



# City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center  
300 S. Church Street  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

## Meeting Minutes City Council

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Tuesday, August 18, 2020

5:30 PM

Municipal Center

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

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

#### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

#### 3. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK DONNA JACKSON

*Mayor Harold Perrin was not in attendance. President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore presided over the meeting.*

**Present** 11 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Joe Hafner; David McClain and LJ Bryant

**Absent** 1 - Bobby Long

#### 4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

##### [COM-20:043](#)

Update from Police Chief Rick Elliott on the Police Department and the Current Environment Across the Country

*Police Chief Rick Elliott said, good evening to the council and those watching at home. I had a request to kind of update the current environment across the country and how things are going here in the city. Events going on across our country are that law enforcement agencies have been under scrutiny obviously. Some of the scrutiny involves policy and training issues and in some cases, the lack thereof. Law enforcement officers are empowered to use force when apprehending suspects and most are rigorously trained to do so in order to have the safest possible outcome for all of those who are involved. Our police officers are expected to treat all of our citizens with respect and understanding and should be held to the very highest standards of their conduct. Intentional bias will not be tolerated. Complaints of bias are taken seriously and are investigated. As we talk about some of these policies and some of the key policies which I will kind of touch on tonight, which are key issues across the country are racial profiling, biased based policing, and use of force. First, I will say that all of our policies were developed after model policies and we had good policies in place long before all of these events had taken place. When you look at a model policy, it is a policy either adopted from the International Association of Chiefs of Police or the Arkansas Association of Chiefs of Police, Arkansas Municipal League or a combination thereof of those agencies along with other professional agencies out there. So, as we look at things that unfold across the country and you look at your policies that are in place, we have found that all of our policies were up to speed where they should be in light of things that have been taking place across the country. We*

did find one area that we did want to address specifically and we added a new policy to our book called the duty to intervene. Basically, this policy, the state language in this policy was already in our response to aggression policy, but we felt that it was important to have a standalone policy on duty to intervene. Basically the policy states that if an officer sees other officers doing something that is improper, excessive use of force, or anything that is improper, then they need to intervene. They have a duty by policy and by law to intervene and stop that conduct. It is in other policies throughout our policy manual, but we did want to have this as a standalone policy. So, this is one of the recommendations that we sat down with our City Attorneys and went over. We felt that it was important to separate it individually and put it into place. As you know, a policy manual is a living document so we are constantly reviewing policies and changing policies according to things that are going on across the country and according to the model policies that are put out there every day. Our JPD Policy has been brought to you all before. It has been a couple of years and it will be coming back to you here in the near future to go over and approve at some point in time. As we talk about things going on throughout the country, we will let you know that we do have a system of checks and balances of officer conduct. We have an Internal Affairs Department that handles any kind of complaints that come in throughout the year. The Jonesboro Police Department had over 70,000 dispatch calls last year. By the time that you take that and the interactions with the public just on what they encounter with the public on a day-to-day basis, without being dispatched, you are dealing with the public well over 100,000 times a year. Out of that 100,000 times per year, we received maybe 53 complaints on officers. So, that is better customer service than just about any business around town to say that they got. But, when a complaint does come in, we do investigate it. We do have a system of checks and balances. Supervisors go back and routinely watch officer's body camera video just to make sure interactions are the way that they are supposed to be and the way I expect them. Improper conduct and actions from officers across the country should not define our profession as a whole or the reputation of the Jonesboro Police Department. There is no doubt that improper police conduct anywhere in the country has an impact on policing across the country. Improper conduct diminishes the trust and respect communities have for the men and women of law enforcement. We are constantly trying to work hard to rebuild our trust in our communities. Because what some have done in other parts of the country, it has destroyed trust in our own communities. So, it is a forever on-going process in building and maintaining a good community relation in our community. From the recent protest across the country and locally, we have developed a great relationship with several different individuals throughout our community wanting to get together and build a better community. So, those meetings are still on-going. As your Chief, I want you to know that I have seen you and I have heard you to those people who have been out and have been protesting. This is not a perfect world. But, when we work together to solve problems, we can get the problems solved. The police department has continued to meet with residents and discuss topics of concern. This practice is nothing new. I've implemented an open door policy and have tried to be community oriented for the past six years, getting out in the community and reestablishing those connections. I have said many times, it is much better when we talk to each other instead of at each other. During the COVID issues that are going on right now, our community outreach projects have been cutback to virtually zero. But, we are looking at other ways to reach out to the community as much as we can, although it may be in smaller groups. We are looking at what the rest of us are kind of doing right now and going virtual. We recently received some federal grant money from the Department of Justice for the COVID battle. With some of that money, we are purchasing camera technology to set up in our training rooms so we can do some virtual training and maybe go to a virtual Citizen's Policy Academy program. That program has been a huge success for the police department and in the past five years,

