their kids play. The same facility can host small concerts, small events, things of that sort. It doesn't have to be sports all of the time. It can be a concert series in that type of facility. Once a month, we can have activity happening out there in that same facility that is multi-purpose. As we have said, not just sports, it is multi-purpose. It was built in a city of 55,000. Most of these cities are smaller than we are and they are still able to accomplish what we haven't yet.*

*So, Youth Sports Tourism Economic Impact – The average family spends \$800 a weekend on sports travel. So, that is every family in Jonesboro that leaves here spends \$800 somewhere else. That is money leaving Jonesboro every weekend. That is an opportunity to bring money back to Jonesboro and spend right here if we had the facility. When we have these activities, you go to the restaurants and you notice they are busier every time that you go to a restaurant when we have one. I went out this weekend and I saw baseball teams everywhere. There are baseball teams in every restaurant I went to because we had activity here. How many of these families are leaving Jonesboro? I can't tell you. I will tell you that if you go through our numbers, the sheet that is in front of you, you are looking at 700 baseball players. You are looking at roughly 600 softball players. That is a lot of families leaving town every weekend. So, we are losing that money every weekend. Youth Sports Tourism is the fastest growing segment of travel, 45+ Million a year. Communities are supporting sports, health and wellness which is what we should be doing. Not only with this, but within our parks system, pocket parks, trails, many ways. We are lacking in a lot of ways and we have the opportunity and I think we have got the right council to do it. I have talked to every one of you and every one of you all are in support. And, I really appreciate what you all want to do for quality of life in the park system. If you look at \$15.3 billion industry in 2017 on sports tourism. It has grown 55% since 2010. Seventy percent of children 6-17 are playing team sports.*

*So, what can we do with this facility? We talked about volleyball. We talked about basketball. We talked about the traditional sports. But, there is also pickleball. There are opportunities to have pickleball tournaments. There is opportunity to have wrestling. That is a sport that is ready to start here. That is a sport that we have had a little bit of, but it is ready to move. We are also talking about being inside. We can have youth tennis inside of this facility. Also sevens, youths sevens football having an indoor facility where we actually have a place for them to go inside during the winter months or during the summer when it is too hot to be outside. It is an opportunity to be*

*inside and an opportunity to play. Kickball tournaments, wiffleball, we can also have car shows in this facility. You have a facility where you can raise the goals up to the ceiling, now we have got car shows. You have a convention center type facility that is open to many, many different opportunities. You also talk about cheerleading camps and competitions, gymnastic competitions, things that we don't have right now, but the opportunity to have. We can add AAU tournaments. Projecting 8-10 AAU tournaments that are 100+ teams. Projecting 6-8 volleyball tournaments. Right now, we cap them at 80. We can't do any more than 80. But, we can have 200-250 volleyball teams here if we have a facility like this. You have an event like that, you are talking about \$500,000-\$750,000 for a weekend in economic impact. You are doing 8-10 of those, you are paying for this facility real quick. You are getting economic impact that we have never had before.*

*Turn around and look at our high schools. We have wonderful high school coaches and wonderful high school teams. Those coaches would love to have a facility to have summer camps in. Those teams are looking for competition to come to town. If you have a team that are high school volleyball teams that are very competitive, there are teams that want to come here and compete against them. And, now, all of a sudden, you have a high school camp. You have teams from all over the country wanting to come here to Jonesboro because there is a facility to be in and they are there all week. They are spending all week in Jonesboro. Our basketball teams, very competitive basketball teams, teams are coming to Jonesboro, spending a week in Jonesboro just to compete against our local high school teams. Giving our local coaches an opportunity to prove what they can do and it just makes us that much better. Many, many different other, soccer, right now if you go out to Joe Mack, we were wet this weekend. We couldn't play. But, if we had an indoor soccer field, it would be an opportunity to move them over to that indoor facility and have the games for the weekend. We could also have indoor foosball. That is an activity that they can do during the winter months or even when it is too hot outside. So, we can add all sorts of activities if we just had the space to do it. The other piece to it is if you go to our community centers right now, you have kids sitting on the sidewalk waiting to get inside because a travel team is in there using it. They are waiting because their community center is being used. If we were able to build a facility so that travel teams have the opportunity to train in that facility and now we give the community centers back to the kids and they have a safe place to go in and play and enjoy back in their neighborhoods. Thank you.*

