



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, July 19, 2022

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

PUBLIC SAFETY COUNCIL 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 utility easement located on part of Lot 1 of HB Medical Holdings Apache Drive Minor Plat as requested by HB Medical Holdings, LLC. 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; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Joe Hafner; David McClain; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent 1 - Bobby Long

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Tribute and Moment of Silence for Officer Vincent Parks

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, good evening Council. Normally, I stand up here with exciting news for the community, but tonight I would like to say a few words on behalf of an event that occurred this past weekend and it is a very significant event. It is a month of sadness for the City of Jonesboro as one of our newest JPD recruits passed away this weekend.

Officer Vincent Parks had only recently dedicated himself to serve our city, as a member of our proud Jonesboro Police Department. His passing on Sunday was a tragedy not only for his personal family including his wife Christina and his wonderful daughter, many of the loved ones of his family, but also for his new City family.

Jonesboro will never get to see the impact Officer Parks would eventually make in service to our community, but we do owe him the tribute of any officer willing to put our safety above their own. Jonesboro Police Department carries on with its duties, despite a heavy heart. I share that weight, as I know you do as well. So before we proceed tonight with this Council session, I ask that we all bow our heads in a moment of silence honoring Jonesboro Police Officer Vincent Parks.

Thank you.

A funeral service will be held at noon Friday at Central Baptist Church, preceded by visitation from 9:30 a.m. until noon at the church.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

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

Absent: 1 - Bobby Long

[MIN-22:061](#) MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON JULY 5, 2022

Attachments: [CC Minutes 07052022](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-22:106](#) A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO ENTER INTO AN INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT WITH VIKING CAPITAL, LLC

Attachments: [Indemnification Agreement - 303 S Main](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-106-2022

RESOLUTIONS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

[RES-22:099](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 2612 Crawford : Parcel : 01-144273-02300 OWNER: Randy and Aley Crawford

Attachments: [CityJboroMayor 20220606 130041](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Moore, 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; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Joe Hafner; David McClain; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent: 1 - Bobby Long

Enactment No: R-EN-107-2022

[RES-22:102](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 416 N Main Street, Parcel: 01-144182-10400. OWNER: Roger L. Smith

Attachments: [416 North Main Supporting Docs](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Moore, 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; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Joe Hafner; David McClain; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent: 1 - Bobby Long

Enactment No: R-EN-108-2022

[RES-22:104](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 3016 HWY 141 North : Parcel: 01-154311-00800: OWNER: RKC Investments, LLC

Attachments: [3016 N 141 Supporting docs](#)

Jarrold Dunigan, 1801 Conway Lane, said, I just saw the article on the front page of the paper about the property, just a couple of hours ago. So, I am really unprepared. I know it had mentioned that you all were looking for a couple of proposals for the property and you couldn't really come up with anything. However, I had actually been in talks with Mr. Wesley at the ministry a couple of years ago about the property. And, the last couple of years haven't been good, but they haven't been good for a lot of people. The property ended up selling for about half of what was quoted to me. I don't know how the whole process is. I thought I would come up here and if there was enough interest, I could put together a deeper proposal and submit it about the ideas that I had for the property. Is this the right place? Councilmember Chris Moore stated, the point before us is strictly the condemnation, not redevelopment. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, the city is not going to end up owning the property. Mr. Dunigan asked, is this the 3016 Hwy. 141-N property? Ms. Duncan said, right. The city will not own it with this condemnation. What would happen is if the condemnation goes through, the city would tear down the building and put a lien on the property. Mr. Dunigan said, okay. Ms. Duncan said, so we wouldn't own it. RKC Investments is who owns the property. So, that is who you would need to talk to. Mr. Dunigan asked, can I come up there? I can't hear. Ms. Duncan said, RKC Investments is who you would need to speak to about any proposal to purchase the property because the city doesn't own it and won't own it at the end of this. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, it is a condemnation of the facility on the property. That is all this is. So, RKC Investments will still have ownership of the property. Ms. Duncan stated, Tony Thomas, in the back is going to explain it all to you. Mayor Copenhaver said, he can help you. Ms. Duncan said, he can help explain it all to you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you sir.