we have graduated over 300 residents through the program. It has made a big impact as far as community relations in our department and I hate to see the program stop due to COVID. We are looking at other ways to get the same message across by different means. It is the same struggles as our teachers are facing now. Hopefully, this has answered some of the questions you all may have. I am always open for any questions you may have. As we sit through these meetings, I found that there are a lot of people that have not much of a clue on the community outreach projects that we have done throughout the year. I encourage people that you can go to the Jonesboro Police Department website at [jonesboropolice.com](http://jonesboropolice.com) and all of our monthly reports, our crime reports, our accident reports, our annual report which is a comprehensive review of the previous year, it is all located there for your review. You kind of get a better idea of what we do day and day out. As I close, I would like to thank the Mayor and the Council and the Community for the support you have given us during this challenging year. We are blessed to have a wonderful community support and we appreciate what you all have done for us. Again, I just want to say thanks. Do you have any questions? Councilmember David McClain said, I appreciate you getting up and standing here and giving us a play by play of what is going on. I think to have over 100,000 contacts and only 53 complaints is a testament to your leadership. I truly appreciate that and think that you guys are doing a great job. One thing when you and I met, you mentioned if there is a case where an officer is observed violating or hurting someone, whatever the case may be, that you would pass that along to where not only would they not be qualified in Jonesboro, but they wouldn't be qualified throughout the state. Would you speak to that for just a second? Chief Elliott said, great point. The law enforcement in Arkansas falls under the Commission of Law Enforcement Standards and Training, so we have a state certification. If I have an officer that conducts a gross misconduct of his or her duties, I will submit a request for down to CLEST for decertification of that officer. Once that officer is decertified, he or she will never be a law enforcement officer anywhere in this country again. During my six years at this department, I have sent several names down there for decertification and have gotten decertified officers. I do have a high expectation of my people. They understand what my expectations are and they work hard for the department and for this community day in and day out. A mistake is one thing, but if you are habitually making mistakes and you make bad mistakes, or are very negligent in your conduct, then that is something that we will not tolerate and I will get rid of the problem. Councilmember McClain said, thank you Chief. Chief Elliott said, thank you sir. Councilmember John Street said, I would like to thank Chief Elliott for his pro-active stance in every single area of the community, the presence of the officers in the schools has been a big plus, and the Citizens Police Academy has just been an outstanding tool to open up the department to the community. So, Chief, I appreciate everything you do and you do an outstanding job way before anything ever happened which I think is one of the reasons we are a better community for it. So, thank you sir. Chief Elliott said, yes sir, thank you. Again, we try to stay proactive instead of just reactive. That is the only way that we stay ahead on crime prevention. It is a team effort. It takes us working with the Council and it takes us working with the Community. So, that is why Community Outreach is so important with us. We have had huge success with it. Just a quick success story, with our social media alone last year, with Facebook alone, we cleared 170 cases. With putting suspect pictures on Facebook and saying can you identify this person? That is 170 times that we have got people identified by the community getting involved. Working with each other has dividends. It does pay off. We want to keep this momentum going. I know that COVID has kind of slowed things down, but again, we are thinking outside of the box to try to keep it going. I appreciate everybody.

**Read**

**5. CONSENT AGENDA***Approval of the Consent Agenda*

Councilmember Mitch Johnson motioned, seconded by Councilmember Gene Vance, to adopt the Consent Agenda with the exception of RES-20:115. All voted aye.

**A motion was made by Councilperson Mitch Johnson, seconded by Councilperson Gene Vance, to Approve the Consent Agenda. The motioned PASSED**

**Aye:** 11 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Joe Hafner; David McClain and LJ Bryant

**Absent:** 1 - Bobby Long

[MIN-20:074](#) MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON AUGUST 4, 2020

**Attachments:** [CC Minutes 08042020](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

[RES-20:112](#) A RESOLUTION TO EXECUTE A TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE AGREEMENT TO MAINTAIN A CONTROL DEVICE LOCATED AT THE INTERSECTION OF HIGHWAY 18 (SOUTHWEST DRIVE)/MAIN STREET AND HIGHWAY 18 (E. HIGHLAND DRIVE)/W. HIGHLAND DRIVE

**Attachments:** [Traffic Control Device Agreement - Hwy 18 SE Drive-Main Street and Hwy 18](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-093-2020

[RES-20:113](#) A RESOLUTION TO EXECUTE A TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE AGREEMENT TO MAINTAIN A CONTROL DEVICE LOCATED AT THE INTERSECTION OF HIGHWAY 49 (STADIUM BLVD.) AND I-555 EAST BOUND OFF-RAMP

**Attachments:** [Traffic Control Device Agreement - Hwy 49](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-094-2020

*ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA*

[RES-20:115](#) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO AMEND THE 2020 ANNUAL BUDGET FOR ADDITIONAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND FIXED ASSET PURCHASES

**Attachments:** [Mid-Year 2020 Budget Appropriations Request](#)  
[Letters of Support for Shooting Sports Complex 08102020](#)  
[Cap Imp and Fixed Asset Requests, 8-11-20 Finance Com, Brief](#)

