



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Thursday, October 3, 2024

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

NOTICE: MOVED TO THURSDAY DUE TO NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

1. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR HAROLD COPENHAVER AT 5:30 P.M.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

3. ROLL CALL (ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE) INITIATED AND CONFIRMED BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

Present 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

[COM-24:037](#)

MAYOR'S YOUTH ADVANCEMENT COUNCIL (MYAC) FALL UPDATE

MYAC President Roman approached the podium and said, good evening, City Council. My name is Roman Hart. I'm a Senior at Jonesboro High School, and I proudly serve as the 2024-2025 Mayor's Youth Advancement Council as president. Today my board and I will be giving a brief overview of what we have been up to the past couple of months, and what we plan to do this upcoming year. And for anyone who might be wondering what exactly the Mayor's Youth Advancement Council does; our mission is to involve the youth in community issues and decisions and advise the mayor and City Council of the youth's perspective in Jonesboro. We're comprised of local 9th through 12th graders from different Jonesboro area schools. We have five current councils that are divided to mirror the city's departments within the city. We have City Beautification, Communications and Outreach, Diversity and Inclusion, Health and Safety, Planning and Engineering. Tonight, you'll hear from all of our task force directors as we walk you through our upcoming plans. To kick us off I'm going to have our treasurer, Zavian Collins, come up here and talk to you guys.

MYAC Treasurer Zavian Collins approached the podium and said, good evening, my name is Zavian Collins and I'm the treasurer for the MYAC. We currently have \$490.95 in our account. As a registered 501c3, we're required by law to be completely transparent with our books. Our profit and loss statements can be made available to you at any time upon request. Currently, we are asking local businesses to sponsor us through a direct sponsorship as a sponsor for Boo in the "BORO" or a sponsorship for Jonesboro 411, our new mobile app. There will be more information concerning the app in a few minutes, but for now I would like to draw your attention to the sponsorship packets, which we have distributed to each of you. To sponsor MYAC directly, please contact me or Ms. Shelly. Boo in the "BORO" offers five levels of sponsorship.

Vendors and candy donations are also greatly needed. There is a candy collection box in the lobby of this building. Jonesboro 411 also touting five levels of sponsorship with only one super sponsor spot available. We will talk more about our sponsorship packets towards the end of this presentation. I would also like to take this time to say thank you to those who purchased a pink trash can, as MYAC still receives any proceeds over the actual cost of the container. For those who have yet to purchase one, there are still more available. And since it's October, there is not better time to support cancer awareness. Please call Jonesboro City Collections or the Sanitation Department for more information. Thank you, Mayor Copenhaver and City Council, for your time and support.

MYAC Secretary Tobin Schimmel approached the podium and said, good evening, my name is Tobin Schimmel and I'm the secretary of the MYAC. We have taken official meeting minutes of all board and membership meetings. As our 501c3 bylaws rules and regulations state are necessary and would be happy to make those available to you at any time upon request. Last school year the MYAC achieved a grand total of 1,640 service hours. We are well on our way to achieve even more at this school year. Also, I'm happy to report that we currently have 79 active members. Thank you, Mayor Copenhaver and your City Council, for your time and support.

Spencer May approached the podium and said, good evening, my name is Spencer May, and I am filling in for Juillia Young who is our parliamentarian of the MYAC. It is the parliamentarian's task to make sure that the bylaws are followed and remain relevant. Bylaws can be made available to you at any time upon request. There have been no changes made this year so far. However, as a reminder, a few noteworthy changes to our bylaws were made last year. Those include the rules that state, rising freshmans may join the MYAC, rising seniors may not join the MYAC as new members, all members must maintain at least 20 hours of volunteer service hours over the course of the school year to be in good standing. We believe these changes will help the MYAC run more efficiently and effectively. Thank you, Mayor Copenhaver and the City Council, for your time and support.

MYAC's City Beautification Department Director Maggie Hutton approached the podium and said, good evening, my name is Maggie Hutton and I'm the task force department director for City Beautification. We work with several departments within the City of Jonesboro, the Downtown Jonesboro Association, Keep Jonesboro Beautiful Committee, and others to help grow a more beautiful Jonesboro. Task may include, planning events for litter clean up, recycling drives, painting of spaces such as murals and crosswalks. This year City Beautification will host a plant swap at the library in the spring for Earth Day. As well as at least two clean ups. We are currently planning to plant native plants around the Jonesboro signs in the spring. And we in the beginning of a plan of some kind of mural, as well as a possible fundraising that could go along with said mural. Thank you, Mayor Copenhaver and the City Council, for your time and support.

MYAC's Communications and Community Outreach Department Director Bentley Burris approached the podium and said, good evening, my name is Bentley Burris and I'm the task force department director for Communications and Community Outreach. We work with several departments within MYAC and the City of Jonesboro, as we find new and improved ways to communicate necessary information with citizens. We also work with local non-profits and businesses to schedule informative educational opportunities, guest speakers, and tours of local facilities. This task force is also important for recruitment and retention of MYAC members. This year Communication and Outreach task force will focus more on efforts to market the events of the council.

As a task force built on communication and community engagement, we do not often host separate events like other task force. However, we can market, create, and overall get more people engaged in the Mayor's Youth Advancement Council. Our events, council wiser task force, all affects some part of our community. In our job as the Communication task force, is to make sure everyone knows that these events are happening. We are currently working towards making our social media presence larger and overall getting more city-wide engagement. Lastly, we are proud of the growth of our membership and the effort we put forth to share news about MYAC. Thank you, Mayor Copenhaver and City Council, for your time and support.

MYAC's Diversity and Inclusion Department Director Neeharika Raju approached the podium and said, hi. Good evening, my name is Neeharika Raju and I'm the task force department director of the Diversity and Inclusion. We work with local businesses and more to better understand and learn more about the vast diversity within our community. We arrange events and/or invite culturally diverse guest speakers to better understand the community the Mayor's Youth Advancement Council serves. This year the Diversity and Inclusion task force will continue to contribute to our social media with post encompassing diverse holiday's celebrated nationally. We are also looking to build a database of scholarships open to graduating seniors with diverse backgrounds. We are also participating in the annual Diwali Celebration with the NEA Indian Association in November. My task force is also planning and gathering ideas for the cultural fair we hope to hold in the spring semester. Lastly, as the holidays near, we will work on building a media collection of novels, music, etc. that surround diversity. We'll post about each of these works on our social media stories on the 25 days of Christmas. Making this our Christmas around the world media collection. Thank you, Mayor Copenhaver and the City Council, for your time and support.

