



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, September 7, 2021

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

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 9 - Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; Mitch Johnson; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain and Brian Emison
Absent 3 - Ann Williams; John Street and LJ Bryant

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

[COM-21:042](#) PROCLAMATION DECLARING SEPTEMBER AS PACE MONTH (PROGRAMS OF ALL-INCLUSIVE CARE FOR THE ELDERLY)

St. Bernard's Hospital representatives Bob Harris and Becky McDaniel accepted a proclamation from Mayor Harold Copenhaver declaring

Read

[COM-21:041](#) NORTHEAST ARKANSAS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (NAIDC) SECOND QUARTER REPORT 2021

Attachments: [NAIDC Report 2nd QTR 2021](#)

Mayor Copenhaver explained that the second quarter report from the Northeast Arkansas Industrial Development Commission (NAIDC) is in the packet for review. If you have any questions you can submit those to the Administration Staff and we will forward those onto the Chamber of Commerce and report on them at a later date.

Filed

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

[MIN-21:072](#) MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON AUGUST 17, 2021

Attachments: [CC Minutes 08172021](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-21:169](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONTRACT WITH COLSON GROUP FOR SPONSORSHIP OF ONE ATHLETIC FIELD AT THE JOE MACK CAMPBELL SPORTS COMPLEX

Attachments: STJFIRSTFLR@colsongroupusa.com [20210730_151217](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-162-2021

[RES-21:171](#) A RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH AXON ENTERPRISES, INC FOR THE PURCHASE OF AXON BODY CAMERAS, TASERS, MODEM EQUIPMENT AND SUPPORTING AXON SERVICES

Attachments: [AXON Jonesboro Contract+SOW](#)

A motion was made that this Resolution be Passed . The motion PASSED BY VOICE VOTE

Enactment No: R-EN-163-2021

A RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH VOIANCE LANGUAGE SERVICES LLC FOR E-911 CALL INTERPRETATION SERVICES

A motion was made that this Resolution be Passed . The motion PASSED BY VOICE VOTE

6. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-21:039](#) AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE AN ASSESSMENT FOR THE DOWNTOWN BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT FOR COMMERCIAL PROPERTY OWNERS IN THE DISTRICT AS APPROVED AND REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONERS AND A MAJORITY IN VALUE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT

Attachments: [Cost of Improvement 7.19.21](#)
[emails about Downtown Business Improvement District](#)
[Downtown Jonesboro Bus Imp Dis 8-25t](#)

Councilmember Mitch Johnson motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-21:039 by title only. All voted aye.

Patti Lack 4108 Forrest Hill Road. I would like for a representative from this commission to come to the second reading of this to explain more regarding this tax. I think it might be a good thing but I just couldn't explain it to the people that had questions about it.

Vincent Turner Jr., 329 Crescent Drive. We will actually have a formal presentation at the next meeting on the 21st. We will definitely share more about the program, and the projects at that time. Also, wanted to let you know that it is for commercial property only and no residential property would be effected. Mayor Copenhagen asked if the

commission had sent out notifications to individuals that this would be effecting. Mr. Turner stated, yes. Mayor Copenhaver asked about how long this has been under discussion. Mr. Turner stated that you all do have a copy of the letter in your packet for review and it has been out for over a month and we have received a tremendous amount of support. Councilmember Bobby Long wanted to know why the lines on the draft appeared to be jagged, is it because of that is where commercial properties are located? City Attorney Carol Duncan explained that no, that is just how the Improvement District was drawn in 1970. Councilmember Chris Moore also commented that this was the original Improvement District that dated all the way back to 1970 as well.

