



MEMORANDUM

DATE: 10-02-97

TO: Mayor Hubert Brodell
Lynda Medlock
Jim Pitts
Dave Young
Ron Bowen
Chris Thyer

Charles Frierson
Joe Heinemann
Steve Pagan
Henry Jones
Ralph Waddell
Nancy Elphinstone

Jim McKinnon
Kevin Imboden
John Troutt
Ben E. Owens
Skip Mooney, Jr.

FROM: John Freeman

RE: Joint Meeting of Downtown Jonesboro Improvement Committee and Downtown Merchants Association Meeting, August 19, 1997
AND
Downtown Jonesboro Improvement Committee Luncheon Meeting, August 21, 1997

The following is the combined minutes of the above referenced meetings. I apologize for the delay in getting these minutes to you - - things have been very busy for me during the past 30 days here at the bank, and I have been remiss in sending this information to you in a timely manner.

Please note we are scheduling our next luncheon meeting of the Downtown Jonesboro Improvement Committee for 12:00 noon on Thursday, October 9th, in the Board Room on the fourth floor of Union Planters Bank, 300 South Church. We hope each of you will be able to attend this important meeting. Please RSVP to Gaye Roach with your intentions on attending this luncheon meeting. Gaye's direct number at the bank is 933-2376.

*** Mayor Brodell announced he would be making a request to the City Council in the amount of \$75,000.00 for improvements to the sidewalks and street repair in the downtown area.

*** The Downtown Jonesboro Improvement Committee presented a letter to Mayor Brodell and the Jonesboro City Council requesting their attention to whatever ordinance and/or regulation that might be necessary to institute effective inspection of existing buildings and bringing up buildings in the downtown area to acceptable standards of safety and sanitation.

*** Gibson Sign Company is in the process of removing all the old downtown business district signage. They will be capping off those sign locations with a 2' X 4' square of concrete.

*** No response has been received to date from the Attorney General's Office regarding disbursement of funds held by the Downtown Improvement District.

*** It was announced by a member of the Downtown Merchants Association that Harris Furniture Store is planning a major expansion of their furniture store on Main Street.

MEMO - DOWNTOWN JONESBORO MEETINGS

October 2, 1997

Page 2

***** Questions were asked regarding the membership of the Downtown Merchants Association and ways we could obtain a new solicitation out to all downtown retail stores to become a participant in the Downtown Merchants Association. Several of the merchants present at this meeting stated they had not received an invitation to this meeting but took it upon themselves to attend to represent their retail establishment. It was discussed that it appears that no meetings of the Downtown Merchants Association have taken place in over two years - - and it appears for all practical purposes that this committee is defunct and not functioning. It was discussed that the committee feels it is impossible for us to have a downtown district meeting the expectations we are setting for our downtown area without a Downtown Merchants Association directing their efforts.**

***** Jim Pitts discussed the downtown problem we are having with our trees being overgrown and unsightly in appearance. Williams Tree Service has agreed to perform a major pruning and reshape the trees in the downtown business district for a cost of \$2,300.00. The committee felt this was well worth the money to go forward with this service, with the City of Jonesboro and the Improvement District each paying half the cost of service.**

***** City Water and Light has agreed to work with the Downtown Improvement District and the Downtown Jonesboro Improvement Committee to determine what appropriate lighting needs we should be considering for the downtown area to replace the signage that is being taken down. The City of Jonesboro has agreed to put up comparable lighting that is utilized throughout other areas of Jonesboro.**

***** The preliminary estimate of cost for the research project was discussed at length by the group. MidWest Research Institute has presented a proposal which would have a projected estimated cost of \$20,300.00. This cost does not include task #5, which is a development of a reuse plan. The committee feels that this is the key part of the plan that is needed most by the Downtown Jonesboro Improvement Committee to determine what space would be most appropriately redesigned and used for the future betterment of the downtown area. Without this task being completed, we feel the project would be incomplete. Its anticipated the cost of this task could be equal to, if not greater, that the original cost, which makes the survey expense extremely high. Further discussion will be made at the next meeting concerning this project.**

***** April from D'Arcy Interiors suggested the City of Jonesboro and the Downtown Merchants Associations look at ways to improve signage locations directing traffic to the downtown district. She stated that from the Highway 63 Bypass there is very little signage available for this purpose. This is a concern of the committee and the Mayor offered his assistance in looking into proper signage in directing traffic to the downtown area.**

There being no further business, this meeting was adjourned.

