



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

PUBLIC SAFETY COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING AT 5:00 P.M.

PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT REVENUE BONDS AT 5:30 P.M.

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, Good evening, everybody. I appreciate everybody being here in attendance. We're going to substitute just a quick, real quick, up front, we're going to introduce a public hearing on the possibility of issuing revenue bonds. And so this is to fund several critically needed projects in the city. In September, you approved, council, an authorizing resolution to move forward with revenue bond proceedings with these projects outlined in this presentation. None of these are new projects. We've been talking about these for over a year and a half, and several of them have been needed for a decade and a half. The packet you have includes a timeline that has dates. This plan has been publicly discussed. These three areas are a result of council's comments to narrow down the scope of a capital improvement plan. These bonds do not represent a tax increase or a cost increase to the public. We are simply leveraging future revenues from existing franchise fees to get a lump sum of cash to build and begin project construction now. So, to the public, relax. It's not a tax. I know one topic that I've discussed with multiple city council members is the purchase of new property in the revenue bond. For clarification, a bond approval cannot purchase property. In the proceeding Public Safety meeting, I requested that committee chairs from affected areas fast track of review of potential locations for the new 911 Center. So again, the bond will simply provide funding to build the center, not dictate if new property is purchased. We do have in the room with us, Paul Phillips, our financial advisor from Crews and Associates. We have Ryan Bowman, who is legal bond counsel from the Friday Firm, and we also have Michael McBride from Stephens, who is the bond underwriter. So, I would like them to come up at this present time, if you would, Paul, please give us a summary again of the process of the revenue bond and where we are at this point. Thank you, Paul.

Paul Phillips of Crews and Associates, said, glad to be before you again. I thought I would take a couple of minutes and kind of start this off with an overview of the timeline and kind of our goals and objectives for execution here. And then, if there are additional questions or comments or if there is anything that I need to address, I would be glad to do that too. So, obviously, there is a public hearing here tonight. Hopefully these aren't all here to speak for it, but if they are, bring them on I guess. So, anyway, our goal in this transaction is to start working the documents, getting the documents together, and dealing with the bond insuring rating agencies, similar to the discussions we've had before in terms of trying to get the appropriate credit rating. I've already initiated some of those discussions. I feel real confident that we'll will get a AA credit rating by virtue of a credit enhancement from assured guarantee. So, that will allow for a very efficient and effective transaction. And, then what we're going to ask for the commitment on the insurance to get that by June 3rd assuming they can meet that timeline which I have been given some assurance that they will. Then on June 9th, what we'll do is we'll have an offering document. It'll be the final document that we'll utilize and distribute to potential investors, solicit feedback for roughly a

week or so regarding structure, potential interest rates, any type of feedback we can get that helps us deliver the city the best deal we can do. And, so, then our goal will be to be back before this body on June 17th with a bond ordinance that will have the final terms and conditions, interest rates, call provisions, everything in the bond ordinance. And, that will result from the sale of the bonds by Stephens that morning. So, just to kind of frame that a little bit, we might have an order period if you will for the bonds from 9:00 to 10:30. At that particular point in time, we kind of assess where we're at, maybe we've got more sales than we do bonds. We'll ratchet down interest rates, if that's the case, we restructure. You never know. We're just trying to deliver the best deal we can. Once that's put in place and those numbers are finalized, we'll then place those numbers into the final bond ordinance. So, backtracking just a little bit. So, when you get your council packet for the meeting on the 7th, I think that goes out the Thursday prior to the meeting, right? In that packet will be the bond ordinance as drafted, but it will have blanks everywhere there is a reference to an interest rate or a number or anything else. We can't fill that in until the sale of the bonds has been made official. So, historically, what Ryan Bowman has done is, you'll have, like I said, you'll have the blank one, he'll provide you with a black line copy and address the additions that have been made, and we'll be here, of course. I'll give an overview of the sale of the bonds. He'll go through the changes to the ordinance, so that's very transparent to everyone. So, then what would you be asked to do on that evening? Because clearly the volatility in the market, we can't sell bonds and then wait multiple weeks to finalize the terms. We've got to finalize the terms that day. The only way to do that is to ask this body to do all three readings plus an emergency clause on the evening of the 17th. Backtracking again, we just talked a little bit about this in the past. That's customary, that's common. That's virtually whatever every other city does to lock in the rates that they do that. Now, it's up to you, whether y'all read the whole ordinance. It'll be 30 pages probably, or you just want to discuss or you want to have Ryan discuss the blanks and take it from there. But, we will need three readings and the emergency clause. And, so, with that, we can then publish that ordinance. We'll have to get some closing documents and insert the final numbers and provisions in every one of the bond documents. And, all that being said, then we would close the transaction on July 22nd. And, at that particular point in time, you've got a construction fund with the monies in it and you're ready to move forward with each of these projects. I'll pause to see if there are any questions.

Mayor Harold Copenhaver asked, do we have any questions for Mr. Phillips? I don't see any. Thank you, Paul, very much. I appreciate that. So, Council, if you don't mind, what I'd like to do is briefly walk you through the packet. I noticed to my right David McClain is already at the end, but he flips quickly. We're going to summarize a little bit here, and I have staff here, if you have questions. I have Police, E911, Engineering, Planning, and Connectivity Committee, Andy Shatley is in the room as well to address any questions that you may have. So, if you would, please go to the documentation that we've provided you, and I believe it's on the screen for the audience as well. And of course, page one, I'm not going to read this to you, of course, but it addresses obviously, the main concern that we have in our communities Public Safety, the continuance of infrastructure, and of course, our great Quality of Life. So, with that, we need smart growth, and we need to prepare for 100K. And, so, this is a discussion that's been ongoing for a year and a half. And, so, if you will go to the next page? Obviously, the E911 Public Safety Center, the recommendation of costs at this point in time is \$5.5 million. And, in our last Finance meeting where we presented this, I asked the Finance Committee, those that were present, to provide us with questions and their concerns for the general public that we could address. And, one of those was a timeline of each and every one of these agenda items. And, so, that is what we have presented as well, location, and you can read that for yourself. That would be determined by the committee, the task force that I asked to be set in place, because again, it's important that we get it right, and I want