*Patti Lack, 4108 Forrest Hill Road, said I know I had last week questioned a little bit about the \$500,000 for the restrooms for the Shooting Range. I saw on the Consent Agenda that there are 22 letters of support for the Shooting Range. I am certainly in support of that. My question from this point on is that I think that and I have gotten a lot of responses from people saying that we are going to spend \$500,000 for restrooms. That is a lot of money for restrooms versus port-a-potties. So, I looked into it a little bit and I have realized that what that the \$2 million or the \$1.9 million that you all approved back in February to expand and get the shooting range up to the grant level is that it did not include the restrooms. So, I went a little bit further and I went into and I look at the agreement that the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission gave and under number five, it said that we have to have proper sanitation and sanitary facilities so, I know that there were, but it wasn't in this phase. So, I understand that. I am glad that Craig is here because I have a bunch of questions. The \$500,000, where does it go from here. You all approve it here today. Does it go back to the Finance Committee and then you approve it there and it comes back to you guys as a resolution. Does it go there? Or, does it make a change order that Craig does to make a change order to put the restrooms at the shooting range? Since it is a large amount of \$500,000 or a half a million and you look at that, it is just a lot of money for restrooms. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I can answer that one real quick. A change order would still come back before Council. So, either way that would come back to Council. Ms. Lack said, okay, thank you for that. So, you have got \$500,000 to put a restroom in, does that go out for a bid because that is a large amount of money or does it automatically go to Ransom who has the contract now? Next question, how many restrooms do we get for \$500,000? Is there a plan that we already had in mind? Do we just put enough to make it satisfactory for now or do we build them all because that is what the plan said further down in the future. Then, what do they look like. When you look at the bathrooms at Southside, you look at the bathrooms at Joe Mack Campbell, are they going to have a concession stand? Are they going to be fancy restrooms? So, there are a lot of questions that I hope we can answer because I got a lot of comments saying that we are spending a lot of money, \$500,000 on restrooms. I don't know if Craig can answer some of those questions. Whether we already have a plan or does it go out for bid again? What is the next step from this point? President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore said, alright, Craig do you want to touch on those three questions? The three questions were, will the restroom building go out for bid or is it part of Ransom's contract?*

*Director of City Engineering Craig Light said, it is not currently part of Ransom's contract. If we do it by change order with Ransoms, it would come before the council for that approval. It is something that we have been discussing because it will accelerate how quickly we can get the bathrooms under construction. We have gotten some preliminary numbers for that. Right now, we are not in agreement with those numbers. So, it may be that we put it out for bid and get bonafide bids on it which would extend the time period of getting that money spent this calendar year. So, it would have to be rebudgeted, a portion of it at least next year to cover that if we go through the bidding process. We do have conceptual drawings of, actually, we have architectural drawings for what is proposed to be constructed. So, those are available and we can get those to council and to Patti Lack if she wants to see what they look like. We are meeting with Ransoms I think tomorrow, the architect to look at what features we might remove and what might be too much. We are really looking at what our agreement is with Game, Fish & Wildlife is to make sure we meet the requirements within the money that we have available to us. We may not build the complete pavilions. These were two separate bathroom facilities that were attached to pavilions. I think they had three stalls in each side, male, female, heat and air in the bathrooms, no concession stand, basically just a covered pavilion with bathrooms as a part of them. There would be two of those and then one smaller facility kind of what is*

like out at Craighead Forrest over at the range building. But, we are still in conversations with the contractor about what he is able to build for us and can we get it within budget or do we let it out for complete bid. We have not made that decision fully yet. Is there another question? Ms. Lack asked, so you are saying there are two restrooms? Councilmember Joe Hafner said, there are three total. Mr. Light said, originally, we were looking at three separate facilities, but the preliminary numbers fall on the two larger pavilion type facilities is more than the \$500,000 and we are not sure why it is that high. We are working through that issue. Anything that we do will come back before city council approval. It's not that we have authority to have or execute contracts or spend \$500,000 without some oversight by city council. Everything will come back to city council before it is executed. President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore said, thank you Craig. Mr. Light said, we will bring those things back before you. Ms. Lack asked, what is the deadline date now? I know that we have had extensions to it so what is the deadline date now that we need to open up. Mr. Light said, the bathroom, sanitation facilities are supposed to be done by September of 2021. So, we have until next September to have that portion done and we could put in port-a-johns out there, but I don't know that is something that we see as a long term solution for that size of facility to have port-a-johns out there.

Ms. Lack said, okay. Thank you. Two other things that I just want to address is that when looking at the contract with the Game & Fish is that I think it is probably the next thing that we have to address is that we will need employees. So, I am assuming that is going to be ran by the Parks and Recreation out there so I don't know whether it is hiring new employees, but too is says that the City of Jonesboro is going to be responsible for the maintenance of the place. So, those are just going to be some costs that we are going to have to look at. I guess what I get from a lot of people is saying that I hope this will be the last for a while that we put out there and get the shooting range up and running. I think it has got potential and I agree with Chief Elliott. If we can get some donors or get some investors out there, it will certainly be an asset to the city. The last point that I want to make is that I know on the police department is that on their budget, it showed the SkyCops and the SkyCops was to have donations made. I think we all know that donations from businesses and individuals and all of that are getting fewer and fewer. You know, we get some, and hopefully they will pick up. I have a question for Chief Elliott. President Pro-Tempore Moore said, that is not before us now on the SkyCops. The item on the agenda that you are supposed to be discussing right now is to amend the budget on various expenditures. So, let's keep it in that narrow band. Ms. Lack said, okay, so when can I bring that up with the SkyCops? President Pro-Tempore Moore said, that is not before us right now. Ms. Lack said, okay. Can I bring it up under public comment? President Pro-Tempore Moore said, that is it. Ms. Lack said, okay, thank you.