*Tracey Owens said, thanks Danny. I think you have got the handout on the number of sports programs. So, the project timeline would look this way. Approval of proposal and Implementation of collections - This will take an estimated 9-12 months to start collections and also create a tax collections history for bonding purposes. A Feasibility Study by the A&P Commission of about \$50,000 would be spent on that to study the Sports Complex which will take 8-12 weeks once the company is selected. This study will conduct local and regional analyses to determine the best sports to attract, the type of facility, the location, timeline for project, estimated cost of operations, and things like that. We also recognize that there are additional funding revenue sources out there hopefully for naming rights. We believe that could a part of this as well. Once the above items are completed, the A&P Commission will make a final recommendation to the City Council for approval for bonding of the facility. This plan will have overall cost estimates, location information, operating and maintenance cost projections, and a request for bond approval to construct and pay for the facility. And, it will take the final approval from the City Council to approve the bond and start the facility.*

*Benefits of bringing outside visitors to Jonesboro - Demand for more shopping, Restaurants, and additional Hotels. I can tell you as a restaurant owner, when tournaments are here, the restaurants are full. It is really an if you build it, they will come mentality. The Disc Side of Heaven, every time that tournaments comes here, the restaurants downtown are full. And, because of that, the people who work for me have a lot more money to put in their pocket and they turn right around and spend it right here. We can compete against other cities that already have these facilities. You know, we are looking at other cities and the date of when they completed these projects and it was a lot longer than where we are right now in 2021. It allows our existing travel teams to stay in Jonesboro more often. We can have recruitment of industries. When people see what we have here, then they start thinking about us because we are bringing them here. And, then, also recruitment of students to Arkansas State University. A major addition to current and ongoing facilities improvement, making us a regional draw for retailers. We have the Red Wolf Convention Center, Joe Mack, Southside, and the Shooting Complex already. And, again, the overall economic impact. When we start hearing a lot of things like this is just a want, it is not a need. But, when you look at the economic impact that this would have on our city, on our area, then you kind of have to question yourself and say is it really just a want or is it truly something that the City of Jonesboro needs?*

*Benefits for our existing citizens, you know this is the heart. These are the people who are here every single day. So, we feel like this will help combat childhood obesity because we will have the opportunity to put more children out in organized sports; reduction in youth crime; youth mentoring – as Danny mentioned, bringing those community centers back to the community where we can have adults right there with them on a full-time basis talking to those children and helping them to see where they can go if they just put their mind to it. It would be a major showpiece for the City of Jonesboro to be proud of. It would also give programs for seniors. You know when the children are in school, seniors and adults can be using the center. We can share this facility with schools and A-State and a possible cost savings to our real estate taxpayers by not having to develop additional facilities as soon. It would allow our current community centers to be freed up by practice teams and allow our spectators (parents and grandparents) from having to travel as much to watch their children play. And, again, bringing it all back around workforce recruitment. So, that is our presentation. I thank you very much for listening. We leave you with one last question and we hope that you will consider this. We feel like the A&P has been great stewards of the taxpayers money. We request respectfully that you approve our request and consider what you would like for Jonesboro to look like. Thank you.*

*Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Ms. Owens. I would also like to thank Mr. Morgan and Ms. Golas as well of putting the presentation together. I know it has been a work in order and the commission as well and the members. Could the members of that commission please stand if they are present in the room? (Two members stood.) Okay, thank you. I appreciate that. Council, do you have any questions? Anyone in the audience, do you have any questions? Would you like to make comments? Yes, sir. If you would please come forward and state your name and address.*