MYAC's Health and Safety Department Director Sophie Jackson approached the podium and said, good evening, my name is Sophie Jackson and I'm the task force department director of Health and Safety. We work with several departments within the City of Jonesboro, as well as local health and safety professionals, to brainstorm and execute ideas to help keep citizens safer and more healthy as we move forward into the future. This year the Health and Safety task force will assemble and deliver cancer care packages to patients at St. Bernards. We are also in charge of a Giving Tree. Creating the Giving Tree provides warm clothing and essential items to those who need them during the colder months. Lastly, we are also excited to collaborate with City Beautification to paint crosswalks in busy areas of our community, like schools and areas downtown. Data shows that painting crosswalks with bold designs increases the safety of pedestrians and drivers, and we are eager to continue this project for years to come. In addition, we also volunteer at the NEA Food Bank at least one time quarterly. Beyond this we plan to come up with and execute more ideas and projects that help improve the city of Jonesboro's overall health and safety. Thank you, Mayor Copenhaver and the City Council, for your time and support.

MYAC's Planning and Engineering Department Director Hazim Ragab approached the podium and said, good evening, I'm Hazim Ragab and I'm the task force department director for Planning and Engineering. We work with several departments within the City of Jonesboro, as well as the mayor himself, to plan for what is to come. This year the Planning and Engineering task force will be holding our annual Summer Coding Camp to give younger students the opportunity to learn computer science through hands on learning and peer-to-peer instruction. We also hope to partner with Habitat for Humanity for some hands-on experiences in planning and construction, ss well as possibly planning a new app that provides help related information based on a series of questions answered by the user. Lastly, we have worked diligently to build and

complete a Jonesboro city wide app. This app is a much smaller and more user-friendly version of the Jonesboro website. It contains all the forms that is commonly needed by citizens. Thank you, Mayor Copenhaver and City Council, for your support. And now I would like to turn the podium back to our president, Roman Hart, to give you a tour of our pride and joy, Jonesboro 411.

MYAC President Roman Hart approached the podium and said, so everyone take out your phone, please, if you want to see what the app looks like. The QR code is up there. They're going to be walking around with the QR code. We're going to have Hazim help navigate this because it came from his task force, and I can't do two things at once. Welcome to the Jonesboro 411 app. I learned, when they were creating this app, that you could call 4-1-1 and get information about your city. I didn't know that. I just thought you just googled stuff. Apparently, that wasn't a thing back then. But that is why it's called 411 if you didn't catch up on that. So, here we are at our home screen. It's a clean user-friendly view, and it gives you quick access to essential features that are on the city website. So, let's take a look at the departments section. City departments is where we'll click, and you can be taken to any department in the city. It'll give you more information once you click on whatever department you need. Let's look at the calendar and events section. On here you can see like, the local happenings, what's going on in Jonesboro from festivals to art shows. And then the tourism tab, it links to the calendars and stuff like that. So, you can see we've got a bike race, the 100th celebration of A-State. A bunch of stuff going on in Jonesboro and all of it's right there at a touch of your fingertips. Now let's click on the departments tab. Let's click on Streets. My favorite part of this Streets tab, down here, it lets people report issues they're having in the city. Because apparently a lot of people call the mayor's office when there's like a pothole and that's just not who you're supposed to contact at all. So, it gives them an easy way to contact who they are supposed to contact with issues in the city. We'll go back home. You could also click city business to look at available jobs, meetings, business, pay online bills and things like that. So, anything a citizen can need in the City of Jonesboro, it's right there at the touch of their fingertip. And easy to understand tabs. We're still currently looking for funding to launch this app. Apparently, launching apps is expensive, so we need people to help us do that. So, we have different sponsorship packets and if that's something any of you are interested in or you know people who are willing to fund this, please let us know. I think that's a wrap on the Jonesboro 411 app. Thank you guys. Each of you should have been provided a sponsorship packet and we're currently doing that for all of our big events. So, this app, Boo in the "BORO" and the 5K that we were going to host, to get like reaching out to local businesses. Because we can do good things, but we can't do good things without the support of our community and the people in it. And so, we are currently looking to build local partnerships to fulfill our plans in order to build a more better Jonesboro. And our goal is to raise \$4,000 per task force for a grand total of \$20,000, in hopes of providing each task force with the resources they need to address immediate issues and to further develop goals in the future. We are currently looking for three kinds of sponsorships. Benefactors can donate to MYAC as a whole, which is the first level because we are registered as a 501c3 we're a non-profit. Donations are always tax deductible. I don't know what that means but businesses always really like that. And then the second way they can donate is to our two big annua events, the Northside Community Fair and then Boo in the "BORO". Which last year, Boo in the "BORO" had 8,000 attendees, so if you can't donate money, we'll take candy, we'll take anything we can get. Because I don't know what they tell you, but 8,000 people, there's never enough candy. So, we'll take candy. And then we're also doing a Giving Tree for this holiday, so we'll take donations, things like socks, toothpaste, basic things to just get through the winter and basic hygiene items. For anyone that is interested in donating candy for Boo in the "BORO" or stuff

for the Giving Tree, you can visit the lobby of City Hall, United Way of Jonesboro, or the Downtown Jonesboro Association to drop off all of those items. While we're on the topic of Boo in the "BORO", I'd like to invite you all to Boo in the "BORO" on Halloween night from 6pm to 8pm at Union Street Park. This event is free, fun and safe, so bring out the family and let's have a good time with its Jonesboro citizens. Finally, we ask that you follow us on social media. We provided you with a QR code to take you directly to our Facebook and Instagram pages, and you can also follow us on TikTok where we make really silly videos about what's going on. I think that is all from us. Thank you, Mayor Copenhaver, City Council, and Ms. Shelly, for all the hard work that you do. And I know that this group has great things to come, and we can't wait to tell you about it in the springtime.

