



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Finance & Administration Council Committee

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

4:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

1. Call To Order

2. Roll Call by City Clerk April Leggett

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

Absent 1 - Ann Williams

3. Approval of minutes

[MIN-21:102](#)

MINUTES FOR THE FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MEETING ON NOVEMBER 30, 2021

Attachments: [Finance Minutes 11302021](#)

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: 5 - Charles Coleman; John Street; David McClain; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

[MIN-21:104](#)

Minutes for the Special Called Finance Committee meeting on December 2, 2021.

Attachments: [MINUTES](#)

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: 5 - Charles Coleman; John Street; David McClain; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

4. New Business

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

[RES-21:292](#)

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, CERTIFYING LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENDORSEMENT OF BUSINESS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TAX BACK PROGRAM (AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 15-4-2706(d) OF THE CONSOLIDATED INCENTIVE ACT OF 2003).

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

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

[RES-21:293](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO ENTER INTO A TWO YEAR LEASE CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF A SANITATION KNUCKLEBOOM TRUCK

Attachments: [City of Jonesboro \(3\) 12.1.2021](#)

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, "I have a question I need to ask the mayor. On this knuckleboom, is that lease just going to be for the two years or will we need to do something different down the road?" Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, "Steve you might be able to answer that. Cause we have three knucklebooms so it may be a revolving lease from one to the other." Finance Director Steve Purtee approached the podium, "Yes sir councilmember, that lease contract is for two years. At the conclusion of that two year period we will have the option to purchase that equipment or starting over." Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, "Is that the only one we need. I guess I have this mindset that in a growing city that we would need more then what we got." Steve Purtee said, "If you'll recall, we began this program in 2019, this is kind of refreshing that group of equipment. We also entered into additional contracts in 2020 and then we have, in our proposed budget, an additional reset of contracts as well. I believe there's a total of five or six in the budget proposal as well."

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

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

[RES-21:296](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO AMEND THE CITY SALARY AND ADMINISTRATION PLAN BY INCLUDING UPDATED PAY RANGES, JOB TITLES AND GRADES

Attachments: [2022 Job Titles by Grade](#)

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

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

[RES-21:297](#)

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF A BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, FOR THE TWELVE (12) MONTHS BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2022 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022, APPROPRIATING MONEY FOR EACH ITEM OF EXPENDITURE THEREIN PROVIDED FOR; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Attachments: [2022 Budget](#)
[Jonesboro Budget 2022 Revised \[Read-Only\]](#)

Chairman Joe Hafner said, "I just got a couple comments on this, just to reiterate what I said at the working session. I think ya'll did a great job on the budget. As we said during the working session, I hope that we figure out a way to give everybody the 4%,

even the ones that are maxed out at their step. I really think we need to look at the additional person to be the compliance officer for the new prepared food tax, privilege license, ect. I think that position would more than pay for itself. I hope we get to moving on the potential revenue bonds as soon as possible so we start getting some benefit in 2022 for that.” Councilmember David McClain said, “The only other thing I would like to add, I think ya’ll are going to adjust and give everybody a 4% increase if I’m reading correctly. I talked to you or Brian recently about the transportation person, especially since we increased our spending from \$100,000 in 2020 on sidewalks and things like that to \$750,000. We are going to need someone that can identify and help us in transitioning to a pedestrian friendly town.” Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, “Brian has been working on that. Would you like to assess that anymore?” Chief Administrative Officer Brian Richardson approached the podium, “Councilman McClain, I think you bring up a valid point, that we need to really research and study, to decide where we can put sidewalks and pedestrian networks that increase safety, especially when we are talking about making the type of investment that we are. I know that in the Engineering Department and Planning Department, this is something they’ve been working on and have some key projects that identify needs. We probably do need to get some advisement beyond those projects to what priorities fall in next. Of course, anytime you are talking about bring on a new full time position or salary to the City of Jonesboro, we need to take some time to really reflect on what those job duties would be cause we don’t want to create a position that doesn’t necessarily need to be a full time, maybe it’s something we need on a consulting bases. All those options are on the table and being looked at.” Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, “Councilman Hafner, I do want to say thank you again for the committee, for the work session that ya’ll provided and your input as well. This is how good government works. I’m very pleased that in one year have accomplished a balanced budget due to the process that you have allowed us to go through. More importantly it’s what we do moving forward. Addressing the 4%, Joe, yes sir, everybody will receive a 4% increase. Those officers that have maxed out on their levels and they only receive a certain part of their longevity pay, we will and we are going to make up that difference in their pay for them. Everybody for the city will receive a 4%, the step raise and 2% cola. In saying that and coming to a balanced budget, I want to make the committee aware, we’re excited about how we have to move forward. I think it’s important that large projects like possibilities of expansions, Caraway Roads expansion, which could be \$4 million, a new firehouse possibility, that could be anywhere from \$3.5 to \$7 million. I think all of these need to be brought forward and we do have reserves, we do have possibilities to using those reserves. We’re also looking at broadband expansion in the community and that’s going to be a sizeable investment of some nature, but that serves all of us. We have to look at a holistic approach. In council Tuesday night, I do plan on making an overall statement, of course, for the entire council, but keep in mind, we have assessed many of the department needs. We’ve grown in areas that we feel necessary and we’re hearing the concerns and we’re taking one step at a time. We feel very confident we’ve done a lot of due diligence and this is just the beginning. We’ve got next year, we’ve got the following year but we have to work in a progressional order. I do want to commend our department heads. We’ve had those conversations, they understand it to the full capability of what we’re trying to work for and I appreciate their corporation in this as well.”

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

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

5. Pending Items

6. Other Business

Chairman Joe Hafner said, "Steve sent out the financials today. I thank you for doing that." Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, "I just want to thank Steve. I know sometimes he looks a little dry when he comes up. We're not going to bite you Steve. I personally think you have done a bang up job getting the information to me because when I can get something on time to read that makes me feel good about it."

7. Public Comments

Norma Ferrel, 108 E. Gordon Street, approached the podium, "I am concerned with, on North Main going out on 141, about the tire company, not sure if it's Lightning Tire Company or if it's Sartin's Tire Company, the name has been changed. It looks like a junkyard, people that come down that highway sees that every day. We also have a house on 416 N. Main that the same way. We have been trying to get help for over 15 years and no one seems to listen. It looks bad, we want to make our city beautiful, we say that, we are tired of looking at it. We need something done. We almost run into a tractor trailer on Word Street, there's no lights or anything. I call Code all the time, they come and he moves it and it may be gone a week then two weeks later its still back there. Is there anyone that can help?" Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, "Norma, thank you for your emails because we are addressing the issue. We are well aware that yes he does move it from one day to the next after Code Enforcement." Code Enforcement Director Mike Tyner approached the podium, "In reference to this business, Mr. Sartin Sr. owns the property and his son Kevin owns the business. He was issued a citation yesterday. In conjunction with that as well, we have been working the Police Patrol Division to mitigate some of the parked cars and I actually have a request in front of the traffic committee to put no parking signs along the roadway there. We've gotten several complaints because it creates a blind corner and when you're trying to pull off onto Word off 141 or vice versa. We've gotten complaints from the school district because they can't run a bus down there because the roadway is either reduced or visibility is reduced, so we're taking proactive steps to move forward and get that area cleaned up. I'm going to reach out to our Planning and Zoning Department to work on the business aspect of it as far as what practices are accepted, what we can do to help enforce it or what we can do to assist them in enforcing that to get the area cleaned up, because as it sits now, she's very correct, it looks horrible. It's a stain on that area of town and it's gone on for way to long. We are taking steps to get that taking care of."

8. Adjournment

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

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