*Louis Lancaster, 2916 Dacus Lane, said, howdy. One of the young ladies came up here and said that she wanted to make Jonesboro more appealing. I don't know how you would make it more appealing by making it more taxing. These taxes that you are talking about, do they have a sunset clause in them or are they forever? Just a question. Just because other cities have higher tax rates than we do, I don't think you need to catch up. This pretty picture over here of this swimming pool looks a whole lot like the one that was in the St. Bernards Sports Center, Sports Medicine, whatever it*

was. Is it it? Or is that one available, the one in the Sports Center, Sports Medicine or did they fill it up? Why use it? I just don't think we need more taxes because they are fixing to get hit by the federal government with a whole bunch of them real quick, that and inflation. Thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Mr. Lancaster for your comments.

Scott Saunders, 5209 Koala Drive, said, I am obviously with the JETS Swim Club. I just want to say a few things regarding us. Over this last weekend, we went to a meet in Little Rock. They had over 280 swimmers there from across the state. Almost all of them stayed in hotels or a good number stayed in hotels and used and paid and eat in restaurants down there. Over the next two months, we have swim meets in Pocahontas which is closer and we will be able to travel to. But, we have swim meets there. We have swim meets in Tupelo, MS; Jackson, MS and Nashville, TN; all that we have to travel to because we don't have a place here. The next swim meet that we are going to be able to host in Jonesboro will be maybe in June of next year because we don't have the facilities. Our kids, right now, we have kids waking up at 5:15-5:30 a.m. in the morning to swim in this outdoor pool in the rain a lot of days this past week because we don't have another facility right now. He made mention of the St. Bernards type pool over here. We do. Last winter, we were able to use the St. Bernards facility a little bit. We are going to be using it a little bit this year, but we have over 125+ kids in a four-lane small pool. It doesn't accommodate that amount of swimmers that we need. We need a big facility with lots of lanes so we can actually accommodate that many swimmers and increase our team even bigger. Okay. This swim meet this weekend, the gentleman made mention of how good our swimmers were. Our girls won that swim meet. We placed second overall as a swim team against much bigger programs. So, we are doing very good in that. But, I just wanted to give you guys an idea of where we are as a swim team. We are doing very well as far as quality of swimmers. But, we really, really, really need a facility to make it better. So, thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Scott.

Councilmember David McClain said, Mr. Saunders, I have a question real quick. How many? I know you guys have big tournaments here, kind of have some tournaments here. How many, I don't know, any given tournament that you guys do have here, how many teams do you think that come to town when you have a tournament here at the old YMCA. Mr. Saunders said, okay, so, in the summertime, we have, there are two different seasons when it comes to swimming in the summertime that we can host here. It is a short-course AU so we can only host teams that are regional. So, it is Paragould, Pocahontas, Batesville, Searcy type teams like that. As far as number of swimmers, do you have any idea Vic? (There is an inaudible response in the background.) Okay, just one second, so I am not sure of the exact number, but I do know that if we can get a new facility, a nice, even if it is a long-course facility, but any facility, we can bring in instead of hosting teams around, we can bring in those Tupelo, MS teams that we are going to and spending our tax at, our money down there. We can bring those teams here and let them swim here as well. Because with the facility that we have right now, we are not bringing in any team from around, just local. Mayor Copenhaver said, okay, thank you Scott.

Councilmember Bobby Long said, I have a couple of questions for Ms. Tracey. Thank you for the presentation that you gave. I know that a lot of talk has been for the swim team, but what I heard tonight is that it would be open to a multitude of different sports teams, basketball, volleyball, things like that. Would this facility be open to the general public when events are not taking place? For instance, on a Tuesday night, if I wanted to take my kids to play basketball, could I go and utilize this facility for that purpose? Could I utilize this facility? Would it be open to the public so that it would be

more of a community type of center and not just specifically earmarked for events like that? Ms. Owens said, thank you for your question and I think it is a good question to ask. And, of course, the feasibility study will give us a lot more information, but it is my understanding that yes, you know, as long as it is not being used by a tournament, that it would be. I mean that is our goal to benefit the citizens that live here and also to bring in teams. So, the answer to that is yes. Councilmember Long said, okay. Also, the prepared food tax and the hotel tax is being promoted for this particular project. Ms. Owens said, uh-hum. Councilmember Long said, and of course, you mentioned before that the funds cannot be utilized by the city in any way. It has to be specifically earmarked, but it doesn't necessarily have to be specifically earmarked for this project. If this tax goes through, would the taxes collected from the hotel tax and the prepared food tax go into the general AP fund and can be used for other projects, not specifically earmarked for this and would it be a good idea that the public would know if this is what we are going to get and this is what it is being billed for and this is what it is going to go for?