Held at one reading

[ORD-21:040](#)

AN ORDINANCE CREATING A PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT COEXTENSIVE WITH THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO FACILITATE A PACE PROGRAM AND ADOPTING CERTAIN PROVISIONS RELATED THERETO

Attachments: [PACEBasics 2016 10 7-1](#)

Councilmember Chris Gibson motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-21:040 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[ORD-21:033](#)

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

Held at second reading

[ORD-21:036](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 112-128 DESIGN CRITERIA OF THE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS

Held at second reading

[ORD-21:037](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 112-129 PERFORMANCE STANDARDS OF THE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS

Held at second reading

[ORD-21:038](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2407 WEST MATTHEWS

Attachments: [Staff Summary \(City Council\) - 2407 W Matthews](#)
[21108138TURNER REZONING PLAT recover Model \(1\)](#)
[Rezoning Plat](#)
[Application](#)
[Info](#)
[USPS Receipts](#)

Held at second reading

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

A grandmother and a 1-year old child succumbed from their injuries from a tragic house fire this week in the city. My heart and empathy goes out to the family members of these dear loved ones, and we as a community all suffer in a situation like this. Geraldine and her grandbaby were lost. But, two other children were rescued by Jonesboro Firefighters and I admire their fearlessness to protect others. This fire is still under investigation.

Councilmembers, in your packet is the 2020 annual report conducted by the Arkansas Legislative Auditors. As you review this you can once again see that not a single red-flag was reported. The strong physical policies show the multiple safe guards that assure tax payer dollars are properly protected and that is a compliment to the staff. I want to acknowledge our finance department that is led by director Steve Purtee. It is also a tribute to all of our Department Directors and other internal employees who check records that no inappropriate spending was discovered. It is also a compliment to you, our City Council for your oversight, for a city this size that is no small-feat. Congratulations to all of you.

August building permits topped \$16.7 million, which is up from \$11.9 million this same time last year. It was split between residential and commercial building. I know last year COVID effected numbers, still these numbers are a very pleasing result and it shows that people are still investing in our community and they believe in Jonesboro.

Our Code Enforcement Department is planning its second neighborhood saturation operation. This time it will be in the Fairview Neighborhood and we will announce the date soon. After this saturation we will also be doing a clean sweep providing the opportunity for individuals to put their property out so we can pick it up. Thanks to Inspections Department Director Tim Renshaw and his staff for boarding up the broken window at the old Citizens Bank Building which had caused a public safety issue. We engaged with an Attorney to assess the situation regarding this structure. Once we receive finalization of the assessment from that Attorney on how to move forward with this property, we will follow in that direction to ensure the public safety of our citizens.

I do want to recognize the continued efforts of our Sanitation Department. They are starting earlier in the mornings and many times not getting home until after 5:30 p.m. The overall cost of sanitation disposal has grown exponentially and it is getting harder and harder to provide services. We are currently in negotiations to study the department on how we can improve our routes, increase staffing and equipment needs.

I reached out to Chris Barber with St. Bernard's Regional Medical Center regarding the Delta Variant of COVID as well as representative from NEA Baptist. Mr. Barber said that they are seeing plenty of COVID positive inpatient cases in the North East Arkansas Region. There are 191-inpatients as of this morning. This morning we had 96

in house at St. Bernard's. That number is approaching the highest level since the inception of the pandemic.

Mayor Copenhaver asked Police Chief Rick Elliott to please give an update on the Shooting Sports Complex. Chief Elliott explained as you all know we are required under our current grant obligations with U.S. Fish and Wildlife and the Arkansas Game and Fish to have this facility open to the public where they can come and shoot rifle, pistol, trap skeet, and archery. We are at the point that we will be able to do so. We will have a soft opening on September the 18th and will be fully open to the public on the 22nd of September. We are excited to also announce that we already have a tournament scheduled for the 25th of this month with the possibility of another in October. This facility is going to do nothing but continue to grow with interest across the country. Councilmember Bobby Long asked if there would be a place where the public can go to view the opening and closing times of the facility. Chief Elliott explained that the hours and cost for using the facility would be on the city's website. Mr. Long asked how many part-time employees will be hired to work the facility. Chief Elliott said that he believed that there were a little over 20-people to work part-time at the facility. On a daily basis there will be about 6-employees there.

This past week the city participated in the annual "Paint the Town Red" in support of Arkansas State University. I am proud to say the city won the overall grand champion award. I want to say "thank you" to Cam Robinson of the Communications Department for his creative art work and to the Building Maintenance Crew for their heavy lifting help on this project. As well as Tonya Hottel and Shelly Anderson from the Mayor's office in organizing the event.