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, I do too and thank you so much for your presentation this evening youth council members. We're looking forward every year this progresses, and I know that 411 has taking over a year to get that amplified and in the direction that we'd like it to go, and I think it's going to be very user friendly and that's the key for our community. So, I'm really excited about what ambitions we have with our youth moving forward in the city. And so, thank you very much and let's give them a round of applause.

Filed

5. CONSENT AGENDA

[MIN-24:089](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

Attachments: [CC Minutes 09172024](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Gibson, seconded by Councilperson Brian Emison, that this matter be Passed. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

6. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-24:028](#)

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 Brian Emison, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-24:028 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

[ORD-24:029](#)

AN ORDINANCE INCREASING THE DEATH BENEFIT AMOUNT PAYABLE TO AN ELIGIBLE SURVIVOR OF A DECEASED MEMBER OF THE JONESBORO LOCAL POLICE PENSION FUND

Attachments: [Local Police and Fire Retirement System](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-24:029 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[ORD-24:030](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5425 SOUTHWEST DRIVE AS REQUESTED BY BRUNO AZEMI

Attachments: [Application and Questions](#)
[Certified Mail Receipts](#)
[Plat](#)
[Property Owner Notification](#)
[Publication Receipt](#)
[Sign on Site](#)
[Staff Summary](#)
[MAPC Minutes](#)
[Against Rezoning Signature_09172024](#)
[Brunos Restaurant Handout 09172024](#)

Steve Floyd, 5421 Southwest Drive, approached the podium and said, my sister Lisa Bowers is here, she lives at 5427 Southwest Drive and Ms. Mary Tucker is also here, her property is also adjacent to this possible rezoning. Looked over the application for this rezoning for Mr. Azemi, and one thing was incorrect on it. It said that to the west, I believe it was, was C4 and actually that's residential. There's a strip of ground there that's residential before you get to that Dollar General. So, this property is surrounded on three sides by residential property. I also looked at the number five on the application. It says, asked is the proposed rezoning consistent with the Jonesboro Comprehensive Plan and the Future Use Plan, and he answered yes. But on the Comprehensive Plan, I looked over that, and it mentions fast food restaurants. Doesn't mention set-down restaurants without a drive-thru, doesn't mention restaurants with liquor licenses. It just mentions fast food restaurants. So, I was wondering if that is really a yes or not. It could possibly be a no. Number nine on there says the proposed rezoning does it affect nearby property. Mentions property value, traffic, hours of operation. His answer was that restaurants often add value to residential areas. Well, I'm going to have to disagree with that. I've spoken with several realtors here in town and a couple of Jonesboro's biggest developers, and they tell me that commercial property in a residential area drastically affects it negatively, to the people that want it to stay residential. And that's what we want to do. That's several houses in this area. This is a residential neighborhood. It's not a commercial neighborhood. And they also tell me, I've looked into it, I wasn't sure, but several realtors have told me that this is what they call spot zoning. When something is surrounded by residential property and then you're wanting to put a commercial in the middle of it. Then, I looked on to number 13 and it said, how does neighbors feel about the rezoning. He answers at the majority are excited with very few opposing. I don't see anybody here that is excited

about it. Everybody I've spoken to isn't excited about it. I turned in 49 signatures at the last City Council meeting that oppose it. He says that he is going to turn in signatures of people that are for it, and I was wondering if that has been done? And it has not. Okay. He said he was going to do that, and I guess he has not. There are several commercial properties in this area, on down the road, and there's a new development up the road. I'm wondering why you would rezone this property and affect everybody negatively when he can go a few blocks on down to something that's already rezoned commercial. And those properties are there, and they are for sale. The City Future Use Plan is what it says, it's for the future. But this is right now. This is happening right now to us, and it affects us very negatively. And I just ask that y'all oppose it. To help just one person, to get this rezoned, you're going to hurt several. I just don't see where that's right or that would be best for the city. I would just like to ask, like I did at the last meeting, that you put yourself in our place, and would you want this restaurant that's going to be open until 10 o'clock at night with traffic with a liquor license, right next to your house. I don't think you would. But I appreciate your time, thank you.

Held at second reading

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-24:025](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL AND REPLACE ARTICLE VII - BUILDING NUMBERING SECTION 105-200 THROUGH 105-210 OF THE JONESBORO CODE OF ORDINANCES IN THE CITY OF JONESBORO

Attachments: [Jonesboro - Addressing & Street Naming Standard Amended 10032024](#)

Councilmember Janice Porter motioned, seconded by Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman, that ORD-24:025 be amended. All voted aye.

Councilmember Janice Porter stated, I believe that there needs to be clarification on who is required to place the address on their structures and therefore: I would like to move to amend the City of Jonesboro Addressing and Street Naming Standard in the first paragraph of the section titled "Address Display" on page 10 of the attachment to this ordinance. My motion is that the second sentence of the first paragraph of this section be changed to read, "Therefore, on existing structures which do not currently have an address displayed, or on any structure hereafter erected, the owner of the structure or property shall conspicuously place the correct address on their structure or property as required in this standard as follows:" I believe it is important that the people realize that if they have their correct address displayed on their property now, this ordinance does not require them to go out and change the numbers or letters on that structure. This would only apply to existing structures that do not currently have an address displayed or to newly constructed structures.

James Elwyn Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, approached the podium and said, and by the way, if you go down Ridgecrest, just at my house, there's not just one but there are four places where you can see the number for my house. I usually don't like mandating things where people deal with the property, but folks this can save lives. If there's a 9-1-1 number and the emergency vehicles need to find my house, the faster they can find it the better. This is a small thing, but I've looked at some houses and you can't tell what they are. And the amount of time that cost our emergency vehicles to find them will cost lives, because that's very few seconds, you know, heart attack or whatever, crime going on, so this is a very important thing that buildings need to be properly numbered so that emergency vehicles can find them.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, I just need clarification on what we're voting on right now. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, we're voting on the amendment. And that's just to clarify that language. I don't think it was ever intended to apply to existing structures. We're just making that clear. Existing structures that don't currently have an address. If you have your address posted now, you don't have to change it.

