



City of Jonesboro

900 West Monroe
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, August 3, 2010

6:30 PM

Huntington Building

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING AT 5:30 P.M.

PUBLIC HEARING AT 6:15 P.M.

Regarding the abandonment of one foot of the utility and drainage easement in Lot 4, Block B of Phase I in Rossland Hills Subdivision as requested by John & Carol McCarthy

Mr. Ryan Wilson, attorney for the property owners, discussed the abandonment. He noted there have been no objections from the utility providers and the abandonment was recommended by the Public Works Committee. No opposition was voiced concerning the abandonment.

1. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR PERRIN AT 6:30 P.M.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

3. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK DONNA JACKSON

Present 11 - Darrel Dover; Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Jim Hargis; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Tim McCall; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Rennell Woods and Mikel Fears

Absent 1 - Chris Moore

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

COM-10:076 Proclamation by the Mayor to the Jets Swim Team

Mayor Perrin commended the team for their work and noted some of the team members will be competing at the zone championship in Nebraska and the Junior Olympics in Virginia. He presented the team with the proclamation and congratulated the team for their accomplishments.

JETS swim team member Lilly Jones thanked Mayor Perrin on behalf of the coaches and teammates. She presented the Mayor with a Jonesboro JETS t-shirt and stated they are proud to represent the City of Jonesboro.

This item was Read.

COM-10:077 Proclamation by the Mayor to Somer Allen, Miss Greater Jonesboro

Mayor Perrin presented the proclamation to Miss Greater Jonesboro Somer Allen and commended her for her positive influence on younger generations in Jonesboro. He also thanked Shane and Ellen Pollack, directors of the Greater Jonesboro pageant, for their work. Ms. Allen thanked Mayor Perrin and the City Council for the proclamation.

This item was Read.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Councilman Chris Gibson, seconded by Councilman Gene Vance, to Approve the Consent Agenda. A motion was made that these files be approved by consent voice vote

Aye: 11 - Darrel Dover; Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Jim Hargis; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Tim McCall; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Rennell Woods and Mikel Fears

Absent: 1 - Chris Moore

MIN-10:068 Minutes for the City Council meeting on July 20, 2010.

This item was PASSED on the consent agenda.

RES-10:091 A RESOLUTION TO APPOINT AND REAPPOINT MEMBERS TO THE CRAIGHEAD COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL AUTHORITY

Sponsors: Mayor's Office

This item was PASSED on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-071-2010

RES-10:092 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AN ENGAGEMENT LETTER FOR AUDIT SERVICES OF FEDERAL AWARDS WITH FREEMAN & COMPANY, CPA

Sponsors: Finance

This item was PASSED on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-072-2010

RES-10:094 A RESOLUTION TO ALLOW THE VALLEY VIEW RURITAN CUB SCOUT PACK 1225 TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CITY OF JONESBORO AREA "ADOPT A STREET" PROGRAM.

Sponsors: Mayor's Office

This item was PASSED on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-073-2010

6. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

ORD-10:059 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE 2010 ANNUAL BUDGET AND THE CITY SALARY & ADMINISTRATION PLAN FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO ADD A MOBILITY SPECIALIST POSITION TO THE JETS DEPARTMENT

Sponsors: JETS and Human Resources

Councilman Street offered the ordinance for first reading by title only.

Councilman Dover asked for clarification regarding how the position will be funded. Mayor Perrin explained the position will be working with other agencies such as Area Agency on Aging, St. Bernard's and FOCUS. He further explained the position will be funded through grants, as well as sponsorships from the partnering agencies. He noted nothing will be coming out of the City's general revenue for the position.

Councilman Street motioned, seconded by Councilman Woods, to suspend the rules and waive second and third readings. All voted aye.

Councilman Gibson motioned, seconded by Councilman Dover, to adopt the emergency clause. All voted aye.

Mr. Keith Carle questioned if the City will continue to pay for the position if the grant funding runs out. Mayor Perrin answered no.