Phillip Glover, 420 Chatham Cove, said, I wanted to follow up on what Ms. Lack was discussing. I guess my first question is for the council because I presented this question to the Chair of the Finance Committee and was told that it was a decision made by the council. Who is responsible for scheduling out our meetings for the Finance Committee that are done during business hours? President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore said, the Chair sets the meetings. Mr. Glover said, the Chair sets the meetings. President Pro-Tempore Moore said, that is correct. Mr. Glover said, thank you very much for clarification on that. So, I had a great meeting with the Chief a couple of days ago. We talked a lot about the Shooting Complex. I want to say first that I am a fan of the project. I am a gun lover myself. I have got three sons. We all enjoy it. But, my concern is this what is most important to our city right now? And, what I mean by that is we are looking at spending close to \$3.5 million of taxpayer money and are we prioritizing it in the right way. I looked last year during a city council

meeting, Mr. McClain, you mentioned one of your priorities was sidewalks in some of the areas of the city. And, just to put a figure together looking at the \$500,000 that we are going to do for these bathrooms, the average linear foot of a sidewalk is \$92 a linear foot. Doing the math, that is over 100 miles of sidewalks. And, so, if we are talking about that was important a year ago, but it hasn't been addressed, is it the most important thing that we are pushing right now. I talked with Dr. Coleman for a few minutes about an item that he brought up at the Finance Committee meeting regarding the University Lions Park. Councilmember Coleman, how much could be done at the University Lions Club Park for the amount of money that we are spending on this project and is that a better benefit to the community than the Shooting Complex? I threw two other items in there being the Miracle League sign for \$25,000 because the sign that is currently there did not cost \$25,000 and I feel like we could accomplish exactly what we said we would do in renaming that for spending a lot less money and we could reallocate those funds elsewhere also. Additionally, the \$30,000 to have the south entrance of one of the ballparks match the other entrance, I still feel like that money could be allocated elsewhere. We are asking the vast majority of our citizens within the city to go elsewhere for their outside recreational activities when we should be looking at establishing areas around the city to meet the people where they are. I feel like we have lost the priority on that. And, so, if I could just get some explanation on those things, I will leave it there. President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore said, alright, thank you for your comments. Mr. Glover said, thank you.

Councilmember LJ Bryant said, Councilmember Moore, I saw a note here from Derrel Smith, kind of a question about the resolution and a difference from the Finance Committee. I didn't know if maybe the City Clerk or you might know something about that. He thought that there was something included last week in Finance that didn't make it on the resolution. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, no. This is the adjusted number in this resolution. It was like \$3.4 million and change and now it is \$3,371,050 I think is the correct number. We took \$180,000 softball field out and put in \$108,000 or something like that. So, it did go down slightly. President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore asked, so the resolution in front of us is the correct number? Councilmember Joe Hafner said, in my opinion, it is. Yes. City Attorney Carol Duncan said his question was about the Planning Department and the staff changes that were in it last week. Councilmember Hafner said, that is part of this \$3,371,050. Is it for the software? Chief of Staff Mike Downing said, what he is bringing up is in the language of the resolution and the departments that are getting improvements and because Planning wasn't originally in that list, it wasn't included in the resolution. Councilmember Hafner said, okay. All we did was change the amount, we didn't the wording. Mr. Downing asked, so Carol, do we need to include Planning in the Departments? Councilmember Hafner said, the projects are in the list. Ms. Duncan said, as the long as the projects are listed in the budget and it is specified with a dollar amount that is approved, then I don't know if you have to list the department itself as long as it is listed correctly in the budget expenditures. Councilmember Hafner said, if we want to amend it real quick, we can. It won't take long doing it. There is already a motion and a second on the floor. President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore said, we have a motion and a second on the floor to adopt as we are standing and the City Attorney just verified that we are in compliance.

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

**Aye:** 11 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

**Absent:** 1 - Bobby Long

Enactment No: R-EN-095-2020

[RES-20:111](#)

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING FREE UTILITY SERVICES FROM CITY WATER AND LIGHT FOR BRIDGE LIGHTING

*Councilmember John Street abstained from discussion and voting on RES-20:111 due to serving on the Board of City Water and Light. Councilmember Charles Frierson abstained from discussion and voting on RES-20:111 due to serving on the Board of City Water and Light.*

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

**Aye:** 9 - Ann Williams;Chris Moore;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

**Absent:** 1 - Bobby Long

**Abstain:** 2 - Charles Frierson and John Street

Enactment No: R-EN-096-2020

[RES-20:116](#)

A RESOLUTION FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC. FOR THE CDBG PUBLIC SERVICES PROGRAM.