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: 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Enactment No: O-EN-028-2024

[ORD-24:026](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-2 TO PD-RM FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2117 SCHOOL STREET AS REQUESTED BY FLEX PROPERTIES, LLC

Attachments: [Application and Questions](#)
[Deeds](#)
[Neighborhood Meeting Flyer](#)
[Proposed Design](#)
[Publication Receipt](#)
[Rezoning Plat and Site Layout](#)
[Rezoning Signs](#)
[SchoolStreet-CommonAreaMap](#)
[Staff Summary](#)
[MAPC Staff Summary Minutes](#)

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

Aye: 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Enactment No: O-EN-029-2024

[ORD-24:027](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-3 TO C-3 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 901 CHURCH STREET AS REQUESTED BY MICHAEL SHANNON KEE

Attachments: [Rezoning Application](#)
[Plat](#)
[Mail Receipts](#)
[Publication Receipt](#)
[Rezoning Sign Posted](#)
[Staff Summary](#)
[MAPC Staff Summary Minutes](#)

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: 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Enactment No: O-EN-030-2024

ITEMS THAT HAVE BEEN HELD IN COUNCIL

[RES-24:034](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 407 N. Bridge St. Jonesboro, AR 72401; Parcel # 01-144181-31700

- Attachments:**
- [407 N Bridge Inspection Report](#)
 - [407 N Bridge Map](#)
 - [407 N Bridge Boarding and Securing Affidavit](#)
 - [407 N Bridge Boarding and Securing Returned Cert Letter](#)
 - [407 N Bridge Precondemnation Notice Affidavit](#)
 - [WIN 20231220 09 38 49 Pro](#)
 - [WIN 20231220 09 39 11 Pro](#)
 - [WIN 20231220 09 39 59 Pro](#)
 - [WIN 20231220 09 41 40 Pro](#)
 - [WIN 20231220 09 42 02 Pro](#)

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

Aye: 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Enactment No: R-EN-111-2024

[RES-24:035](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 815 Witt St. Jonesboro, AR 72401; Parcel # 01-144192-36600

Attachments: [815 Witt Inspection Report](#)
[815 Witt Map](#)
[815 Witt Boarding and Securing Returned Signature Card](#)
[815 Witt Precondemnation Notice Affidavit](#)
[815 Witt Precondemnation Notice Returned Signature Card](#)
[WIN 20230830 15 41 57 Pro](#)
[WIN 20230830 15 45 51 Pro](#)
[WIN 20230830 15 47 49 Pro](#)
[WIN 20230830 15 48 14 Pro](#)
[WIN 20230830 15 51 25 Pro](#)
[WIN 20230830 15 51 30 Pro](#)
[WIN 20230830 15 52 19 Pro](#)
[WIN 20230830 15 52 31 Pro](#)
[WIN 20230830 15 53 56 Pro](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Gibson, seconded by Councilperson Chris Moore, that this matter be Postponed Indefinitely. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, here's a rundown of activities of over the last couple of weeks, and a preview of some things to expect soon. The most obvious issue of course is being the Citizens Bank building, which we will discuss here in a few minutes. What immediate actions were taken and what needs to happen next. But I'm happy to share some positive information. Jonesboro has received 13 awards in acknowledgement since our last City Council meeting. The Jonesboro Airport was named 2024 Airport of the Year by the Arkansas Division of Aeronautics. I would like to add personally to the work that George Jackson and the Airport Commission does as well. Their hard work and of course Senator Boozman and Senator Cotton and Congressmen Crawford who helped us secure \$20,000,000 for the improvements on the runway lengthen and the new FBO that will be built on site. That a nice award for hard work and dedication for our community.

The 2024 Arkansas American Planning Association Plan of the Year is being award to our Grants Department next week at the 2024 APA quad state conference in Fayetteville, Arkansas on October 8th. The award is for the Inclusion Plan within the health accelerant portion of the overall Parks Plan that was passed by council. This award recognizes an exceptional planning project that has significantly contributed to the improvement of a community or region in Arkansas the standards for the winning project are thoughtful analyzes, community engagements, and effective implementation strategies.

MPO, 2024 National Award for Outstanding Overall Achievement for a Non-TMA, MPO presented to Northeast, Arkansas Regional Transportation Planning Commission by the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations.

This past week, Jonesboro won four awards at the Parks and Recreation Commission, that was also held at the Embassy Suite, from the Arkansas Recreation and Parks

association they held their annual conference here. And here are the four awards, 2024 Trail of the Year Nature Surface, now this is at Craighead Forrest Park, and this is the one where council, we have partner with Jonesboro Unlimited and an outside contributor for completion of that project that basically taken three years. Danny are you in the room? Thank you for your work on that we appreciate that and congratulations on that award. 2024 Tourism Program of the Year African American Culture Center at E Boone Watson Community Center, and Mr. McKinney if you would please stand. We appreciate your work and continued efforts for the African American Museum to keep history alive in Jonesboro, Arkansas and again sir thank you for your dedication for that we appreciate you. Joey if you would I believe you got several members here, at least one member of your sports management. The Jonesboro Shooting Sports Complex won the 2024 Sports Management Program of the Year. So, thank you very much for both of y'all's efforts and the entire committee out there thank you again. And the 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award, that was given to Larry Jackson for 45 years as supervisor at the Craighead Forrest Park. Unfortunately, he couldn't be here this evening due to health reason, but I know he was proud to achieve that lifetime accomplishment. There were two Craighead County NWACP honors 2024 Non-Profit of the Year, Dr. Charles Coleman's organization. Councilmember Coleman if you would you please stand. The Fisher Street Community and in action received the Non-Profit of the Year for their Neighborhood Garden, Annual Night Out fish fry and Christmas Toy Drive. Thank you for that. And again, this guy is a popular fella. In 2024 the Unsung Hero Award went to Roger McKinney for his work in E Boone Watson Center for African American Culture Center. Thank you again Roger. Jonesboro has also won two AML awards. 2024 Honorable Mention of Technology and Security Awards for the upgrades, improvements, and investment in our E-911 Department and Real Time Crime Center and Excellence Center. We also won the 2024 Trend Setter of the Year Award for diversity and inclusion. The Arkansas top 10 employee Project Search Graduates, Project Care Implementation, Social Detriment of Health Study, and Implementation of the First Communications Board at the Miracle League Park. Job well done for Trend Setter of the Year.

