



# City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center  
300 S. Church Street  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

## Meeting Minutes Public Services Council Committee

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Tuesday, December 19, 2023

4:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER

### 2. ROLL CALL (ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE) CONFIRMED BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

*Councilmember Ann Williams joined the meeting at 4:32 PM.*

**Present** 7 - Chris Gibson; Joe Hafner; Ann Williams; Brian Emison; LJ Bryant; Anthony Coleman and Janice Porter

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[MIN-23:113](#)

Minutes for the Public Services Committee Meeting on Tuesday, November 21, 2023

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

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

**Aye:** 5 - Joe Hafner; Brian Emison; LJ Bryant; Anthony Coleman and Janice Porter

**Absent:** 1 - Ann Williams

### 4. NEW BUSINESS

### 5. PENDING ITEMS

### 6. OTHER BUSINESS

[COM-23:065](#)

MONTHLY JETS UPDATE

**Sponsors:** JETS

**Attachments:** [JETS Ridership 2023](#)

*Interim Director of JETS Lee Wells approached the podium and said, how are you? Chairman Chris Gibson said, doing well. And yourself? Mr. Wells said, I'm good. I have provided you all a brief snapshot of our ridership. Also, we do have one of the new cutaway buses in. The other is ready to be delivered. I just have to wait until after the holidays to have the time to go down and pick it up. Also, on the trolleys, we have gotten all of that as far as completed to order, so we are just waiting on the*

manufacturer. We are looking at probably August or September is what they are looking at for a turnaround on those. There is nothing really new other than those items.

Chairman Chris Gibson said, any questions from the commission? Councilmember LJ Bryant said, I've got one, Mr. Chairman. It's sort of a budget question, sort of a JETS question, but since you're standing there. Can you walk us through, I know there is a proposed position for JETS in the budget related to I think like a social media coordinator or marketing coordinator or something? Could you walk us through the vision for that position? Mr. Wells said, I'm not 100% on that. What I can give you is just a brief knowledge that I have on it. But a lot of the various departments in the city do have a social media presence. Having someone on staff to be able to help generate that social media presence for JETS to make the announcements on various events and things that we have going on. I know, for example, right now we're doing some extended hours for Winter Wonderland to help our customers get to see Santa at that event. That would just be just one example of something they could do. Another thing is trying to bring some of our advertising opportunities in-house. We do actually receive some contacts from various places that are looking to do some form of advertising. Bringing something like that in-house will just allow us to be able to more efficiently and effectively take care of whatever needs that we may have.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, Mr. Chairman, I would like to follow up on that question. So you weren't the one that proposed that position, because I knew that was a question that I had too? Mr. Wells said, no, it was something that I proposed on there. That is what the purpose is for us to be able to do that. I am just not a 100% sure as far as what the vision is completely. That is just what awareness that I have of that. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, okay. Thank you.

#### Filed

[COM-23:066](#)

#### MONTHLY UPDATE FROM PARKS & RECREATION

##### Sponsors: Parks & Recreation

Parks and Recreation Director Danny Kapales approached the podium and said, so for Parks and Rec as far as this past month, I'll focus first on the pool. We are getting close to shutting it down, but I guess we could really give a positive to the heaters that we installed this past year and the fact that the Jets swim team is going to be finishing up this week. But this has been the longest we've ever been able to keep people in the water, and think about being an outdoor pool, to have folks still swimming and training and practicing at this point. But they will be finished, I believe, Saturday is their last scheduled practice. Wouldn't want to be in the water at this time, but those kids have been out there training and getting prepared. I believe the goal is to get them back in the water the first of March. That is something new for us, but having the heaters installed is what is making that happen.

Chairman Chris Gibson said, what was the issue with the heaters this past couple of weeks? Were they just shut off? Mr. Kapales said, no, the heaters were operational. There was a plumbing issue that caused a shutdown, I believe. You all missed a practice today or yesterday or something like that. Chairman Chris Gibson said, they just said the water was too cold for the kids to swim, so I just assumed there was a heater issue. Mr. Kapales said, yes, they had to shut the heater down, I believe, for today because there was some sort of a plumbing issue that I was made aware of this morning. Stephen has it fixed and getting everything back up and going for the rest of the week. Chairman Chris Gibson said, just curious. Mr. Kapales said, yes, that's it.