A motion was made by Councilman Chris Gibson, seconded by Councilwoman Ann Williams, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED by a unanimous vote

Aye: 11 - Darrel Dover;Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Jim Hargis;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Tim McCall;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Rennell Woods and Mikel Fears

Absent: 1 - Chris Moore

Enactment No: O-EN-044-2010

ORD-10:064 AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE FUNDING FOR RADIO UPGRADES FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND PUBLIC WORKS INFRASTRUCTURE AND WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING OF REQUIRED PURCHASES

Sponsors: E911 and Finance

Councilman Street offered the ordinance for first reading by title only.

Councilman Dover asked how the purchase will be funded. Mayor Perrin answered the funding will be from the 911 Center due to the \$200,000 grant the department recently received. He also commended E-911 Director Jeff Presley for negotiating the price down even though Motorola is the sole source. He then discussed the radios and noted the purchase is a budgeted item.

Councilman Dover motioned, seconded by Councilman Gibson, to suspend the rules and waive second and third readings. All voted aye.

Councilman Johnson motioned, seconded by Councilman Vance, to adopt the emergency clause. All voted aye.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ann Williams, seconded by Councilman

John Street, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED by a unanimous vote

Aye: 11 - Darrel Dover;Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Jim Hargis;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Tim McCall;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Rennell Woods and Mikel Fears

Absent: 1 - Chris Moore

Enactment No: O-EN-045-2010

ORD-10:066

AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE AND ABANDON ONE FOOT OF THE UTILITY AND A DRAINAGE EASEMENT IN LOT 4, BLOCK B OF PHASE I IN ROSSLAND HILLS' SUBDIVISION, CRAIGHEAD COUNTY, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, AS REQUESTED BY JOHN MCCARTHY

Councilman Street offered the ordinance for first reading by title only.

Councilman Street motioned, seconded by Councilman Hargis, to suspend the rules and waive second and third readings. All voted aye.

Councilman Vance motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Williams, to adopt the emergency clause. All voted aye.

A motion was made by Councilman John Street, seconded by Councilman Jim Hargis, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED by a unanimous vote

Aye: 11 - Darrel Dover;Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Jim Hargis;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Tim McCall;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Rennell Woods and Mikel Fears

Absent: 1 - Chris Moore

Enactment No: O-EN-046-2010

ORD-10:067

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE 2010 ANNUAL BUDGET AND THE CITY SALARY & ADMINISTRATION PLAN FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO ADD AN ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Sponsors: Human Resources and Parks & Recreation

Mayor Perrin discussed the position. He explained Mr. Jeff Owens was recently promoted to the Parks Director position, which left the position of Assistant Parks Director vacant. He further explained after reviewing the way the Parks Department functions they decided to add the position of Assistant to the Parks Director to the department and do away with the Assistant Parks Director position. He stated the Assistant to the Parks Director position will bring in revenue for the department, serve as an ambassador and be a business development officer. He noted the salary is lower than the Assistant Parks Director position, which will cut the salaries in that department by at least \$50,000. Further discussion was held concerning the position.

Councilman Dover offered the ordinance for first reading by title only.

Councilwoman Williams motioned, seconded by Councilman Fears, to suspend the rules and waive second and third readings. All voted aye.

Mr. Keith Carle questioned why the City is adding a position to the department at the same time the City is saying it's financially distressed and is asking for a sales tax. Councilman Frierson reiterated Mayor Perrin's earlier statement, noting that the addition of the position will save the City at least \$50,000 in salaries in the Parks Department. Mr. Carle then questioned why the City doesn't outsource the duty of

advertising similar to the way the City outsourced advertising for JETS with the hire of Harpole Phillips. He also expressed concern about just having heard about this position. Mayor Perrin noted the position was discussed at Finance Committee meeting last week, which was covered in the newspaper. He also stated they took into the consideration the other factors, such as unemployment and FICA, that go along with the addition of a new position. He explained with the addition of this position the Assistant Parks Director position is being deleted, which was paid at a higher rate and is a position that is no longer needed in the department. He assured Mr. Carle that they have run all the figures and the Assistant to the Parks Director position will save the City \$50,000 to \$75,000 in total cost. Mayor Perrin added JETS did outsource advertising until they discovered that it would be easier to have the position in-house to better control the contracts and cost.