Now, a team of five Jonesboro firefighters qualified for National's Firefighters' Challenge Championship Series in Hoover, Alabama, called the toughest two minutes in sports. Now with my assistance two did qualify in the top 10. Cody Nelson, Johnathan Edwards, Dylan Vanglider, Joshua Driver and Colby Stallings competed in the team relay as well as the individual. Dylan Vanglider though competed in individual competition in the division three and came in fifth place and Johnathan Edwards came in sixth place. So, congratulation gentleman for your continued dedication to the job that you do and taken pride in that. Thank you very much for representing our community.

Then early today, the Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce Annual Award Banquet, The Betty T Sloan Promotion Award went to Keep Jonesboro Beautiful Commission Chair Beverly Parker. So please tell her congratulations on that award.

Our officers in the past few weeks have been dealt with an observed number of school threats on social media. As many are aware, there have been several threats reported to schools in Jonesboro and surrounding communities. We thank the Jonesboro Police Department and school resource officers for their swift response in Jonesboro as well in assisting neighborhood counties. With the help of our school administrators and the students providing tips, all cases were investigated and resolved without incident. An open line of communication is key to proactive and proactive respond. Reporting any threatening rebrick or social media posting to authorities may it prevent a tragedy. We take all threats against our schools seriously and we'll continue to

prosecute those involved to the fullest extent of the law.

Now we will go to Downtown Jonesboro BBQ and Music Festival. It was a rainy Friday, but we were able to move the events to indoor facility at Brickhouse to make the most of the situation, and Saturday was a great day full of music and entertainment downtown, and I do remember the band Rat by the way, so it was enjoyable to see them, and they did well so we had a good turnout for that. That's the end of my mayor's report.

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

[RES-24:141](#)

A RESOLUTION TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY, WAIVE CITY COUNCIL PROCESS AND COMPETITIVE BIDDING RULES AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO RETAIN PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR LEGAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES AND ALLOCATE FUNDS TO CONSTRUCT REASONABLE IMMEDIATE PUBLIC PROTECTION STRUCTURES IN CONNECTION WITH THE 100 WEST WASHINGTON PROPERTY COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS THE CITIZENS BANK BUILDING

Attachments: [NorthDelta Phase 1 Immediate Action Report 10032024](#)

Councilmember Chris Moore said, Mr. Mayor, I know we're fixing to talk about the Citizens Bank building, and I'll make a motion to suspend the rules and walk on RES-24:141, a resolution to declare an emergency and authorize the mayor to retain professional services for legal and engineering services, and allocate funds to construct reasonable immediate public protection structures in front of the Citizens Bank building. Councilmember Chris Gibson seconded the motion. All voted Aye.

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, I'd like to give a brief summary and then we will follow up with additional information. I do want to give you an update, and I passed out an immediate action report this was really just received to us just a few minutes before the meeting tonight and it's a update on the private property of the Citizens Bank building, it obviously not new to this city council, especially to many of you who've been here for quite so time. We do want to be transparent as possible during this process, but safety is our number one priority and keeping citizens informed is my duty. Last Wednesday I received a call from Councilmember Chris Moore regarding a protrusion on the side of the Citizens Bank building. We immediately deployed the Fire Department and City Engineers to assess the situation. During that assessment there were two areas of concerns that was noted and both of which I believe are in this action report. One is noticeable, if you look at the building, that prompted an initial call. The second is vertical support that is noted in the report. It was determined that a safety hazard could exist. We have spoken with entities associated with the property, they are currently involved in legal proceedings, but they are aware of the issues and will continue to be updated as we know more. Over the weekend we signed an agreement with the North Delta Engineering for initial analyses of the building. We received this analysis and its before you. I do want to thank Jordan Lane and the North Delta team for making this a priority and getting this done so quickly, as it's not an easy task to do so. There were a few immediate steps that had been recommended, including constructing a protection barrier in front of First Horizon. The stabilization of outside panels to allow the removal and securing of the vertical support post. I will ask later on, Mr. Light, to speak to the science of that in the moment. We've already engaged a contractor to construct the protection wall it should begin within a few days. Once we have a suggested plan for the stabilization work, we'll discuss that with associated parties and if no action is taken, we plan to move forward to help expediate the process. Additionally, in addition to City Attorney Carol Duncan, we

have verbally retained *Womack Phelps Puryear Mayfield & McNeil Firm* to service as outside council by the city. Ultimately, our goal is to take the necessary actions to open Main Street in some capacity, as soon as possible. And on that note, I do want to say that to the community, please continue to support our downtown business owners. No doubt this has stopped some of the traffic from going downtown and I, of all people, we don't want our businesses to suffer from the actions that are outside of our control. So please continue to come downtown eat, shop and enjoy the center as we all know it. Chris, do you want to give a few comments?

Councilmember Chris Moore said, first of all, I think it would be important that we ask Carol to give a real brief legal description of where we are at on who owns the property and how it's been consolidated. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, ok as you may recall, when we started dealing with this property many years ago, they're where a variety owner of the property underneath and then Mr. Burrow had a 99-year lease on the building itself. Since that time one entity out of Little Rock has managed to gain title to all the property underneath the building. So, it's no longer owned by 12 or 13 different entities. It's now owned by one. And then you have still Mr. Burrow stating that he has a lease hold on the building itself. So those two parties are currently in legation to determine ownership of the building, and that basically where that stands. Councilmember Chris Moore said, last, I think it's important to note that the last part of that legation has been a motion for quite title and its before Judge Lusby right now. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, correct. Councilmember Chris Moore said, and we had discussions about maybe the possibility of intervening in that lawsuit to see if we could speed up that process, because now we are only down to two people. One owns the building, and one owns the property, and we need a decision. The one that owns the property is suing the one that owns the building for title, for superior title. And that before the judge and so what we really need is a decision from Judge Lusby as quick as possible on who the rightful owner of the building is. And that's why before you, you have a resolution authorizing the mayor to hire a third-party legal firm to represent the city and try to intervene in that lawsuit to speed that process up. That's kind of the summary on the legal part. I met with Craig Light and the engineers on site this week, numerous times. I think it would be important to hear from Craig on what the preliminary findings where from Jordan Lane.