Ms. Owens said, right, I understand your question and as good as I am at answering this question, I know that Mr. Morgan is on the line. Right, Jerry? Jerry Morgan, said yes. Ms. Owens said, I am going to let him answer that. Mr. Morgan said, Can you hear me okay? Ms. Owens said, yes. Mr. Morgan said, yes, that is a good question and the prepared food tax, the 2% prepared food tax would be designated towards a sports complex facility. The A&P state statutes are very clear on what the money can be used for and what it can't be used for. Our goal is to construct and build and operate a sports complex with the 2% food tax. We would be glad to designate that specifically in our next A&P meeting if that would make you, all of you more comfortable with that. Our goal is to put this money back into the community through the sports complex. You know, we are increasing, proposing an increase in the hotel tax from 3% to 4%. Those excess funds will be used to offset the operation and the maintenance of the facility, but then also, we have other needs of the hotel tax for other requests. We have requests for over \$1 million a year that come in and we are only able to fund \$600,000-\$650,000. With this new sports complex, also with the gun range, there are going to be a lot more requests for funding to help offset the tournament expenses. And, so, this money is all going straight back into the community through sports and other promotions of different events.

Councilmember David McClain said, being on A&P, a few things that Jerry just mentioned, we have different requests whether it be bowling tournaments, whether it be money for DARE, JETS, whatever it is as far as on the A&P. So, all of that money, we are not going to take it out and do anything else with it. Obviously, we would use that to increase giving to the different organizations that come to us and say we would like more money to bring in an event at the Embassy Suites. We would like to bring a larger tournament, it is a pretty big bowling tournament that we give money to every year. Is it PBA? Mayor Copenhaver said, it is PBA. Councilmember McClain said, that is like having a major league baseball tournament here in Jonesboro. But, we would use that money to go back to those organizations in the city. And, so, to me, it makes sense to me. I think it is a no-brainer. But, that is what the money would be used for.

Mr. Morgan said, Councilmember Long, I will add to your question which is a good one. You know, once we come back to the City Council for the request of the bond, you know we have to pledge those funds towards the servicing of that bond for that facility. So, those funds will be required to be pledged to pay for that facility. So, there are a lot of checks and balances here. You have got the A&P Commission that oversees those funds. We have at least quarterly meetings. We are very transparent in where those funds go. We also have the City Council. Your organization will help to oversee those

*funds to make sure they are going towards the specific purposes. We are also reviewed by Legislative Audit. We will also have those funds pledged towards the bond through the bonding company. So, there are a lot of safeguards to make sure that the money is spent where it is supposed to and where we are allocating it to.*