**Attachments:** [HCSI Subrecipient Agreement](#)

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

**Aye:** 11 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

**Absent:** 1 - Bobby Long

Enactment No: R-EN-097-2020

[RES-20:117](#)

A RESOLUTION FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AGREEMENT WITH RECOVERY INCORPORATED TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR A PARKING LOT AND ENTRANCE ACCORDING TO THE 2020 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

**Attachments:** [MOU for Recovery, Inc.](#)

*Roger Kidd, 3718 Hwy. 463 S., asked how much money will this cost? President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore said, this is part of the CDBG Grant. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, this is a federal grant that we get and the money is divided up. Community Development Director Regina Burkett said, it is an annual federal grant that we get and a portion of it goes to public service. The grant this year was \$616,000, somewhere around that. Non-profits apply for the public service. They have certain guidelines they go by and it is for \$20,000 for each of those. President Pro-Tempore Moore said, that was also true on the Hispanic Community Services one before this one. Ms. Burkett said, yes. President Pro-Tempore Moore said, thank you Regina.*



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

**Aye:** 11 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

**Absent:** 1 - Bobby Long

Enactment No: R-EN-098-2020

[RES-20:118](#)

A RESOLUTION FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE WEST END NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION FOR THE CDBG PUBLIC SERVICES PROGRAM

**Attachments:** [WENA Subrecipient Agreement](#)

*President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore said, this one is for \$10,822.88.*

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

**Aye:** 11 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

**Absent:** 1 - Bobby Long

Enactment No: R-EN-099-2020

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

### *ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING*

[ORD-20:030](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE JONESBORO CODE OF ORDINANCES, SECTION 117.330(c), KNOWN AS THE SIDEWALK ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, PROVIDING FOR AN EXEMPTION FOR PROPERTY IN PLANNED INDUSTRIAL PARKS

*Councilmember Gene Vance stated that he would not vote and abstains from all discussion on ORD-20:030 due to the fact that he works with a client currently in the Industrial Park that will be affected by this ordinance. President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore said, duly noted.*

*Councilmember Chris Gibson motioned, seconded by Councilmember Mitch Johnson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-20:030 by title only. All voted aye.*

*Councilmember David McClain said, said, I have a couple of questions and I don't know if Derrel is on the line or in the room. President Pro-Tempore Moore said, he is not in the room. Councilmember McClain said, the questions I have and that I am trying to figure out a good compromise and I watched a little bit of the Public Works meeting and I know that Mark was talking about how big of a piece of property you can get an exemption for, but I think the big question I had was, do we think anyone will come to Jonesboro and end up putting a plant in and then we have given this waiver and do we think we will ever connect because I know there are people who do walk to*

*the Industrial Park. Does he feel comfortable? That was my main question for Derrel. I was trying to figure out if he was comfortable with it because at some point if we start, then they will eventually connect. That was my biggest question for him. President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore asked, Derrel, can you hear me? Planning Director Derrel Smith said, yes I can. President Pro-Tempore Moore said, do you want to comment on Councilmember McClain's question? Mr. Smith said, when we originally did this, we did write in an exception for the Industrial Park and it was taken out. However, the exception was that they provide some type of alternate transportation for the people that work out there. There is a lot of industry that has gone out there that has been required to put in sidewalks. Now, you are going to tell them now the new businesses are going to have to. I don't know how fair it is to the ones that went in there after 2007 that were hit with this ordinance and then you have got the new ones that are out there now that you are going to exempt them from this ordinance. Councilmember McClain asked, how many have gone in there right now? I know that Delta Peanut is one. Mr. Smith said, East Side Rice, Risever and there is one more, but I can't think of their name right off of the top of my head. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, FMH. Mr. Smith said, yes. Actually, there have probably been six that have gone in since 2007. President Pro-Tempore Moore asked, that have built sidewalks? Mr. Smith said, that have the sidewalk requirements. Some of them still have not been built yet, but they haven't gotten a certificate of occupancy yet either.*

*Chamber of Commerce CEO and President Mark Young said, two things. I disagree with that number. The sidewalk ordinance was passed in 2018. It wasn't 2007 or 2017, but 2018. So, as an example, FMH had already built their facility prior to this being a requirement. The two that were mentioned, one under construction, Delta Peanut and Risever. There is a third company that this has impacted as well located in the Jonesboro Industrial Park which is Kenny Manufacturing. Those are the ones that have been affected directly for it. We appreciate Councilmember Hafner and all of his work in promoting sidewalks. We were supportive of that. Our concern initially in 2018 and now it has stemmed itself and is growing fruit is that a big part of the challenge of safety. So, as an example, in one of the projects right now, the individual would have to construct a sidewalk that would cross multiple driveways where 18 wheelers go in and out and an additional location or two that also has train traffic going in and out, as well as, another driveway that has employees. If you look at the intent of the ordinance as it originally existed, it was to promote safety of pedestrians and 30 years ago when the Industrial Parks were constructed, part of the reason why they were constructed this far in East Jonesboro was the number of interactions between trucks, between trains, and between employee vehicles. So, it was done intentionally and that has been a challenge for us.*