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, Craig if you would please come forward. Councilmember David McClain said, mayor before we move forward. I know Chris would speak on the finding of that, but I guess my question is, if we go and start making repairs and we start to fix things I guess that what we're looking to do. Is this us starting the process to also, I guess I'm trying to figure out how we, can we do that number one, and two, if we incur cost, how do we get them to pay that? City Attorney Carol Duncan said, that's part of what we are looking at. The outside legal council is looking at do we have any standing to intervene in there their lawsuit. That's the first thing that their looking at, is there a way for us to intervene in that lawsuit because of public safety. Then my office is looking into where are we once we get more reports from, because this is just preliminary, this is the first step in figuring out the status of that building. As far as rather it's even possible to condemn the building as a whole, rather there's such thing as partial condemnation where we take down the parts that are dangerous and leave the steel structural. I mean I'm not an engineer, so we are waiting on guidance from them. In the past the problem was structural engineer said the building was sound. And therefore, we could not proceed with condemnation. We don't know rather that's the case now as it currently stands. So that kind of what we are waiting on, and then we are going to look at what are our options are to recoup the money. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, if I may add, in the initial action that was taken by Mr. Lane and his organization, have given us the preliminary for safety measures

that we can take, and then in the next week or two we have two additional engineers, structural engineers that we will then guide us on the rest of that to figure out the rest of the facility to what degree the repair nature will be, and then that is where the litigation comes in from outside council that will represent us on our behalf with the other two parties.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, Mayor I've got a question. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, yes sir councilmember. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I'm looking at this report, it is that the steel compromise or the cast around the steel compromise? Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, I will go ahead and let Craig provide you that answer. Engineer Department Director Craig Light approached the podium and said, to answer your question, it is the precast elements that are basically the façade of the building. The structural elements appeared to be intact, but the outside cladding on the building has come loose from the structure of the building and in areas. In two specific areas that we know of right now. If you would look at, I think its page four in the report, it highlights those two areas. The area in one, is the area that has moved significantly. We have been able to visually look at the connection between the cladding and the building and it is failed. At least a portion of it is no longer connected, and it is a risk of falling off the building. The other area in two, has moved, but we weren't able to verify if it has been completely disconnected from the building at this point. So, there's some additional work that would need to be done. But those are the two areas, and they are, area in one, we do have a concern that some of the materials, heavy materials pre cast concrete, steel, enamel coated steel panels, could fall from the building and they could do some serious damage if they did fall off the building. So, there is a concern for that. So, North Delta Engineering has made some recommendation, that we build a wall to protect the buildings across the street, on the east side of Main Street, the old Iberia Bank, First Horizon Bank I believe it is now. So, we are looking at getting that work started to protect that lower floor in case something does fall off on there. The second item that he was recommending, is that we physically secure these panels that have come loose. These pre cast concrete elements. We have a couple of ideas of how to go about doing that, but we need to engage in contractor and go through a design process to determine the best way to do it. With the concern that, if we push on it too hard it may dislodge and actually fall off the building. So, we haven't got all those details figured out just yet, that is the next step in the process. And then once we do get that secure, his recommendation is that we began removing the exterior cladding from the building from the top down to the fourth floor, I believe it is, in the report. And those are the elements that have ultimately come loose or could potentially be loose that could fall and injure somebody, so those are the recommendations that he has. He also goes on to say we need to do continued investigation on the building, because these connections that have failed, are the same connections that are duplicated throughout this building. We need to make sure that there is no other areas that are future potential failures or one that we don't see yet that are actually disconnected. So, there needs to be some investigation on that as well. So that's some follow up analyzes on those things. That's a quick summary of what the report says. I will try and answer any questions that you might have about it.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said, number one, I mean obviously I think safety is the utmost important here, we've got to keep the downtown area safe. A question I have, I'm not looking for an answer right now, but when it comes to land leases, does the owner of the land and the land lease have any of the responsibility in when it comes to the safety of the structure that's on the building? City Attorney Carol Duncan said, that's part of what's being litigated. It's also part of what we, along with outside council, are researching. Rather we can hold both responsible potentially, or rather it's one of or

the other. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, I know part of the quandary here is, if we spend money, we typically put a lien on the property, if the buildings condemned and torn down, there's no longer anything to put a lien on other than the land underneath it. And, one thing I didn't see in here, and y'all may be about to mention it, do we have any idea of the estimated cost of these initial safety steps? Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, so we already have Mr. Lane's agreement, and of course y'all are well aware that under situations, the mayor has the authority to go up to a limit of \$35,000. With three structural engineers, we're probably going to address that limit, close to. And with the framing, Ronnie, this morning, said that he was already working on that and if we the approval by council, we're looking at no more than, less than we anticipated, it was \$16,000 range to build a wall across the street for safety purposes. Councilmember Chris Moore said, Jordan Lane had a proposal not to exceed \$12,000 or \$13,000 or something like that, in engineering fees, and that included all administrative fees, from his office to give us a preliminary report. I would expect the other two engineering services will probably be in that same ballpark.