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Moore, 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; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Joe Hafner; David McClain; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent: 1 - Bobby Long

Enactment No: R-EN-109-2022

6. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-22:030](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO PLACE VARIOUS TRAFFIC SIGNS AT DESIGNATED LOCATIONS AS DETERMINED BY THE TRAFFIC CONTROL COMMITTEE

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Charles Frierson to suspend the rules and offer ORD-22:030 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

[ORD-22:032](#)

AN ORDINANCE REGARDING THE ABANDONMENT OF A UTILITY EASEMENT LOCATED ON PART OF LOT 1 OF HB MEDICAL HOLDINGS APACHE DRIVE MINOR PLAT AS REQUESTED BY HB MEDICAL HOLDINGS, LLC

Attachments: [Petition](#)
[Plat](#)
[Resolution](#)
[Letters](#)
[city letter](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison to suspend the rules and offer ORD-22:032 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

[ORD-22:033](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR ASSISTING OTHERS, INC., D/B/A THE EDGE COFFEE SHOP TO BE LOCATED AT 1900 AGGIE ROAD, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

Attachments: [Assisting Others, Inc. DBA The Edge Coffee Shop_Redacted](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison to suspend the rules and offer ORD-22:033 by title only. All voted aye.

Councilmember David McClain asked, was this not approved a little over a year or two ago? Councilmember Joe Hafner said, it was a different owner. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, it was a different owner at that time. Councilmember McClain said, got it.

Held at one reading

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[ORD-22:028](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR MAI OF JONESBORO DBA AS VALENTINE NAILS LOCATED AT 1841 E. HIGHLAND DRIVE

Attachments: [Ordinance](#)
[Valentine Nails Highland Drive Redacted-USE THIS](#)

Councilmember Chris Moore stated, I have a few questions. I was in contact with the City Attorney and I asked her to research other cities and learn size and what restrictions they may have. It became pretty obvious that most cities our size are not in a dry county. So, I believe that only left us with one city that places restrictions. Was that Conway Carol? City Attorney Carol Duncan said, their rules are basically the same as ours. Councilmember Moore said, and so, when we contacted the City of Conway, their requirements are basically the same as ours with a character study and an affirmation that the zoning is correct are basically the only two things that they require and that is what we currently require. I just wanted to make those comments. I know that was brought up at the last council meeting. Councilmember Joe Hafner asked, at what point do we correct this ordinance? Ms. Duncan said, the applicants are here if you want them to come forward.

Ms. Duncan asked, has anyone talked to you about the fact that the ordinance is not in the right format? Tuan Le, business address – 1841 E. Highland Drive Suite D, said, we have not heard any recommendations or any new changes to the requirements so far. Ms. Duncan said, well, it is not really about the requirements necessarily. This is just a procedural issue. Your ordinance has the WHEREAS clauses, but it doesn't have the enacting part. So, in order for us to enact it, it has to have NOW THEREFORE the Council finds that and whatever the Council's ruling on it. So, I don't know what you all used to create this, but you all left the bottom off of it. Does that make sense? Mr. Le said, Chrystal Mommsen is the one that helped us with this process. Unfortunately, a lot of this we don't quite understand. Maybe Chrystal can help us explain in further detail. Crystal Mommenson said, that is something that I got from City Hall and I just gave to them and I think that they just rewrote it. Ms. Duncan said, right, but it doesn't have the end of it. It has the three WHEREAS clauses, but it doesn't have a NOW THEREFORE be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Jonesboro that and then Section 1, Section 2, however many sections. Mr. Le asked, so in other words, we would need to rewrite in a correct format? Ms. Duncan said, correct. Mr. Le said, got you. Ms. Duncan said, that is one issue. I don't know if there are other questions that people have for you, but that is the legal question I have. Mr. Le said, got it.

Councilmember Moore asked, if Chrystal is their spokesperson, can I ask you a couple of questions? Ms. Mommsen said, absolutely. Councilmember Moore asked, Chrystal, can you explain to me what the business model is? Typically, in Jonesboro, the business model for a private club is they have requirements to serve food. Ms. Mommsen said, yes and they have a full kitchen. The only reason that I am really involved is because MAI was my non-profit and I gave it to them. So, I have been kind of helping make sure they understand some things about it. They do have a full kitchen. They have a menu. They plan to serve like charcuterie boards, sandwiches, finger foods, and things like that mainly. Councilmember Moore asked, do they intend to serve food as a stand-a-lone business? In other words, is food the primary business or is nails the primary business and the food is just a requirement for the liquor license? Will you be able to come in and sit down and eat at their establishment? Ms. Mommsen said, you will be able to come in and eat at their establishment. I think they are primarily nails though. Councilmember Moore said, okay. Ms. Mommsen said, if you didn't want to get your nails done, say if me and my husband came in, I could get my nails done and he could eat. Or, I could have a cocktail while I was getting my nails done. I think that is kind of the mindset.

