



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Finance & Administration Council Committee

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

4:00 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

1. Call To Order

2. Roll Call by City Clerk Donna Jackson

Present 6 - Charles Coleman; Ann Williams; John Street; David McClain; LJ Bryant and Joe Hafner

3. Approval of minutes

[MIN-20:113](#)

Minutes for the Finance Committee meeting on December 1, 2020.

Attachments: [MINUTES](#)

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

Aye: 5 - Charles Coleman; Ann Williams; John Street; David McClain and LJ Bryant

4. New Business

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

[RES-20:237](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ENTRY INTO AN AGREEMENT TO ISSUE BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASSISTING IN THE FINANCING OF INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES WITHIN THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO BE LEASED TO NICE-PAK PRODUCTS, INC. OR ITS AFFILIATE, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, INCLUDING PARTICULARLY AMENDMENT 65 TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION AND THE MUNICIPALITIES AND COUNTIES INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT REVENUE BOND LAW.

Sponsors: Finance and Mayor's Office

Attachments: [Agreement to Issue Bonds \(Nice-Pak\)](#)

Chairman Joe Hafner commented that this is the second bond agreement that has come before us within a month, with Colson Caster being the other one. It's good to see our industrial partners continue to grow, expand, and build new facilities in the city.

A motion was made by Councilperson John Street, seconded by Councilperson Ann Williams, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion

PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain and LJ Bryant

[RES-20:238](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONTRACT WITH JONESBORO OVERHEAD DOOR FOR SPONSORSHIP OF ONE ATHLETIC FIELD AT THE JOE MACK CAMPBELL SPORTS COMPLEX

Sponsors: Parks & Recreation and Mayor's Office

Attachments: [Jonesboro Overhead Door -JMCP 2020 - Soccer Field 13](#)

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

Aye: 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain and LJ Bryant

[RES-20:239](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH SCRUB TRENDS AS A COVID-19 SMALL BUSINESS EMERGENCY GRANT SUBRECIPIENT OF THE 2020 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (CDBG).

Sponsors: Grants and Mayor's Office

Attachments: [Agreement Scrub Trends](#)

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

Aye: 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain and LJ Bryant

5. Pending Items

6. Other Business

Chairman Joe Hafner explained what the committee's budget review options are. Hopefully by now everyone has picked up there budget binder and has started reviewing it. This is a little bit of a weird month because there is five Tuesdays in it. We had a finance meeting last Tuesday, and another one today. The next scheduled Finance Meeting is for the 29th of this month. The reason I did not want to have the budget review on the agenda today is that I felt like there was a very small window of time for us to be able to adequately review it.

Chairman Joe Hafner said, I know that Finance Director Steve Purtee and other staff are still making some changes to the budget. So, the last thing I wanted us to do is look at a product that wasn't finished. As you all know the State Statute says that we are supposed to get the budget in early December and we have to have it approved by February 2021. As far as the Finance Committee reviewing the budget and asking questions of the staff, we have a few different options and I wanted to go over those with you all. One of those options is have the budget review on the Finance agenda for December 29th, which is our next regularly scheduled meeting, and if the committee chose to advance it on to the council, that meeting will be on January 5, 2021. This year is different in the fact that we are also in a year of transition from one Mayor to

another, and they both would probably like for it to be approved by the end of the year.

Chairman Joe Hafner explained that the other options are not as cut and dry as the first option. I think one thing we always try to do is avoid Special Called meetings. Because, when you start having specially called meetings there could be concerns from the Public about "why" are they having a special called meeting? I know there were some questions about the special called Nominating and Rules meeting that took place today. The last thing I want to do is have a Special called Finance meeting, then walk it on to Council that is on the same day. I do not want to do that. Basically our options, if we want to go that route is to call a Special Finance meeting for December 15, 2020, at 4:00 p.m., or on the 22nd and then if the budget was forwarded to the full Council have a Special Called Council meeting on the 22nd or the 29th of December. Chairman Joe Hafner said, I think we were all hopeful that we could get it approved by the end of the year, there is a part of me that wants to avoid having to call a special called meeting.

Councilmember Doctor Charles Coleman said, and this is not just because of this meeting, I've always had this question. It seems that from a Councilpersons position, and nobody has to agree with me. I've been going through this budget, and one of the things I am still having a problem with is totally understanding certain items on the budget. Sometimes for reasons unknown I don't think we get enough time to review the budget. I realize there is going to be a transition, but I sure wish with some reasoning with the Finance Committee we could do something a whole lot earlier next year when this comes up. So, that we can screen each section a whole lot deeper than we have been doing all of these years.

We did that when I first became a Councilmember years ago, and then all of a sudden that stopped. I'm not sure why we stopped. I just think there needs to be a little bit more scrutiny, not in a negative way. But to just go through the budget and look at it a little bit stronger with more fortitude. A lot of times when some of the community people ask questions, I can't answer them because I am not totally sure, because we as a team have not gone through the budget together. Maybe nobody else feels that way. I might have questions and we've already gone through the budget and it's already passed, that is just kind of irritating to me.