Councilmember John Street said, y'all got my question pretty well but, I would encourage the city to, and I talked to Carol about this earlier; to use every legal avenue we have to attach a lien as we do with almost anything else, any other property that's a problem, to the rightful owner. I don't think the taxpayers of Jonesboro should be, of course safety utmost and we got to do that, but I believe we could hold those property owners one or both accountable for the cost to do what's necessary to make that safe. And Chris has led this for years and years, we need to really do something to get that building resolved. Get it demolished or renovated one way or the other. That thing has been an eye sore and a problem for years and years, and I think it's time to go ahead push through, and I bet Chris will agree with me on this, and actually get something resolved on that.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, one of the things that concerns me now, and Craig alluded to it, but the safety barrier. The fire chief and Craig and myself, we made numerous trips up there, and we viewed the actual problems. And the fire chief's recommendation, under the common guidelines, are that you need to roughly secure a radius, one and a half times the height of the building, for fall protection from debris. So now we're sitting there at 70-80 feet off the ground, and if you start looking at a radius of 120-150 feet, the Lilly Law Firm across the street, Mike Ebbert's building next to it, Jim Lyons' building is directly beside it, Washington Avenue itself would have to be closed, and possible even over as far as the courthouse. When we went up there and looked and made an inspection, Craig can clarify it on me, but basically you have a red iron frame building that has concrete floors, and then there's a veneer around the outside that's composed of masonry elements, precast concrete, columns that are about 9-10 feet tall and they weigh about, if you just took the volume of the concrete, it'd be 800-1000 pounds, and then there's porcelain panels that are decorative between them. Well up on the fifth or sixth floor at N1, at least one of the concrete pre cast items is pulled out five inches. The wall on the outside, when we stand on the fifth floor on the floor, at the red iron and concrete slab, there's a gap the width of my hand between it and the outside veneer now. So, I can look down two floors, right down through the gap. And then when the engineer came, and the fireman moved some of the ceiling and other elements where we could crawl up on and look, we measured down, in one area, 28 feet and there is no anchorage, no supports between the outside and the red iron. and 28 feet is as far I could get my tape measure down between so. The Lilly Law Firm across the street, I think is in immediate danger, and so did the engineer and that's in your report. So, what they're talking about constructing on the safety wall, is a wall 32 feet long and 16 feet high, directly across from the building where we know its compromised. They'll set up masonry scaffolding on the sidewalk

and simply put plywood on the front of it, so if a large piece of debris or one of those thousand-pound columns falls off the building, and either goes and hits the building or ricochets off the sidewalk, it won't go through the front of the Lilly Law Firm. And it's currently occupied on the first floor. The engineer recommended that the second floor not be occupied at all because if the element fell its only 35 feet across the street from it. If an element fell it might come right through the roof. We're in a pretty serious situation down there, and I don't think we're going to have a solution to this in just a short term, Craig said at one of our meetings, no engineer is going to sign off on this on the short term. It's going to be a long process, and I think the mayor is on it best he can, he immediately sent everybody we needed down there. But I think until we have some legal guidance and some engineer guidance, we need to be prepared to re-route traffic on Main Street and any other activities down there.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, this is so enlightening, and I appreciate it, and definitely safety is important. I'm just concerned, what about the other side? I mean, we've checked everything. I'm just thinking about it. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, once again, the structures intact, and that's why we need the other two structural engineers. I think at this point and time, these are the two areas that they felt, Mr. Lane felt, insecure about. And obviously the weather, we've had rain that's come through it for years so that's going to impact the compression and expansion of the joints. So, with that and in this resolution, this will allow us for legally to get legal as well as the professional services, and then forced to move forward with the construction of that barrier. And, hopefully, in a couple of weeks, quickly, then we'll have a better analysis for council.

Councilmember David McClain said, I had a follow up question, mayor. So, at what point do we say enough has gone into this financially? Do we say enough is enough and we stop? Even with the engineering and the construction, when do we stop? The second question to that is, if we start to make repairs or we're starting to brace whatever, whatever we're doing. Are we going to touch the building? I guess that's my first question. So, if we end up touching the building and then all of a sudden, whatever we do, a piece of it falls off and goes into Ebbert's building or Lyons Law Firm, are we then reliable? City Attorney Carol Duncan said, the city is not liable for negligence ever. It would have to be intentional to work. So, it would have to be that we intended to throw something through someone's roof, number one. But number two, that's why we're getting all these experts. The whole goal is to assure this up. Well, first of all, to protect the neighbors the best we can. I mean, if we just leave it alone, they're not protected at all, and it could happen any time. According to our engineer. I think he said in this report that he's not as concerned about the north side, at this point, as he is the east side. Correct? But he needs to do further inspection. This is a preliminary, right? This is phase one. But right now, the biggest issue is the east. Am I getting my directions right? Yeah, the east side. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, and I will say, councilmember. That both parties have been very accepting of conversations at this point, and they're open to litigation, hopefully. So, hopefully both parties will get together with our council as well, and so we can mediate this as fast as possible. Councilmember David McClain said, I guess back to my first question. Do we have a number that we would stop, as far as... Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, until I think the building is assessed, we don't know what that number could possibly be.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, David, I would think, and I've had this discuss with the mayor, Brian and some others; if the engineers come back and say we can reasonably secure the building, it's going to be ugly down there. We're going to take panels off/ We're going to have parts off. The building be open. It will be ugly, but it will be reasonably secure. That's not hundreds and hundreds of thousands of dollars. If

the engineers come back and say that the ties all around the building are compromised and the same thing can happen on any one side and the whole building has to come down. I think we'd have to be prepared to take the building down on the public safety. And I think that's going to be somewhere in the \$1,000,000-\$1,500,000 range. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, and obviously that would come back to council through a condemnation. That's not something we're going to do without... Councilmember Chris Moore said, the mayor and them, are strictly asking tonight so that we can hire a law firm to try to pressure and intervene in the lawsuit, and just to get the basic engineering reports. And, then they're going to come back to the council and tell us the results. But I think in the long term, we need to be prepared to budget money that we may never get back. Nothing about that building sets good with me. I've hated it for a long time, but I also don't want to see a repeat of something that happened in Florida. A whole building collapsed right in the downtown area. I think, starting immediately in our budget, we need to start figuring out how we could afford to take that building down on pretty short notice.

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, and what I can do council, is go ahead and provide you weekly reports on what we're spending and that way it will keep you up to date, or even as soon as I get it, I'll send it to you. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, and my office is looking at alternatives to liens. I know that was a question that you had John. We've done some research on that, as to whether there would be civil liability that we could pursue, in addition to, or instead of liens. And these are things that will work with outside council on. Like I said, we're kind of counting on them to try and handle the litigation side and then my office try to handle the condemnation part. It's obviously a big undertaking. But we're looking at every possible angle, to collect the city's money back.

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: 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Enactment No: R-EN-112-2024

CONTINUATION OF THE CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I enjoyed everybody that came for the fish at National Night Out. We gave out 400 plates and 300 hot dogs. We started at 4:00 p.m. and the line was everywhere and they wanted that fish. On the inside of the park, the dedication of the police department for coming and cooking the hot dogs. They were lined up before 4:00 p.m. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Dr. Coleman.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, the Mayor and I met over the building and we rolled in at 5:20 p.m. and didn't even get a bun pretty much. Fish wasn't even in the equation. I just wanted to say that despite the weather, the Barbeque Festival was great. We came down on Saturday night. The bands played Saturday. There was a big turnout of people. So, it went good. Good deal.