*Councilmember Joe Hafner said, I understand some of the points being made. One thing that we talked about in 2018 a little bit when we were looking at the Industrial Park was is there a safe way to build a sidewalk from a bus stop to a parking lot or something at the factory. I am not sure and I don't think Mr. Black is here and I'm not going to put him on the spot right now, but I would kind of like to hear as part of the plan for JETS is there a plan to put more stops out there and, if so, one way to kind of work around this instead of letting them off with no in lieu of fee and just have a total exemption is maybe have the factories donate to a fund that will help build these walkways from parking lots to the JETS stops so they can get their safely and not have to walk through fields or something like that. It is just a thought.*

*President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore said, I assume we are going to hold this to three readings.*

*Councilmember David McClain said, maybe we look at it in the next reading or whatever. As Joe just stated, maybe we look at something different. I don't think we should exempt the entire area. I see people walking down Highland going to work in the Industrial Park. To me, the thing that we should do, we should try to make our city more connected. I know we are still disconnected from a standpoint and I think we should do all we can to connect it. I understand safety, but maybe we should look at, maybe we should look at it case by case instead of saying a blanket, we just wipe out the entire park because as Derrel said, you have some companies who have come and they have already had to put sidewalks in. I don't want us to have it disconnected again because of that. I would ask that we maybe look at something a little different instead of just wiping out just a blanket nobody in the Industrial Park has to do it. I don't think we are being good stewards by doing that.*

*Roger Kidd, 3718 Hwy. 463 S., said, my thinking as I was watching this go on about Industrial Park sidewalks and as one who has spent pretty much more less 20 years working in the Industrial Park, I appreciate the comments Councilmember McClain just made. However, it cost more money to get into details. I am going to go a little bit further because I like what Councilmember McClain just mentioned, maybe, just maybe, as far as safety is concerned and being one that has driven and walked out there more than one time for years, maybe, if this council would consider a little bit more civil engineering with the streets out there. Maybe, make them wider, maybe add in a half a lane on each side for a sidewalk in the future or some lot that has been sold that has not been developed yet, things like that. I certainly like Councilmember McClain's comments. Thank you.*

#### **Held at one reading**

#### [ORD-20:032](#)

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING AN EXCEPTIONAL SITUATION AND WAIVING THE REQUIREMENTS OF COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR EMERGENCY STORM WORK TO REPAIR TRAFFIC SIGNALS AFTER THE MARCH 28, 2020 TORNADO.

*Councilmember Mitch Johnson motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-20:032 by title only. All voted aye.*

*Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Charles Frierson, to suspend the rules and waive the second and third readings. All voted aye.*

*Phillip Glover, 420 Chatham Cove, said, I just want to know who is going to do the work. Who is the company and are they a local company? City Attorney Carol Duncan said, actually the work was completed right after the tornado. This is pretty much a cleanup ordinance because we needed it for Legislative Audit. It was an emergency at the time to get those stoplights fixed and I believe they were repaired within a week or two after the tornado in order to get traffic flowing again. Mr. Glover said, so, we are voting on something now to approve something that we have already done. Ms. Duncan said, yes, it is a cleanup ordinance. It is used to clean it up for Legislative Audit. Mr. Glover said, alright, okay. Ms. Duncan said, Craig may be able to answer who did the work. Director of City Engineering Craig Light said, it was done by DeSoto County Electric, but they are our annual bid contractor for traffic signal work. That is who we call when we have problems on a normal basis that does work for us. We do have a contract with them, but we did have to buy some equipment this time, some poles and stuff that they had in stock that they used and we didn't go through a bidding process on those particular items. It is someone that we have done business with for several years. Mr. Glover asked, how much did that cost? President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore said, it cost \$46,914.50. Mr. Glover said, okay, thank you. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, just to point out that the repairs did cost \$46,914.50, but the repairs were paid*

from insurance recovery monies. President Pro-Tempore Moore said, duly noted.

**A motion was made by Councilperson John Street, 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;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

**Absent:** 1 - Bobby Long

Enactment No: O-EN-031-2020

## 7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

#### [ORD-20:031](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, FROM C-3, GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT TO RS-7 SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT LIMITED USE OVERLAY FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3515 LONGCREST DRIVE AS REQUESTED BY CARLOS WOOD ON BEHALF OF B & T LAND COMPANY, LLC.

**Attachments:** [Application](#)  
[Rezoning Plat](#)  
[Staff Summary - City Council](#)  
[Pictures of Rezoning Signs](#)  
[TURMAN LONGCREST REZONING-REV071020](#)  
[USPS Receipts](#)  
[Warranty Deed](#)

**Held at second reading**

### ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

#### [ORD-20:025](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE AND ABANDON A 40' DRAINAGE AND UTILITY EASEMENT LOCATED ACROSS PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2610 NESTLE WAY IN THE CRAIGHEAD TECHNOLOGY PARK IN JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AS REQUESTED BY JOHN EASLEY OF ASSOCIATED ENGINEERING ON BEHALF OF JONESBORO CITY WATER AND LIGHT

**Attachments:** [Abandonment concurrence - 2610 Nestle Way](#)  
[Notice](#)  
[Petition](#)  
[Plat](#)  
[utility letters](#)