Mr. Kapales said, as far as sports, currently we have elementary basketball going on up until this past weekend, and then we are on Christmas break like everybody else. We will be starting everything back up first of January for elementary basketball. Basically for us, we operate the Jonesboro and Nettleton, but we work with all the other area schools to help schedule games, things of that sort. I think we are roughly 50 some odd teams that are within those elementary programs. We will also host three elementary basketball tournaments for that group, so that is another impact for our area. That will bring not only our local teams and kids a chance to play, but also bring teams in from other parts of Arkansas. Some will come in from Southeast Missouri, but that will be a chance for them to come play for the weekend. Currently we are planning for the Icebreaker Volleyball Tournament coming up January 13th. I am right at 100 teams now, which will put it being the largest tournament that we have had. That is another thanks to all the schools to make that happen, Jonesboro, Valley View, Nettleton, Westside. We've used basically every school in town to help us make that tournament happen. I've got teams coming as far away as 267 miles away to come spend the weekend in Jonesboro. So that is an impact on the city for volleyball for a weekend. It's a lot of people when you start thinking of 100 teams. That is an average of about 12 players per team and bringing their whole family. So it's a really big, big weekend for us.

Chairman Chris Gibson said, I assume that will start on Friday night. Mr. Kapales said, actually games will start on Saturday, but people will show up on Friday because games will be starting up right at 8 AM. They usually show up to the gym anywhere from 6:45 to 7:00 in the morning to start getting ready, and it will go late into the evening. Our difficulty with starting on a Friday or going on a Sunday is because we do use the schools; and getting people into the schools on a Friday night is pretty tough and that is also our setup time. A lot of times we have to wait for any practices or any scheduled games within the schools to be done, and then we get into the schools. A lot of times, it is 9:00, 10:00 at night before we can even get into the schools to start setting up. So it may be three or four o'clock in the morning before we are done with all of our setup for that Saturday tournament; and then we turn right around and start tearing it back down. That is where fortunately in a couple of years when we have a sports complex, it is going to make it that much easier for somebody else to host a tournament at that point.

We had a really good season with football, tackle, flag football to a point that we are looking at having a tackle spring program, something we've never done before. We have a lot of kids that don't participate in other sports, but football is what they love. Then we also have a lot of communities outside of Jonesboro that they don't have baseball teams. They don't have soccer teams, but football is what they focus on. So during the springtime, we are setting up an opportunity for them to come to Jonesboro and play football and give our kids here that just have a passion for the game to play another eight weeks of football just in the springtime. So we are looking at different opportunities. Another program that was really successful this fall that we are looking at adding another season to is our NEA Volleyball program. We are going to look at the springtime and add another season for it. That way, our young ladies that want to have another opportunity to play volleyball, that will be another chance for them.

Program wise, we continue to reevaluate what we are doing and how we can just add opportunities for children to be involved. We also currently have an adult league volleyball program going. I can't give you the numbers. I'm not sure how many teams, but it's enough that we are having to use two courts. In the past, it has usually been one court's worth, so that has been an increase. Another big piece that we have is the

*indoor turf field. It's staying full all the time. It's not that it's a big facility, but it's a very used facility. Every time I go by there, there are multiple teams inside that turf, not only on the turf. They are on the basketball court next to it, trying to have a soccer practice. So it just shows the need for more indoor turf facility for kids throughout the winter months when it's cool to have practice time. To add to that, we have the outdoor turf that is going in play. That project is in full swing at the moment. Last time I was out there, rock was being laid out. They were digging out the drainage trenches, pouring concrete. So it appeared everything was still on schedule. I credit a lot of that to having a good contractor, but also having really good weather right now for construction. Anything else?*