Councilmember Chris Gibson said, Craig, any update on your progress on that signalization we discussed yesterday at Aggie and Red Wolf. Engineering Director Craig Light said, they were working on getting the fiber connection to it today. I

honestly don't know if it was completed or not. I haven't talked with the Traffic Signal Crew since early this morning. I know they were working on it today. Councilmember Gibson said, I was just curious on the timeline. I'm getting a lot of calls on that. Mr. Light said, I will let you know.

Councilmember John Street said, I just want to say the Highway Department, the Arkansas Highway Department met here yesterday at the Cooper Alumni Center. They had their monthly meeting here. I guess it was due partly because they are moving around, having meetings in different parts of the state, but also it was an honor for Alec Farmer who's hometown and alumni of ASU. They went back and reviewed the ten years of progress made under Alec's tenure on the board and then under his leadership. It was very impressive. I was very proud to have somebody of his caliber on the Highway Commission. As we have discussed before, we owe him a great debt of gratitude for all of the projects and things that he's done. He was recognized by a lot of folks. One of the things that they have implemented, him and our past District 10 Engineer Brad Smithee got together and they have saved the State of Arkansas millions and millions of dollars and a lot of time on replacing these bridges everywhere. You know, they look at the bridges ever so many years and rate them. A lot of these smaller bridges are bad and they are using precast panels like the county does and has done since I guess Red Bearden implemented those years ago. They have done that for the state and it was very impressive. Alec and our past District 10 Engineer Brad Smithee were the ones who received a lot of credit for that. It was really a great honor to attend that. I am sure that Alec appreciated it too. He goes off in December. It will be his last meeting. Lori Tudor, another great friend of ours who is the Director of the Highway Commission goes off in August. I don't know who will take her place, but Lori has been a great person to work with for Northeast Arkansas and our roads. And, also, you left out an award Mayor. I saw it posted where you received an award from the Arkansas Association of Chiefs of Police. They recognized your exceptional leadership in advancing public safety and community well-being. So, congratulations on that. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you very much.

Councilmember Mitch Johnson said, as I continue to recuperate from my last big event, I would like to say that the rain did affect us a little bit at the 2024 Northeast Arkansas District Fair last Friday night so we weren't able to open, but we did overcome on Saturday with over 9,000 attendees to bring our total attendance for the run of this year's fair to 46,983 attendees. I would just like to take a second to show my appreciation for police, police reserves, fire, streets, sanitation, 911, just the many partnerships that we continue to experience over the years. We are truly grateful for that as well as my own staff who put in countless hours and little sleep. We managed to have a successful year overall and it's just a great thing for everyone to come together and help us continue to bring this forth to the community. So, I appreciate that very much. And, thanks for attending our annual ribbon ceremony Mayor. We couldn't have kicked it off without you. Mayor Copenhaver said, I appreciate it and Councilmember I will say that we appreciate your efforts because it's kind of unsung and unappreciated, but you do dedicate a lot of your time and the community really does appreciate your effort and again, thank you so much for what you did. Councilmember Johnson said, thank you very much. Thank you.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, I would like to say I don't know who was a part of the City Council before me and Mayor, whoever, about the overpass in my ward that's on Airport Road. I want to say thank you. I got a chance to actually see the traffic backed up today. I was almost late here. And, to literally see hundreds of cars backed up and that overpass is going to be completed in 2025, so I appreciate that, but I like us to also consider I know over here on Gee Street and other places that are

in need. And, just to say to my colleague that worked the District Fair, thank you.

Councilmember David McClain said, the only thing I have Mayor was could we get somebody to come out and look at Willow Road. It is pretty beat up and holds water and has some major, major pot holes that can cause some big issues. Mayor Copenhaver said, absolutely, thank you Councilmember. Councilmember McClain said, thank you.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

James Elwin Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, first let me say how much I appreciate the people that are responsible for getting them to see that the Christmas Parade would continue this year. The children, in particular, in Jonesboro deserve to have a good Christmas Parade. Having said that, I want to deal with a problem, and we might as well face the fact that there is a problem of somewhat related, and part of the problem is that the group that used to sponsor the Christmas Parade is no longer here to sponsor them. And they were also a big sponsor of the fair and we really haven't had anyone step up and take their place as far as sponsoring the fair. Now, there were some other things too, and let me tell you, I was at the fair one day. That was unusual for me because I've been involved with the fair since 1979, and Mitch can tell you, I've been there almost every night there's been a fair working. I only went Thursday, Senior Citizens Day, partly because it was Senior Citizens Day, and I got in free. The other this is, my foster daughter who's 35 now but still calls me dad, called me Wednesday night and said she's looking at the Friday forecast so instead of going Children's Day, she was going to take my grandson to the fair on Thursday. Boy, I'm glad she did that. Cause the weather made that important. Now, while I was waiting between the senior citizen part and the, by the way, the senior citizens, some of them left real early. In fact, about 1:15, one lady walked out and was overheard saying, if I knew this was all there was going to be I wouldn't have come. But I set between, waiting for her to get there, and for my grandson to get out of kindergarten, and I listened. And a lot of the older people said I'm not coming back. Now, the problems, they're not Mitch's fault, he did the best he could. In fact, what you had looked good. But there are things, a lot of it involves, they call them the commercial booths, but actually it's not just commercial. There's political, public service, there's a lot of the hospitals and medical clinics. You get there and, you know, some of them give free screenings and that sort of thing and we weren't able to do that. This is not an easy thing, and I wish I had somebody to get mad at, like mad at Mitch and be like this is your fault but it's not. We need to come together, have some brainstorming, whatever, as to how we're going to deal with this problem so that we can get those commercial booths, we can get those free medical screenings and everything else. Just like the children deserve a Christmas Parade, everybody in Craighead County and since it's District Fair in the Northeast Arkansas district deserves a good fair. And there are some problems that need to be addressed, and one person can not do it. And Mitch I appreciate what you did to make the best of a bad situation.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Harold Copenhaver, Mayor

Date: _____

Attest:

April Leggett, City Clerk

Date: _____