Mr. Le asked, can I elaborate on that Mr. Moore? Councilmember Moore said, yes sir. Mr. Le said, the whole purpose is that the clientele come to our business and enjoy a simple glass of wine. It is not elaborate like a bar, like a full blown bar where there are a lot of mixed drinks. If a customer walks in and has a pedicure done and asked for a glass of wine, I'll go with a complement glass of wine mainly. And, if they request if they can buy a glass, then we might pour another glass for them. But, all goes to complement on a first glass you know with a pedicure. To your questions, if someone came in and said you know my kids are here or Chrystal's husband is here, I want a couple of sandwiches, can you make one? Absolutely, we have an area, a designated area around the bar area where they can sit there and we can make the cold sandwiches and bring them it up and serve their family. Absolutely sir. Councilmember Moore said, my only concern is that something is your primary business, not just the service of alcohol. I want to make sure that you are not operating a bar and everything else is a secondary business. So, what you are saying is the nail business will be your primary business and the service of alcohol will just be a continuation of that business not a stand-a-lone business, is that correct? Mr. Le said, yes sir. Councilmember Moore said, that was the only question.

Ms. Duncan asked, have you all talked to the Health Department about any restrictions that they have? I know we had that question last time. Mr. Le said, yes, we did and we met all of the requirements. Little Rock sent us an approved letter of the layouts, the entrance, the exit, and so on and the sanitation part. Then, the City of Jonesboro came out and inspected and passed it. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you. They will need to come back and amend this. Ms. Duncan said, right. I don't know what you all want to do. Do you want to hold it on the second reading until they bring back an amendment? Councilmember Chris Moore said, I would say we would postpone it temporarily and give them time to correct the amendment. Then, it would not be on the next council meeting, but it would be on the one after that. Ms. Duncan said, that would give you time to get it changed and resubmitted to the Clerk's office. Councilmember Chris Moore motioned to temporarily postpone to give them time to correct their ordinance, seconded by Councilmember John Street, until the August 16, 2022 City Council meeting. All voted aye. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you. Ms. Duncan said, just make sure that you all get that to the City Clerk before that date. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, by the Thursday before the City Council meeting. Ms. Duncan said, yes.

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Moore, seconded by Councilperson John Street, that this matter be Postponed Temporarily. The motion PASSED with the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Bobby Long

[ORD-22:031](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 TO C-3 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5459 E. NETTLETON AVENUE AS REQUESTED BY EASTON AGRICULTURAL, LLLP

Attachments: [Staff Summary-C.C.](#)
[HANCOCK SURVEY 20220426](#)
[Application](#)
[Certified Mail Receipt](#)
[Charge Sheet - Paid](#)
[Hancock Survey](#)
[Publication Fee Receipt](#)

Held at second reading

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-22:029](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 TO C-3 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4913 E. JOHNSON AVENUE AS REQUESTED BY HALL PREMIER DEVELOPMENT, LLC

Attachments: [Staff Summary - City Council](#)
[Application](#)
[Boundary Plat](#)
[Boundary Plat Johnson](#)
[Site Plan](#)
[Certified Mail Receipt](#)
[Charge Sheet - Paid](#)
[Publication Fee Receipt - Rezoning](#)

Dianne Craig, 1105 Pomona Street, said, our property is adjacent to this property that is requesting rezoning. I've been unable to attend any previous meetings because of an illness in my family. I was told by the City's Planning Department and also Mr. Dave Hall, the developer with Hall Premiere who I spoke to on July 7, 2022 that there is to be a counseling center there and we are not opposed to the counseling center at all. We do have some concerns about a couple of things. There is a row of trees at the property line at our backyard. My question to Mr. Hall was if the trees would be left there as a barrier between our yard and the counseling center. And, we were also concerned about what kind of parking lot lights would be on that property that might keep the inside of our house lit up all night. And, as our house is very close to this property that could be a problem for us. I spoke to my neighbor next to us that is also adjacent. They are also concerned about the trees. They are unable to attend since they work an hour away and don't get off until 6:00 p.m. Mr. Hall told me that the plans have not been finalized so he could not address either of my concerns as he did not know what trees might be cut and anything about parking lot lights. He said he did not even know at this point exactly where the building would be positioned on the lot. If this property is rezoned with no specific plans, how can I address my concerns? Okay, thank you. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, thank you for your comments and we will get back with you and your husband Mrs. Craig and initiate your concerns. Okay. Thank you for coming forward.