Councilwoman Williams motioned, seconded by Councilman Vance, to adopt the emergency clause. All voted aye.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ann Williams, seconded by Councilman John Street, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED by a unanimous vote

Aye: 11 - Darrel Dover;Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Jim Hargis;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Tim McCall;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Rennell Woods and Mikel Fears

Absent: 1 - Chris Moore

Enactment No: O-EN-047-2010

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

RES-10:064 A RESOLUTION TO Condemn property at 305 N Bridge and is owned by Verlee & Mary Harris

Sponsors: Code Enforcement

No opposition was voiced.

A motion was made by Councilman Darrel Dover, seconded by Councilman John Street, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED by a unanimous vote

Aye: 11 - Darrel Dover;Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Jim Hargis;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Tim McCall;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Rennell Woods and Mikel Fears

Absent: 1 - Chris Moore

Enactment No: R-EN-074-2010

RES-10:065 A RESOLUTION TO Condemn property at 1001 Creath and is owned by Mamie Bennett

Sponsors: Code Enforcement

No opposition was voiced.

A motion was made by Councilman Chris Gibson, seconded by Councilman John Street, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED by a unanimous vote

Aye: 11 - Darrel Dover; Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Jim Hargis; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Tim McCall; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Rennell Woods and Mikel Fears

Absent: 1 - Chris Moore

Enactment No: R-EN-075-2010

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Perrin reported on the following items:

He, along with City Attorney Phillip Crego, Police Chief Michael Yates, Purchasing Agent Steve Kent and Human Resources Director Gloria Roark, recently met with the Municipal League concerning their benefit programs and are comparing them to what the City has now. He added after further review of the programs they will be going back to the Municipal League.

Nordex will be holding their grand opening as well as an international board meeting on October 29th in Jonesboro. He noted everyone will be receiving invitations to attend.

Several restaurants in Jonesboro had injunctions placed against them from the Alcohol Beverage Control Board. He added the City and the Council will review those issues once the ABC has finished. He noted they contacted the ABC Board and all of the issues are under appeal at this time.

National Night Out is being held tonight at six different locations in the City. He encouraged everyone to attend, adding it's a great way for the citizens to get to know the city officials.

They are working to get Commerce Drive classified in order to qualify for federal funding. They will be taking it to the Transportation Advisory Commission for recommendations.

Expenses for the first seven months were \$1.5 million under budget in Operations & Management. Overall, expenses were \$3.6 million under budget. There are several items, such as the non-uniform pension payment, that will change those numbers during the rest of the year. He added the department heads are continuing to cut expenses. Revenue is \$1,377 higher than budgeted. He will be emailing the Council the financial reports.

Mayor Perrin then referred back to the consent agenda and presented Valley View Ruritan Cub Scout Pack 1225 with their Adopt a Street sign. He explained the Cub Scouts will be keeping the entire intersection by Valley View Schools clear for the year.

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Street commended the Cub Scout pack for adopting the street.

Councilman Woods thanked the Council and Ms. Gayle Vickers for attending the recent Arkansas Legislative Task Force on Poverty meeting that was held at

CityYouth Ministries. He stated he is anxious to see what reports come from the meeting. Mayor Perrin noted he was unable to attend the meeting because he was out of town, but he received a letter from the Rockefeller Foundation saying the meeting had the largest attendance for that task force.

Councilmen McCall, Fears and Gibson stated they have already been to a National Night Out location and were impressed with the large crowds.

Councilman Fears thanked the Fire and Police Departments for their work to garner support for the current sales tax election.

Councilman Hargis questioned the status of the transfer of funds from Principal Financial to Stephens. City Attorney Crego stated all but four of the present retirees consented to the transfer. He explained Principal has indicated they will not release the funds. They have asked for the decision and the justification in writing. He further explained they are, at this time, considering litigation against Principal and City Treasurer Jim Eagan has informed Principal the City does not want them performing any actuarial services for this year. City Attorney Crego noted Foster & Foster was previously hired to perform those duties. He also stated there are two firms, one of whom is exploring class action litigation and they are looking into participating in the firm's action. Further discussion was held concerning Principal.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Keith Carle stated the City needs to make sure the signs for the sales tax election are not in the public right-of-way. Mayor Perrin stated he will have Code Enforcement look into the locations of the signs.

11. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Mayor Perrin adjourned the meeting.

_____ Date: _____
Harold Perrin, Mayor

Attest:

_____ Date: _____
Donna Jackson, City Clerk