Chairman Joe Hafner said, right. Now, when you say that you all used to have deeper reviews of the budget, would yawl review the budget in Finance meetings over more than one meeting. Councilmember Doctor Charles Coleman said, yes, and John, I know you remember that. Councilmember John Street said, yes. Our committee meeting would have every Department Head come and go through their particular sections of the budget, we would ask questions, and thoroughly go through that department's budget line by line. Eventually they got to where they didn't want to do that and I don't know why. Personally I like to see a lot more line item things in the budget as well. I know there is all kinds of questions from people about salaries, and once upon a time every salary in this city was listed in that budget by line item. That was nothing to hide and there weren't any questions about it. Going back to the original question about having that meeting on December 29th and forwarding it to the full Council on January 5, 2021 is okay. As you mentioned there is no urgency to have it finished by the end of the year. I'd rather take my time and let the Council look at it as well as myself a little better especially if they are still making changes.

Councilmember Doctor Charles Coleman said, it seems like here lately, and I'm trying to say this without offending anyone. I don't know a whole lot about some things, but, I do know a lot about finance. When somebody asks a question and we haven't ever

gone over it nor has it ever been discussed among the council you can't give a clear answer. I'm going to say some people, instead of individuals that it seems we are not doing our jobs, and I get a little upset about that. Because, we are doing our jobs, and we are trying to do the best we can with what we've got. When we can't answer certain questions because we have not actually had any initiation with each department that is frustrating. It looks like we haven't done what we are supposed to do. It looks like we just passed the budget. You know you've heard that whether you want to admit it on record or not. That is what's happening with some people questioning some of the things we do and how we do it. They don't do enough research and want to just jump down our throats and I don't think that is fair.

Chairman Joe Hafner said, one thing I do when I am going through and reviewing the budget and making my notes, I don't hesitate to pick up the phone and call Finance Director Steve Purtee, or a Department Head to get more details on something. Obviously we can't work online together and review budgets and stuff like that. As a Committee member I would never hesitate to pick up the phone and ask a question if you see something in the budget that you would like more information on. Chief of Staff Mike Downing asked the members whether they are going to be available for a meeting on December 29th, because that is between Christmas and New Year's. All member said yes they would be available.

Have you all decided whether the 29th will be good for your budget review, then go to the council the first Tuesday in January? Chairman Joe Hafner said, I don't think we need to vote on it or anything, is everyone comfortable doing our budget review on December 29th, you would have three weeks before then to develop your list of questions and talk to the city's staff before then. I'll talk to Finance Director Steve Purtee about having some schedules ready to go through on the 29th. Deputy April Leggett reminded Chairman Joe Hafner that on December 29th there are no other meetings scheduled. So, you could go as long as need be on that date.

Chief of Staff Mike Downing said, based on Councilmember Doctor Charles Coleman's questions earlier, would you all want to have a work session regarding the budget prior to December 29th? Councilmember Doctor Coleman said, I do not have a problem with that. That is one reason why I brought it up. Councilmember LJ Bryant agreed, and to Doctor Coleman's point, I know I have talked about this before. Sometimes I think it is just as important to know what we are not funding. I know that there is a long list of things that we can't fund, but you know ten years from now I wouldn't want there to be certain items that none of us were maybe even aware of that we weren't able to fund. It would be nice being able to spend some time talking more in depth about some things.

Chairman Joe Hafner said, my question is, can we denote it as a working session instead of a Committee meeting. Chief of Staff Mike Downing said you would still have to make it a public notice, the same process as any other meeting. The only difference is you will not be taking a vote on that day. Councilmember David McClain said, my only question is would you have other Councilmembers in attendance or would it only be the Finance Committee? Councilmember Doctor Charles Coleman said I think it would be just the Finance Committee, but if other members of the Council want to be on the ZOOM call that would be appropriate as well. Chief of Staff Mike Downing said okay, when would you like to do this? Chairman Joe Hafner said, we would almost have to do it on the December 22nd. All of the Finance Committee Members agreed on the December 22nd date, starting at 3:00 p.m. Chief of Staff Mike Downing explained just for clarification the dates are, December 22nd for the budget review working session, December 29th budget review and decisions on forwarding it

onto the full Council January 5, 2021. Chairman Joe Hafner said, correct. Councilmember Doctor Charles Coleman asked Deputy April Leggett to please send out the notices, and to include the Finance Committee as well, and that would make it publicly known.

Chief of Staff Mike Downing asked if they would e-mail him with what other information they would like to see in the budget, and we will get that out to you prior to the budget working session on December 22nd. Councilmember John Street asked if the Department Heads would be available for that meeting. Mr. Downing said, I don't see why they couldn't be. I presume that we will likely be on ZOOM. But, we can still do that. Councilmember John Street said, if there are questions to be asked that seems to be the logical person that would be able to answer most of the questions we would have about some of the items in there. Councilmember Doctor Charles Coleman answered with, yes, I think that is good John.

7. Public Comments

8. Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilperson Charles Coleman, seconded by Councilperson John Street, that this meetin be Adjourned . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain and LJ Bryant