Councilmember Chris Gibson said, this is on third reading. We probably need to call Derrel up. Mayor Copenhaver said, Derrel, if you want to, do you have the footprint of that at this point? No? Okay. Councilmember Chris Moore asked, Mr. Mayor, is it in the general, I mean in the general procedure that once it is rezoned that whatever plan would have to go before the MAPC? Mayor Copenhaver said, that is correct. They are

going to have another opportunity. Councilmember Moore said, I believe what she needs is the opportunity to speak to the MAPC or know their schedule because that is when they will address the parking lot lighting, the trees, the site plan, and all of that. Mayor Copenhaver said, absolutely. So, you will have another opportunity. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, we cannot designate what business goes there. Mayor Copenhaver said, right. Councilmember Moore said, that is correct. Ms. Duncan said, and we are not allowed to ask those questions. Mayor Copenhaver said, right. (Speaking off mic and inaudible) Ms. Duncan asked, Derrel do you want to come up? Ms. Craig asked, will I have an option to address my concerns if they go ahead and rezone it commercial? Mayor Copenhaver said, after this meeting, if it passes, it will be rezoned. And, at that point in time, then whoever owns the property at that time has to submit a plan to Planning. At that point, it starts that process of what type of facility or what the plans are. Then, you can engage your concerns and questions again at that point as well. Councilmember Charles Frierson said, it doesn't come to the Council. Please explain that to her. Ms. Duncan said, yeah, it does not come back here. It goes to the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission which we can let you know when that happens, but just pay attention to their agenda. Will it go to them Derrel on a site plan on something like that? It depends on what the size is right? Planning Director Derrel Smith said, if it is under 75,000 sq. ft., it is staff approved. Ms. Duncan said, it will be staff done. Mrs. Craig asked, how would I know when that is going to be? Ms. Duncan said, Derrel is going to come up and tell you how to get in touch with them.

Councilmember Joe Hafner asked, can I read something while he is coming up as part of the motion from MAPC? Mayor Copenhaver responded, yes sir. Councilmember Hafner said, it says the final site plan is subject to all ordinance requirements and illustrating compliance with site requirements for parking, signage, landscaping, fencing, buffering, outdoor storage, dumpster enclosure, sidewalks, etc. shall be submitted to the Planning Department prior to any development of this property. Ms. Duncan said, right. Mayor Copenhaver said, that is right. Ms. Duncan said, that is going to cover most of that, but she would have to contact them. I think the rules say that lights can't go off the property. Councilmember Moore stated, I do understand her concerns. Mayor Copenhaver said, absolutely. Councilmember Moore said, if it is below the 75,000 sq. ft. threshold, it is going to be reviewed in-house and not at the MAPC so technically you wouldn't know. Mayor Copenhaver said, not unless she knew how to get a hold of them. That's right. Councilmember Moore said, that's right. 75,000 is actually pretty big to be in-house. Mrs. Craig said, thank you very much. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Mrs. Craig. Thank you Derrel.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Bobby Long

Enactment No: O-EN-033-2022

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported on the following:

First of all, I want to tell you since we last met, the Chiefs and I called meetings with all of the local superintendents and SRO's from all of our school districts regarding

safety. Jonesboro experienced a horror of a school shooting a quarter of a century ago and as I see it these events cannot take place in our community as they are around the nation. It is essential that we have a coordinated plan and prompt plan that's flawless response in the event of an active shooter incident. I can promise you our school leaders as well as JPD and the Sheriff's Department are unstinting in their commitment to school safety.

I also held meetings with almost all of our bank presidents to show them how our real-time crime center works and ensure their commitment to growing it. Our banks are some of Jonesboro's greatest strengths and they are committed to this community. I think you will be impressed by what they bring to the table with our commitment together.

This feeds directly into my next note and it is a trip that I took to D.C. this past week and visited with our elected delegation. Our senators and representative are well aware of the dangers of gun violence right now. And, a few of our leadership team and I showed them what we need and how we are prepared to use complementary assistance and we are asking for their assistance in any way that they can provide it. I think the crime center caught their unanimous attention, but we also talked about infrastructure projects ranging from our airport, rail, overpasses and of course, we expressed our gratitude of the \$750,000 we received to improve our JET bus system.