*Chairman Chris Gibson said, any questions by the committee? Councilmember LJ Bryant said, I have a few, Mr. Chairman. Easy ones, I think, Danny. I know I am probably beating a dead horse on this, and I kind of remember the answer. I know we got a grant, I think we got a grant, for lights for night at Craighead Forest, right? But it kind of came in over budget or something? Mr. Kapales said, yes, so we basically budgeted for lights. We had utilized a company that gave us a price for the lights. The pricing was what we thought was turnkey but was not. So once we purchased them, yes, we were over budget to get them installed. Well, I've been working with a contractor. I've got a contractor in place to install them, working with City Water & Light. The piece that I am held up on is a product called a screw pile. Basically, if you drive along Parker Road right now, you will see these big metal four foot pieces laying on the side of the road that City Water & Light are currently using to install all their streetlights. That is the piece that I am trying to purchase currently. We have never been able to purchase from any of these groups because it is usually offered to utility companies. So I am trying to work with them on a contract. It looks like I have finally found a few companies that will bid. They will turn a bid into a municipality, and so now I'm working on getting that specs put in to be able to bid out. But it has been a process. On Friday, I took a one day vacation and was out of town on that day. I was still communicating with a few folks. I had went outside of my email because I've had this email chain for three months with a couple of organizations. I finally went through the email and found somebody that they had been communicating with, and it was the manufacturer. I was like, hey, can you help me? They said no, we actually cannot sell to you; but the next thing I got an email from the supplier that said, hey, we can help you with this. We will make sure we get you a bid in if you can send it out to us. That was the answer I have been waiting on. I have been waiting on those answers to come to me so that I can actually put it out.*

*With that being said, yes, we are behind on it. The light poles are here. The lights are here. All the components we need are put in place. City Water and Light is ready to work on it. The contractor to install is ready. It's that one coming component, 232 screw piles is what we are waiting on. Councilmember LJ Bryant said, so knock on wood, a year from now it's done? Mr. Kapales said, I would hope that by spring, if I can get those in place. The contractor wants to work on it through the wet season, because for them they could actually be out here while it is wet, working off of our trail, installing them. Then once they get us installed, they go back to doing sports field, installing sports lighting at that point. So that would be my hopes, that as soon as I can get this ordered and in place, they can put them in this spring.*

*Councilmember LJ Bryant said, so last question. If we zoomed out and we had a drone and we were looking at Craighead Forest right now, how used up are we at the park? Mr. Kapales said, oh, there is a lot of property that could be used for different things; but I think that before we really do anything else to that park, we either repair what needs to be repaired (and that would be any of our fishing piers and fishing docks that*

*need to be updated) and then we actually program that park. That park needs to be fully evaluated and fully programmed before we make any other major moves within that park. Councilmember LJ Bryant said, makes sense. Thank you.*

*Chairman Chris Gibson said, anything else by the committee? Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, when you say programmed, what do you mean by that? Mr. Kapales said, it just means basically that somebody with more experience in a planning background would help us look at that park at a much more ground level, and actually plan the park out before we just go in and start throwing more things at it. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, is that something that the master parks plan is looking at? Mr. Kapales said, no, not on that detail. If we want to get into that detail, that really comes down to somebody we hire to actually specifically look at that park and plan that specific park out.*

*Chairman Chris Gibson said, softball coordinator position? Any luck on filling that yet? Mr. Kapales said, yes, not luck, but we've got a few applicants. A couple weeks ago, Brandon and I had to take a trip to Rogers, and it was a good trip being both of us having to go over there. He kept a folder, and we basically were going through the folder itself with a lot of projects. We needed time together but we hadn't had a chance to sit and go through. So we've narrowed it down to a handful of folks that he is calling in for interviews on...I believe he was planning on getting them in by Thursday this week. So we are supposed to be having interviews on Thursday.*

**Filed**

## **7. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Aye:** 6 - Joe Hafner; Ann Williams; Brian Emison; LJ Bryant; Anthony Coleman and Janice Porter