*Councilmember John Street abstained from discussion and voting on ORD-20:025 due to serving on the Board of City Water and Light. Councilmember Charles Frierson abstained from discussion and voting on ORD-20:025 due to serving on the Board of City Water and Light.*

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

**Aye:** 9 - Ann Williams;Chris Moore;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

**Absent:** 1 - Bobby Long

**Abstain:** 2 - Charles Frierson and John Street

Enactment No: O-EN-032-2020

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

*President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore reported on the following items:*

*July 2020 Financial Reports are out and they are on Legistar.*

*The first regularly scheduled city council meeting in October is scheduled for Tuesday, October 6, 2020 and that will conflict with National Night Out. I would entertain a motion to change the council meeting to Thursday, October 8, 2020. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman motioned, seconded by Councilmember Mitch Johnson, to move the first city council meeting in October from Tuesday, October 6, 2020 to Thursday, October 8, 2020 due to a conflict with National Night Out. All voted aye.*

*Chief of Staff Mike Downing reported on the following items:*

*I want to remind everyone that the Census is coming due. Field work concludes on September 30, 2020. Responses can be done either online or my2020census.gov by mail or by phone. The phone number is 844-330-2020. The response rate for Craighead County is 62% as of a couple of days ago. Compared to Arkansas, it is 58%. The US is 64%. So, we are around the US rate. We need to be better because it will cost us money if we don't get everybody counted.*

*The Veteran's Village groundbreaking was today. It was a very good event. It was a good turnout. I want to also indicate that Regina and staff is initiating fundraising for additional items. We had some encouraging news from attendees today about that. We have some folks to help us. So, if folks are interested and looking at making contributions for both the community center and the interior items of the Veteran's Village, contact Regina.*

*You saw the financial reports. It is both on Legistar and the city's finance webpage. All of those financial reports are posted.*

*The JETS CARES Act, we hope to conclude soon which will include the sidewalk discussion that you brought up. I am not quite satisfied yet that we have got the details we need on the sidewalks. That is what we are working on. We will bring it to you as soon as we get that worked out.*

*A couple of days ago, I was out driving around looking at some of the areas that are recovering from tornado cleanup and business restarts. Do you think the council would like a report on the status of cleanups and business restarts? President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore said, I believe so. Several other councilmembers said yes. Mr. Downing said, okay, we will work on that. It will also include the airport reconstruction and the status of those things. I think you would be interested in that. The Police Department*

and Emergency Management has worked on an after report from the tornado. I think it would be interesting to include that as well. We will be working on that soon for council meetings.

The gentleman that asked about the Finance Committee meetings, I went back on Legistar and it only goes back to 2007 and the Finance Committee has always met at 4:00 p.m. since then. It may be back further than 2007. I will check on that if necessary. Councilmember John Street said, I think it goes back to 2002. It is either 2001 or 2002. It has been 4:00 p.m. ever since I have been on it and this is the 18th year.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I have a couple of questions. I am on the Beautification Committee, but I have had several individuals in this community contact me even as of today about cleanups. I know the Beautification Committee is ongoing and is trying to do, in my mind, the big thing for the whole of Jonesboro. I understand that. But, right now, we have individuals that we have been doing cleanups every year for about the last fifteen years. Now, I am getting several calls asking why we can't have cleanups. I have explained a little bit to the fact that we have this COVID situation, but at the same time, our people are out doing some things. I would hope that you would look at that and get back with Mike Tyner. I have called him several times about it. I don't want to get ahead of somebody, but, at the same time, over here on the north side, people have started putting stuff out on the streets already. As a matter of fact, right down the street from my house there is a load. So, I would appreciate if you could look into that. It is a serious issue. I have had several people ask me about it. But, like I told them, I was kind of waiting on the Beautification Committee, but I think that we need to do something a little faster in certain areas. I would appreciate it very much. Mr. Downing said, I will ask Beverly Parker. If you will recall, she was supposed to make a report to you all several months ago and we delayed it because of COVID. So, I will get with her and we will make a report. Councilmember Coleman said, well, I don't want the report to be for the whole of Jonesboro. In the area that I live in, we need to do something.

President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore asked, is there a possibility that maybe during the next month or so that we can get someone from the Airport Commission to come make a presentation and kind of give us the big plan of what we are going to do. I know the airport has been pretty much destroyed and we are seeking grants and maybe if somebody could come and make a presentation of what the plan will be to rebuild or expand because we have read in the newspaper on several occasions, they are thinking about improving the runway surface for larger planes. Mr. Downing said, we will do that.

[COM-20:041](#)

JULY 2020 FINANCIAL REPORTS

**Attachments:**

[Financial Overview July 2020](#)  
[Observations Regarding July 2020 Financial Statements](#)  
[Statement of Changes in FB, Required Reserve and STIP Balances Report J](#)  
[Deposit Collateralization Report July 2020](#)  
[Revenue Report July 2020](#)  
[Expenditure Report July 2020](#)  
[Sales Tax Report \(Combined\) July 2020](#)  
[State Turnback Report \(Combined\) July 2020](#)

Filed

**9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

*Councilmember John Street said, I would just like to remind everyone if you did sign up for it, tomorrow is the beginning of the first ever virtual Arkansas Municipal League Convention. If you did sign up for it, they asked people to logon about 1:00 p.m. and it starts at 1:30 p.m.*

*Councilmember Mitch Johnson said, Public Safety met earlier this evening and we had a resolution presented to us that due to time constraints on the signatures required and being returned, I would like to suspend the rules and walk-on RES-20:120 to tonight's agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson. All voted aye. However, no motion or second was made to adopt RES-20:120.*

**[RES-20:120](#)**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES AND ACCEPT THE 2020 STRONG SOUTHERN COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE MICRO GRANT.