*Councilmember Long said, great, thank you Jerry. Just one other question. From the presentation, it seems like you looked at multiple, different facilities in multiple different locations and from the presentation, it seems like these facilities are almost self-sustaining. So, once these facilities get up and about and we start getting all of these people in and you get revenues from multiple different sources. Have any of these facilities become self-sustaining? And, if not, how much of that money do you see in the future being able to go to different projects other than the sports complex? Mr. Morgan said, I will try to address your concerns there. You know, we do feel like this facility could be self-sustaining. You have gate revenue. You have concession revenue. You have sponsorships. You have a lot of different areas of revenue. You also have the high schools that could lease this for some of their teams. Say, their aquatics could lease it from the different high schools and keep them from having to build their own facility. So, you have a lot of different revenue sources. The question is, where does that revenue go if we exceed our expectations of the expenses? I mean, I think it would, again, be the A&P Commission's desire and the City Council's desire is to put this back into our Parks and Rec areas, into our facilities, and to continue to just increase what we already have going and put the money back into the city, into the youth programs of the city. Councilmember Chris Moore said, just as a point, Councilmember Long, you are asking us to speculate on a facility that has not been selected, designed, or built and the motion before us is whether or not we want to implement a tax and collect a tax, not whether or not how a facility to be built in the future may or may not sustain itself. So, I would ask that we stick with the point before us. Councilmember Long said, I understand. Councilmember Moore said, thank you. Councilmember Long said, the reason for the line of questioning is not necessarily based on, well it is a tax related question because when you start looking at what it cost to build and maintain, then there comes a point to where you have to ask, are we asking too much of a tax to build that particular thing. And, so, when you start implementing taxes, you need to understand where it is going to go for and is that tax sufficient, is it not enough, or is it too much? That was the line of questioning so I am sorry if I was out of line.*

*Kraig Pomrenke with Embassy Suites and Red Wolf Convention Center said, good evening everyone. You know one thing that I have been in this business for a long time and actually managed a couple of facilities somewhere outside of this hotel business. And, there is an incredible amount of revenue opportunities. Naming rights is one. That could be hundreds of thousands of dollars. Pouring rights for a soft drink company. You select which soft drink company you want and they are going to pay you so much money to come in and do that too. You know, the admission side of things. Club sports can certainly pay to rent the facility, parts of the facility and so forth. So, you know, I understand your question about, you know, some of the upkeep and expenses and so forth, but there are a ton of revenue streams that out there that have been proven in other markets. That can be done here too. So, I just think that is something else that you have to consider when you are worrying a little bit about the taxes and if it can be self-sustaining and so forth and so on. I can tell you from experience that there are a lot of other facilities out there that are well funded and self-sustaining through all of these other revenue sources. So, that is just my two cents worth. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you Mr. Pomrenke.*

**Held at one reading**



**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS****ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING**

[ORD-21:041](#) AN ORDINANCE FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR GOOD HOPE HOSPITALITY TO BE LOCATED AT 2324 RED WOLF BLVD, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

**Attachments:** [Pier 88 Redacted USE](#)

**Held at second reading**

[ORD-21:042](#) AN ORDINANCE ADOPTED PURSUANT TO ACT 1112 OF 2017, AND APPLICABLE ABC REGULATIONS APPROVING THE PRIVATE CLUB APPLICATION OF ROJO'S ON HUNTINGTON, INC. AT 601 W. HUNTINGTON, AVE., JONESBORO, CRAIGHEAD COUNTY, ARKANSAS

**Attachments:** [Grillzil REDACTED USE](#)

*Councilmember Chris Moore said, Mr. Mayor, I had one comment. I went to look at that facility and 601 Huntington is a mobile food truck. Will the permit be on a mobile food truck or will it be on the location itself? Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, that is a good question. Councilmember Moore said, when I went down there and looked, that address is actually a mobile food truck. Mayor Copenhaver said, I believe that we had someone here at the last meeting that could have spoken on that. Police Chief Rick Elliott said, Mr. Mayor, on the application permit location there was a site plan laid out and actually the alcohol permit will go to the building. The design concept for that whole piece of property is that you have the main building and then, they are going to surround it with some food trucks. The parking lot would be an open courtyard atmosphere that is all surrounded by rod iron fencing. Councilmember Moore asked, so the permit itself would be for the gas station building and not for a mobile truck that would travel. Chief Elliott said, yes, the building itself. It is not for the food truck or trucks that they plan on putting around it. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you for clarifying this matter.*

**Held at second reading**

**ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING**

[ORD-21:040](#) AN ORDINANCE CREATING A PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT COEXTENSIVE WITH THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO FACILITATE A PACE PROGRAM AND ADOPTING CERTAIN PROVISIONS RELATED THERETO