[COM-21:040](#)

JULY 2021 FINANCIAL REPORTS

Attachments: [Financials Overview July 2021](#)
[Schedule of Changes in F.B. and Required Reserve Report July 2021](#)
[Schedule of Revenue vs. Expense July 2021](#)
[Schedule of O&M Departmental Overview July 2021](#)
[Schedule of Fixed Asset and Cap. Imp. Detail July 2021](#)
[Deposit Collateralization Report July 2021](#)
[Sales Tax Report \(Combined\) July 2021](#)
[State Turnback Report \(Combined\) July 2021](#)
[Highway Sales Tax Report July 2021](#)
[American Rescue Plan Funds July 2021](#)

Filed

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Chris Gibson stated that he had received a call today in regards to a bucket truck leaking hydraulic fluid all over the road, a trailer and dump truck filled with limbs and overgrown grass in the yard at 1313 Pardew.

Councilmember Chris Moore asked Mayor Copenhaver if he could give a little more in depth report regarding the Citizens Bank Building. I know 4 council meetings ago I inquired about the barricades and the public safety issue of the building. At that time Counsel for the owner informed you that they would be securing the building, and then I look around and we have a city crew putting a piece of plywood up and securing the

building. City Attorney Carol Duncan explained that from what I understand about securing the building is that because of some safety concerns with both the glass and the traffic with cones in the road way, it wasn't Code Enforcement it was the Building Department that went out on Monday and just removed a piece of plywood from inside the window and put it on the outside of the window. So, there really wasn't any expense involved other than the time of our employees and that can be billed to the property owners. I don't know if that has been prepared and completed yet. I know that Code Enforcement Director Mike Tyner had spoken to the owners about the boarding ordinance but I am not sure of the status of where we are in the notice process. Mayor Copenhaver also stated in response to what Ms. Duncan just said, basically for public safety initiative we needed to get that boarded up. We had provided an extra week to the building owner to do so but they did not comply. So, due to public safety concerns we went ahead and boarded that. Upon your request several meetings ago we have now sent the file to legal counsel to see where the city would stand on the issues of the building due to the fact that there are multiple owners involved on the ground and the building itself as well as the parking lot. We don't want to move in a direction that is conflicting and do it in the wrong way. The legal counsel will report back with a plan on how the city can move forward regarding the building. Mr. Moore said that I am in a 100% agreement with that and as I called the City Attorney with my concerns regarding us working on private property we have to make sure we have a cause, we can't just go and board something up. We have obviously declared that there was a safety hazard is why we did this but, that does not exempt them from being responsible for paying the bill. I also want to see if moving forward, at one point we hired Price Garner to give us an evaluation of that situation, and since then there has been some changes in the ownership that underlies the buildings so, I look forward to a presentation here at the council from Legal Council that we've hired and if we need to appropriate money to hire legal counsel to further investigate it I will make that motion when the time comes to do so.

Mayor Copenhaver stated that the Attorney is going to look at the file to see what the charges will be so that we will know the fees moving forward. Mr. Moore said, I also think that it will be in our best interest to full disclosure and understanding of where we are at currently with the changes to the ownership on the parking lot and the building. I also think that we are going to have to move forward especially after the Southside tragedy in Florida where the building collapsed and killed 150 people, we are currently sitting here with a 7-story building that NABHOLTZ Construction had to come and saw concrete abutments off of it because they were falling off of it. There was another incident where AC components were flying off of the roof and we had to secure that and now we have a window that is falling out. I want to make sure the building is not deteriorating to the stance that we look around one day and with the brick facade or something falls off and kills people on Main Street. One of the things that I would be expecting is some kind of assessment from an Engineer regarding how structurally sound the building is even if we have to take legal action to require that. With that out of the way, I do want to commend the Chief on meeting the grant deadline for the opening of the Shooting Sports Complex. Congratulations to all involved in this project.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road. I am going to start a Southern Neighborhood Association for people that live south of the bypass. I know that there is different associations here in the down town area. I think it's a great idea and have heard other people state that we need one for the south side of town. I have checked on meeting places for these meetings and I just want to let the Councilmembers that represent that side of the city to know that I will be in touch with them. Mayor Copenhaver

thanked Mrs. Lack and said that the more community involvement leads to better communication and transparency and then we all have a common voice.