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gcr**



MEMORANDUM

DATE: 10-02-97
TO: MAYOR HUBERT BRODELL
FROM: JOHN C. FREEMAN
RE: ORIGINAL LETTER CONCERNING BUILDING INSPECTIONS

Mayor, attached is the original letter that was presented at our last Downtown Jonesboro Improvement Committee meeting on August 19th concerning building inspections which is to be presented to the City Council.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

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gcr

attachment

August 19, 1997

**Mayor Hubert Brodell and
Jonesboro City Council**

Ladies and Gentlemen:

A number of interested businessmen/women and property owners have joined together to begin the process of developing approaches to the improvement of Jonesboro's downtown area. All the evidence we have gathered indicates that a downtown with vitality is still a necessary and desirable part of the future of any community.

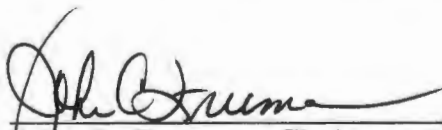
We know that there must be a cooperative and coordinated effort of all persons interested in civic improvement for there to be the kind of effort that will cause us to once again be proud of our downtown area. One of these efforts, we believe, should be along the lines of ensuring that existing structures are safe and sanitary. Some definitely are not at the present time.

It is the purpose of this letter to encourage you, the City Council, who represent the most important part of any effort, to move forward, to research and put in place whatever kinds of ordinances and regulations that may be necessary to institute effective inspection of existing buildings on some recurring basis to ensure that these buildings are maintained, or, perhaps more importantly, are brought up to a standard of safety and sanitation that will reduce the risk of damage and destruction in this closely connected commercial area. This might involve, among other things, establishing a system of electrical inspections or a more complete system of structural inspection on the part of city representatives.

We are not certain what is needed in this regard, therefore, we have no package of documents to submit to you for your consideration. We would be glad to work with anyone you designate to study and produce these results.

Since our research leads us to believe that there are substandard structures in the downtown area, we would hope that this process could begin as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your consideration



**John C. Freeman, Chairman
Downtown Jonesboro Committee**

Proof of Publication

STATE OF ARKANSAS
COUNTY OF CRAIGHEAD

I, John W. Scurtt, Jr. solemnly swear that I am manager of the JONESBORO SUN, daily newspaper of general circulation printed in the Western District of Craighead County and I was such manager at the date of publication hereinafter stated, and that said newspaper had a bona-fide circulation in such county at said dates, and had been regularly published in said county for the period of one month next before the date of the first publication of the advertisement hereto annexed, and that said advertisement was

published in said newspaper 1 times ~~once~~ a week for 1

weeks ~~consecutively~~, the first insertion therein having been made on the

31st day of January, 1997;

2nd insertion _____ day of _____, 19____;

3rd insertion _____ day of _____, 19____;

4th insertion _____ day of _____, 19____;

5th insertion _____ day of _____, 19____;

6th insertion _____ day of _____, 19____;

7th insertion _____ day of _____, 19____;

John W. Scurtt, Jr.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 31st day of

January, 1997

[Signature]

My commission expires Sept 29 2001

Fee for print, \$ 20.72

Cost of Proof, \$ _____ Rec'd Payment _____

Total - - - \$ 20.72

NOTICE OF FILING OF ASSESS-
MENT
JONESBORO SEWER IMPROVE-
MENT DISTRICT NO. 2
OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS
The assessment of Jonesboro
Sewer Improvement District
No. 2 of Jonesboro, Arkansas
was filed in my office on the
24th day of January, 1997, and
the same is now subject to in-
spection.
Donna K. Jackson
City Clerk
City of Jonesboro, Arkansas
(1t,1-31)