**Sponsors:** Mayor's Office

**Attachments:** [PACEBasics\\_2016\\_10\\_7-1](#)

**A motion was made by Councilperson Mitch Johnson, seconded by Councilperson Joe Hafner, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 11 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; Mitch Johnson; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - John Street

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

*Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported on the following:*

*I wanted to extend a special thank you to the Southwest Church of Christ. More than 300 volunteers this past weekend went out and did service projects in the community over the weekend. Some built ADA ramps while others painted Habitat houses, worked in beautifying downtown areas, trimmed trees, raking leaves, aiding sanitation, and picking up yard waste, washing dogs at Animal Control, putting together goody bags for Police, Fire, Health Care Workers, Homeless Shelters and more. Efforts like this exemplify the reasons I love our community and I am proud to be your Mayor.*

*The next Code Enforcement Saturation will be October 13, 2021 in the Fairview neighborhood. Officers will be issuing warnings for tall grass, unlawful storage, inoperable vehicles, unsightly conditions, and houses subject to our Boarding and Securing ordinances. Our first sweep this year was in the West End and proved to be quite successful. We wrote dozens of warnings and all but a few were rectified. But, those that were not lead to citations and court dates. We hope to see a similar success in Fairview and the rest of the city. Please understand that this does not exclude ongoing enforcement in other neighborhoods. These are more thorough searches in which Code officials go door-to-door to help clean up our city.*

*The City of Jonesboro is offering a low-cost pet adoption this week thanks to a partnership with the Bissell Pet Foundation. I announced it today actually. For \$25, anyone wanting to adopt a puppy or an older dog can do so which includes vaccinations, neutering, spaying, and microchipping. Typically, this cost is \$135 for Animal Control. So, it is a wonderful cost savings for those who want to adopt. Animal Control Director Larry Rogers thanked Kathy Bissell for agreeing to reimburse the city \$100 for each adoption. Tell your friends, spread the word, and help us empty the shelter and give a dog or puppy a loving home. Potential adoptees can be seen on the Animal Control Facebook page.*

*The next item has been brought to my attention. It is invested in me, that I, Mayor Harold Copenhaver, do officially declare the neighborhoods in Jonesboro being haunted by scary little monsters, zombies, and other dastardly villains or graced by fairy tale princesses, puppies, elves, and superheroes alike on Saturday, October 30, 2021 upon the request of all Hollow's Eve. So, the children of Jonesboro, go forth and pile up all of the candy and treats that you can carry while enjoying all of the traditions of Halloween on Saturday, October 30, 2021 while your parents, grandparents, and teachers quietly celebrate how much easier their Monday will be.*

*In the spirit of Halloween, the Jonesboro Police Department will hold their annual trunk-or-treat on October 26, 2021 at Allen Park from 5:00-7:00 p.m.*

[COM-21:044](#)

AUGUST 2021 FINANCIAL REPORTS

**Sponsors:** Finance

**Attachments:** [Financials Overview August 2021](#)  
[Schedule of Changes in F.B. and Required Reserve Report August 2021](#)  
[Schedule of Revenue vs. Expense August 2021](#)  
[Schedule of O&M Departmental Overview August 2021](#)  
[Schedule of Fixed Asset and Cap. Imp. Detail August 2021](#)  
[Deposit Collateralization Report August 2021](#)  
[Sales Tax Report \(Combined\) August 2021](#)  
[State Turnback Report \(Combined\) August 2021](#)  
[Highway Sales Tax Report August 2021](#)  
[American Rescue Plan Funds August 2021](#)

Filed

## **9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

*Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I need to remind everyone that tomorrow night from 4:00-6:00 p.m. and maybe later, we have our National Night Out. It is a drive thru. We are also announcing that it is limited to one meal per person. It is a drive thru. There will be fish plates and hot dogs. This will be out at Northside Park. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, thank you councilman.*