**Attachments:**     [2020 SSCI Micro-Grant Agreement](#)

*Councilmember Mitch Johnson motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to suspend the rules and walk-on RES-20:120. All voted aye.*

*RES-20:120 was read and a comment period was held. However, no motion or second was made to adopt RES-20:120. Therefore, a Special Called City Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 25, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. to address this issue.*

*Councilmember Mitch Johnson said, as Chair of Public Safety, I wanted to echo my sentiments for the leadership of Chief Elliott in the City of Jonesboro. He is a great asset and his leadership has proven good in normal times and definitely we need that more than ever now. So, Chief, thank you very much. President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore said, I think you pretty much have said everything you need to know when you say you have 100,000 interactions with the public and only 53 complaints. Councilmember Johnson said, exactly.*

*Councilmember LJ Bryant said, the Chief is always ahead of the curve. He is a great leader and always kind of working ahead of the curve.*

*Councilmember Joe Hafner said, the time that I have spent working with the JPD officers, when I started doing ride-a-longs and then became a reserve officer, my respect has nothing but grown for them and they way that they treat people that they pull over. A lot of times, people are not happy because they have gotten pulled over, but the officers are just doing their job. I can tell you that the officers treat everyone they pull over with respect. Now, sometimes, that respect may not last very long if the person that got pulled over is not having respect back to the officer. The professionalism that is shown is something that we should be proud of and that goes back to the 100,000 calls and 53 complaints. That is amazing. So, thank you Chief. I think very highly of you.*

**10. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*Patti Lack, 4108 Forrest Hill Road, said, the reason why I had said something about*

*the SkyCops is that we haven't heard about it lately. I think it is a real plus especially with your talk earlier tonight. My suggestion would be is that I don't know how many more SkyCops that we need. I know we probably need a lot more, but how many would it be to make us that much better off. And if we could, if the bathrooms aren't required with a deadline of mid-year, next year of 2021, if we didn't spend the total of the \$500,000 on the restrooms, that maybe we could complete the whole SkyCop and get the SkyCops where they are needed. So, that was my suggestion and where I was going with that. So, could you answer that? Police Chief Rick Elliott said, the short answer is there will never be enough SkyCops. I mean we could virtually put one on every corner and monitor the whole city at some point in time. As far as problematic areas, when we start doing crime statistics and looking at our problematic areas, another five or six would be real handy at this point. The SkyCops Committee did meet last week. That was the first time that we had to have a meeting due to COVID and we were able to find a location and host a meeting and maintain social distancing. Out of that meeting, I think we have a couple of potential donors, businesses that are ready to step up. They have to run it through their corporate people, but potentially, that is looking good. I think another meeting will be here in the near future. I think the program will be ongoing and continue to grow, but there is not a limit to what we could do with this technology. I don't have the long term answer. Anywhere we could put a camera, especially like at Craighead Forest, of course, we have one out there, but we would absolutely like to have multiple cameras out there to make the people out there feel even more safe. We have to base it on crime versus in the public so it is a balancing act. We try to serve both the best that we can. It depends on the donations, if the individual wants to buy a basic setup that may not fit the criteria that I need in the high crime areas. So, then we might put that camera out at Craighead. So, we just have to take it based on the money that comes in and our needs. Some of these high crime areas, we would like gunshot recognition and license plate reading technology added to the system and that drives the price up to \$10,000-\$12,000 versus a basic three camera setup of \$6,000. It depends upon the donor. If we have small amounts, we have a special fund set up at City Hall that people can make a donation to that account and then as money becomes available, we will buy units accordingly. President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore asked, Chief, did you say if a community group or somebody wanted to raise money, they would need to raise between \$6,000-\$10,000? Chief Elliott said, roughly. We will take money in the account. We are looking at a basic three camera setup that is about \$6,000 and that is a complete install and ready to go. It goes up from there, whatever you add to that system depending on where you put it. That is basically what you are looking at roughly. Now, there is some other technology out there that we are looking at also where we could maybe do less cameras. Again, it depends on the area that you are trying to look at. President Pro-Tempore Moore said, thank you Chief. Ms. Lack said, I guess what I am saying is that we don't put as fancy restrooms out there at the shooting range and put them towards the SkyCops because I think it is a real plus for the city. Thanks.*

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Councilperson Mitch Johnson, seconded by Councilperson LJ Bryant, that this matter be Adjourned . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 11 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

**Absent:** 1 - Bobby Long



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

**Harold Perrin, Mayor**

**Attest:**

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

**Donna Jackson, City Clerk**