Roger Kidd, HWY 463 South, explained that since HB-1598 dealing with "open carry gun laws" the signage at all Parks Facilities needs to be updated. Councilmember Chris Moore asked City Attorney Carol Duncan to better explain this. The best interpretation that I have heard so far regarding this is, that you cannot conceal carry in the Parks but, you can open carry. The Parks Department does have this on their radar and they intend to change the signs. Councilmember Bobby Long asked Rick Elliott, Chief of Police if they have had any instruction on this? Chief Elliott said that for the most part they have not had any problems with this, we see at every day. If someone is acting strangely or disorderly then the Police will get involved.

Howard L. Weinstock, 208 Wilkins Avenue. On two different dates in August the Advertising and Promotion committee discussed and voted on a 2% prepared food tax and a 1% increase in the hotel tax. It is my understanding from state law that the residents will not be able to vote on these increases. This will now come to this council at some point for you all to vote on. In numerous letters to the Editor of the Jonesboro Sun I've called on Mayor Copenhaver to educate us on all of the projected finances from his many plans starting from when he took the oath of office and through the rest of this decade. I call for that presentation again now, as soon as the next city council meeting. I encourage this council to vote nay on all tax increases until Mayor Copenhaver does so.

Beverly Parker, 3803 Sawgrass Jonesboro. I come tonight to give an update on the Beautification Committee. We will be releasing more information in the near future about some of the things that we have been able to do but, wanted to provide that information to this body first. We had 19-clean-ups around the city this past spring in various neighborhoods and I appreciate the Councilmembers here that participated in that, and certainly the sanitation department as well as all of the other departments that helped. We had an enormous amount of litter that was picked up. Some things that are currently going on, we are working with the Parks and Recreation Department for designation for Tree City USA, we want better recognition for our forest and the trees that we use for flood control. One exciting thing will be unveiled at the Business Expo in a few weeks. The Chamber is going to start a Jonesboro Beautiful Business designation. This is a reward situation for doing beautification, extra litter removal and litter prevention. We are also looking toward the Storm Water Board and the Engineering Department and others about storm water and about the litter that collects in the storm water drainage ways. Brian Richardson is heading a Gateway Committee to look at the entrances to Jonesboro, how they look to our visitors, and how we can improve on those gateways. We will be participating in the Day of Caring with some greening events. One in particular will be held at the William Evans Memorial Park on the corner of Logan and Patrick, and I would like to thank the Grants Department for helping secure funds for that.

Ramone Krumpler, 813 Creath Avenue. In May I re-platted my land with the intentions of helping beautify my street. In June the residents of Creath Avenue received information stating that there was going to be a proposed biking and walking trail going down our neighborhood. I wasn't aware nor were a lot of the residents that live there of this, although we are pleased with the idea. However, my complaint is when I did the re-plat it said that I gave up the rights of my property and in June the neighbors started receiving mail stating that we would be compensated for our land because they were going to widen the street to make it more accessible for the bikes. I received a call stating that I will not be compensated because I gave up the rights of my property.

Before that happens I just wondered if there was someone that I could discuss that with, I am not sure if this is the right forum for that. There are a lot of people in the neighborhood that felt like we were blindsided by this. Then there was a dollar amount of a dollar per-square foot, again there were some concerns in the neighborhood about that. Then you all came and re-configured that amount to offer more compensation which I think is a good idea and most are pleased with that idea, except for me. Councilmember Frierson said, let me just quickly say I don't know of any legal way the city can say because of a re-plat it can acquire an easement of your property without just compensation. It is not going to happen.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 9 - Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;Mitch Johnson;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and Brian Emison

Absent: 3 - Ann Williams;John Street and LJ Bryant

_____ **Date:** _____

Harold Copenhaver, Mayor

Attest:

_____ **Date:** _____

April Leggett, City Clerk