*Councilmember Chris Moore said, on behalf of Southwest Church, thank you for the recognition that you gave use. We had quite a few people work pretty hard yesterday. That is true. While we were on Code Enforcement, the building that burned under the bridge several months ago, I noticed that it has not been cleaned up, the old tractor dealership. Have we had any progress on it or do we have any progress. Mayor Copenhaver said, actually, we had a progress report this morning. Every Monday, I will make Councilmembers aware, that we do have a meeting with all of the department heads and we discuss operations that are going on with the city. Inspections, Tim Renshaw, they are doing some other projects, but they are making recommendations to get to Code Enforcement. So, any of those burned buildings and things like that by the end of the year, we are looking to get rid of those. Councilmember Moore said, good deal because there are some adjoining businesses there that I think that are kind of ready for that to be cleaned up under the bridge. Mayor Copenhaver said, I agree. Councilmember Moore said, that is all I have. Thank you sir.*

## **10. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*Courtney Tatum, 1512 Wofford Street, said, I just have a problem with the Police Department. I had a case in June where my tire was sliced at Kroger. We had a video. The person slashed the tire about 9:00 p.m. The cop came and got the video. I didn't hear from nobody for about a month. A couple of days later, they dropped it because it was due to being a misdemeanor and no evidence. We had video. Now, last week, Sunday, my wife's wallet got stolen. We got a description of the suspect, the car. This happened at like 10:30 in the morning. An officer came about 11:30 or a quarter to 12 and we told him what was going on. I asked him, did you all put a bolo out, be on the look out. He said we can. No response. So, I had to do emails. I did several emails. It was fine. I got responses. But, then I got no responses. So, I emailed the Chief of Police on Thursday about 6:00 a.m. Amazingly, about 9:00 a.m., we heard from the detective. And, ever since then, nothing else. The person went to Walmart and tried to use the card twice. We got a picture of them at Walmart. He will know what it is, a male or a female because there is a pretty clean cut video. We've got pictures of*

videos. So, they apparently got something from Walmart, one picture, nothing else. You know Walmart has got a lot of cameras, inside and outside. Nothing else. We still have not heard from them yet. So, I did six FIOA's for cameras that are on the road. That was last week. I think I am supposed to have three days to get them. Still didn't get them. Nothing. Because he or she went from Ace straight to Walmart. So, nothing else. And, then that is my case. And, then all of a sudden when we had to go to the Police Department to get her driver's license and all of that redone. On the way back, our windshield got busted. We have to get that replaced. As I was getting my windshield replaced, the guy told me while my wife's purse got stolen, that she was putting a child into the car and he had a home invasion while the person was in the house, he tried to get them and that was a year ago. He has not heard anything from anybody. So, I don't know what you all are going to do. Let me add to it, there is a bank right next to Ace and nobody has decided to get that camera from the bank. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, thank you sir. If you would, please leave your name at the front door if you would. If you would leave your name, we will get back with you sir. Thank you very much and I appreciate you coming forward with your comments. Thank you.

Mitch Johnson, 3716 Partridge Circle, said, I am the General Manager of the Northeast Arkansas District Fair. We wrapped up a pretty successful 2021 District Fair this past weekend. I just wanted for a moment on behalf of the Fair Association, I wanted to give thanks to the Police Department, Fire Department, Police Reserves, Streets and Sanitation and several county entities that helped us have a successful fair. We didn't end on a good note with the rain, but with the assistance of the reserves we had on site and the police department on the highway, we were able to successfully get everybody inside and get them parked without taking up any soggy grass space. So, after missing the 2020 Fair and being able to come back in 2021, I just wanted to be able to take this moment to thank everybody that partnered with us and helped us make this a success. There are several of us that have this in our hearts and we work tirelessly to put this on every year and all of the assistance that is provided to us, we are certainly grateful to have. Mayor Copenhaver said, absolutely and Councilmember, I appreciate your work and dedication to that as well. That shows the success of that as well. I enjoyed it and it was sure enjoyed by my grandchildren. So, thank you.

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Gibson, seconded by Councilperson Joe Hafner, that this meeting be Adjourned . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 11 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;Mitch Johnson;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - John Street

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Harold Copenhaver, Mayor

**Attest:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
April Leggett, City Clerk