The odd looking device, do we have it? Do you want to bring that up Chief Hamrick? I wanted for this for you council and those in the council to see this. This is one of the new devices that we ordered a year ago and Chief, how many devices did we receive? Fire Chief Marty Hamrick said, we received three complete sets of equipment including a spreader, cutter and rams. They are battery powered. Mayor Copenhaver said, this was purchased with funding that the city approved. Can you show how it works? Chief Hamrick said, these are a lot faster and a lot quieter and a lot stronger than the gas powered units. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Chief. I think it is important that you see what new technology is doing and how the City of Jonesboro are utilizing it for our residents. I want to commend council for allowing us to purchase those. So, I appreciate you coming up and taking the effort Chief. That is called the Jaws of Life. And, as you know, as I mentioned earlier, this came from the ARPA funding that we utilized earlier last year.

We are also finally seeing new equipment that has been trickling in. The chain of supplies continue to loosen up a little bit. We have received a new excavator, a knuckleboom, and a smaller sanitation truck known as a packrat in recent weeks. So, we hope this will ease up some of our stress on the Sanitation Department.

As you know, we are coming off of a very, very big weekend of activities in Jonesboro. I hope a lot of you participated. I saw a few of you at the events. And, I want to offer a big thank you to our Parks Department. It also takes a lot of volunteers to make our weekends very special and I appreciate those who made great days in this community for the soccer tournament at Joe Mack. We had a fabulous JETS swim meet at the Y pool and a one of a kind musician celebration downtown with a lot of musicians, many bands from our local community.

I also want to say thank you to our Police because they provide us a community to live in that we are all very proud of. So, I want to personally say thank you Chief and to all of the departments that make our city great. Thank you so much.

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember LJ Bryant said, I would just say if folks haven't been to ASTATE's Pack Path, it's a really cool bike-ped path. I'm going out there. I have ran quite a bit and once the kids show up, I probably won't go there anymore because they will be busy, but anyway, they have done a really nice job.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

James Elwin Hinds – 508 Ridgecrest, said, before I get to the main thing I got up here for and I know there is at least one person who wanted to be included in this. We have all been hearing about the school shootings and probably everybody in here knows somebody who was shot in a school shooting. I know we have at least one person who helped deal with the Westside shooting and we need to remember and be very thankful for the first responders we had that we are not talking like the people down in Texas what took the police so long to get this under control. Our people were there in an unbelievable amount of time and got the thing reduced. Now, it is sad that we lost some and sad that some got shot, but we will never have to sit and wonder what would have happened had our police been more alert and up to the job. So, we do have to keep that in mind and how thankful we need to be for that. Now, for the thing that I did get up here for and the thing that I came here for. And, I know you can think that we have got 7 ½ years to go before we think of that. Now, 7 ½ years when I was little was a long time. It is not a long time. Seven years can be gone before you realize it. Recently, in the Jonesboro Sun, there was a thing about how Arkansas was one of the most undercounted states during the 2020 census. I looked at something and the estimate is that Jonesboro was undercounted by over 3,000 people. Now, we know for example that population is a major factor, maybe the most important factor in allocating tax money and it doesn't stop there. When you are writing grants, one of the very commonly asked things that you are supposed to put in your request is how many people are affected by this. And, folks, 3,000 people can make a difference between whether we get a grant or not. We need to take a look at why were we undercounted. And, what are we going to do in 2030 to be sure that we get every citizen of Jonesboro counted? And, we need to start thinking on that process and planning for that now because seven years from now is going to be too late. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Mr. Hinds for your comments.

Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road, said, I am here to bring up the subject of a homeless shelter again. And, the reason why I am doing it is that I know that you all just passed that resolution or ordinance about tearing down the old nursing home north of here and at one time that was supposed to be a homeless shelter for us years and years ago. Also too in the paper, and it's not that I am saying anything about this gentleman, but it says beating the heat. You know it is going to get hot again and then sometimes it gets cold and we don't have a place to put our homeless people and I think it is getting worse all of the time. Just to bring back a little bit of what all the talk has been over the years is that it was the North Church property and that was turned down. We had the nursing home over on Southwest Drive and that didn't fulfill the needs that we had. Walnut Street Baptist Church, they had an idea of having a homeless shelter and that fell through. I know a couple of years ago we had the idea of the current maintenance building to turn that possibly into a homeless shelter along with the property that is right next to it and I know that the city owns that so that might have been a perfect place. I don't know if that is still in the works there. And, then recently, I heard that there was another project that we were pretty close to having a homeless shelter. I didn't get all the bits and pieces of it. But, for some reason, that was turned down too. And, I don't know what that was. I want to say thank you. There are two places here in town and thank heavens for them because they have the volunteers, but they are also too funded by donations from people and it's not really

associated with the city, but they certainly help our community. And, that is Fisher Street Church of God and I think with you looking at the churches in the community coming together is that they practice what they preach, but I think it is only a day center instead of a night center for them. I don't even know if they are open yet. I think they are pretty close to it. I think they said late summer. Also too, the HUB, I know that Kim Chase has come here several times and talked about what the HUB does. And, thank heavens for what they do because they connect and help individuals with the resources. And again, it is not a day center. It is trying to help these people get their feet on the ground again and not worry about trying to make it day to day and where they are going to be sleeping. So, thank heavens for both of them. Earlier today I googled homeless shelters in Jonesboro and believe it or not when you do it is that it comes up with about twelve of them, but none of them are really homeless shelters because the ones that are listed are the Salvation Army, the United Way, Helping Neighbors Food Pantry, Habitat for Humanity, and the American Red Cross. There is about a dozen of them. But, then, when I looked on Facebook too I saw that there is a place up in Paragould that is called the Mission Outreach and they do a fantastic job. And, I was reading the article that was on Facebook and this really made you feel good and it was a success story and they said that they were honoring a 51 year-old lady that had successfully completed her rehab and had a full-time job now and soon she is going to be going out into an apartment by her own and being able to afford it and they are actually having a spa day at the end of this month. So, I look at Paragould and they have got something good going on and the one thing that I would like maybe for some of us or some of you to go out there and figure out what they are doing right and see what we can do here because they are a lot smaller than us. But, I think it is a growing problem that we have. Mayor, I know that this topic is very important to you. You know I was excited that it was one of your top priorities that you had and I know it still is. And, I hope that we can find something because we have had things that are really close to helping our people here and we really need to because it's just a growing problem. So, I hope we can start hearing about something that is going on from now on. So, thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you so much and I will say a few comments on that Ms. Lack. Obviously, this administration takes this to heart. This is our community and we want to be able to serve all of those in the community with their needs and requirements and getting them back on the streets is a key relevance factor as well. And, we are looking at other areas as you have mentioned, Paragould and other communities have some entities and non-profits. It is very important that non-profits, the City of Jonesboro has a plethora of non-profits in our community that do wonderful works and it is about unifying these and this is a process unfortunately that is not a fast one, but we want to do it correctly when we do. So, I do appreciate your comments. Thank you.

Tuan Le, 2064 Sloan Lake Drive, said, on behalf of the small Vietnamese Asian community that we have in town, we have not spoken up about our growth in this community. My wife and I came here in 2011, so exactly twelve years ago. Very proud. By the time we got here, I think the Vietnamese population was maybe thirty people. As we speak, the growth of a lot of people, it's under the radar. I don't think a lot of people know all of that. Right now, we are sitting at around 700+ plus a lot of ASU students that came to me as a business owner and you know talked to me about certain concerns. The number one concern they have is ASTATE. There are a lot of ASTATE students. They are recruiting a lot of ASTATE students from China, Vietnam, and a lot of southeast nation countries. And, one of the concerns they have is that the safety of where they live, student housing, which is right on Johnson. My partners and I recently built the Yard and we have businesses in there. And, as they come in and dine with us, night is a really big concern when we walk from your business on campus to Johnson. I wish there was a way that we felt safer. That was one of the main

concerns. So, hopefully, you guys will take this agenda and find a resolution or a solution for it. I appreciate your time again. Thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, absolutely. Thank you and that coincides with what we are doing with our real-time crime center and how we can collaborate with our local business partners and providing safety to accessibility with cameras and those type of operations so we can communicate with you, with the JPD and we can help you and assist you with that area. So, thank you for your comments.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Absent: 1 - Bobby Long

_____ **Date:** _____

Harold Copenhaver, Mayor

Attest:

_____ **Date:** _____

April Leggett, City Clerk