the right input and I want our city council to be involved in this process. And, as you can see, it moves on through. So, to the public, revenue bond, the continuance of those projects need to be started and completed within the three year time frame. So, it's very complex and it's very quick. And, these are projects that we do have plans for, and if you notice, you flip to the next page, and I think it's the back of your illustration, the E911 Public Safety Center. These are just a few pictures of the inside of our facility. And, many of you, if you haven't been there, you truly need to go, because these are the individuals that are the first call, life and death, these are the individuals, the first call. And if you notice the picture in the center, the gentleman sitting, that's a training station. That's where he's getting trained with all those wires and everything. It's very small. I've got to commend City Council. We did utilize ARPA funding for the resources and upgrades of our technologies. So, our computer screens and technology, we have improved those and those can be then moved to the new location once that location is decided. Next, we'll move on to a diagram of a proposed, doesn't necessarily mean where, but a proposed facility, and we do have a large diagram over here to your left. The building on the right is a 911 facility. Now, it and Chief Elliot can give you more information in regards to the parameters as well as the architect, the requirements of the safety of that facility, it must be a one level facility. It must be bomb proof and all those other type criteria. So, the education of that building is it can be a standalone building and then we add facilities around that. The building to the left is basically the diagram of the current police station. So, if you flip to the next page, the final phase of that would incorporate wherever that location may be an internal and complete final stage for a complete police station at one location with the 911 Center as you can see in the rear as well. Next, we'll move on to the second project, and this is Caraway Road Expansion. And, again, I think it's important. I think we all know, and I think it was mentioned earlier about traffic in our community, how fast it is, and mind you, one of our own, Tonya Hottel was in a pretty serious accident this afternoon. Somebody ran a red light and so keep her in your prayers. So again, this is evident, and please use your safety belts. I can't say that enough. I want to commend our Police Department and Fire Department to being Johnny on the spot as well as our ambulance services this afternoon because they provide that every day in our community and sometimes they aren't thanked enough. So thank you for the men and women that do that job. But, Caraway Road Expansion, this is an opportunity. It's been on the Master Street Plan adopted by City Council. It coincides with ARDOT's design plans for interchange improvements at Caraway and I-555. The project is also will have a side path that will replace a dirt worn path, as you can see, on the illustration, beside and photographs. Protecting pedestrians, and we have more than 15,000 vehicles that traverse down that road daily. Now, again, Council, we provided a timeline for your observation as well on that project and it could go out for a bid as early as fall 2025. If you go to the next page, that does show you the progress of that diagram from stage one, two, and three. One is a two lane, two is a three lane, and three is a five lane as that progresses toward Caraway Road. And, if you need to ask any questions, obviously, Engineering is here as well, to answer that. Next, we go on to the third item, and that's the Quality of Life Initiatives. We do have Mr. Shatley, and I can attest that his committee has been very actively at work. And again, we're providing safe pedestrian accommodations. This is key, and I want Council to also see the projects that are listed on this because it affects many in the area, and it might even be in some of your regions that you represent. So, in the Summer of 2025, the Jefferson Side Path Construction would begin. In the Summer of 2026, the Johnson Side Path Construction begins. And, much conversation has been asked on Prospect Road and that would begin in the Winter of 2026. So, planning is underway for that as well. Now, I would like you to flip over, you'll see the next illustration, and we see some examples of our side paths that have been very proactive and we're gaining a lot. I get a lot of calls and receive a lot of information from other mayors in other parts of the state that would like to implement side paths that we have done. So, I commend the vision for us to move

forward. And again, this lists the projects and we're investing in our youth here. We're investing in the future and quality of life. So, the real interesting page is going to be the next page. That's our existing trails that we currently have throughout the City of Jonesboro in the blue. These are trails that we've been working on for years. Now, let's go to the next page. These are actually in the yellow, these are trails that are currently funded on this. So, again, we're connecting. There is a layover or overlay of all these. And, as we go to the next page, the ones in the dark are trails funded by the revenue bond itself. So, now you can start seeing connected Prospect Road. That's going to connect to the new park that we have in eastern Jonesboro that will be at \$2 million park expansion on 18 acres, hopefully 23 acres to its full capacity. Now, we're connecting Prospect. We're connecting Arkansas State University. We're connecting downtown and eventually out to Joe Mack Campbell. Now, we're going south as well in the corridors to reach Craighead Forest Park, our jewel in our community. Then, the last page is obviously the long range plan of the future of what the trail system will be like in the City of Jonesboro. So, that's the overall vision of that. So, the Quality of Life Investments, as you can tell, will be basically divided into three categories. We call this Destination 100k, but folks, we have to plan for the future. And, this is the step in doing so. You know, safety trends across the country, we need to be ahead of the game, and we're seeing approximately 20,000 fire and police stations over four decades that are old and no longer operational in communities. So, a lot of cities are facing the same challenges we are. It's estimated that \$70 billion is needed to address public safety needs in the United States. So, again, we need to think outside the box. So, the next page is a revenue timeline page, and this is what I've got on the board over here. And, I think it's important for the community to understand that we have gone through a process and this process has allowed us to gather a lot of input from meetings with City Council, public input, city staff, to amend the project, narrow the scope of the proposed plan. Since that time, City Council has approved general fund allocations for various aspects of the proposed plan, including \$3.2 million toward an outdoor swimming facility and aquatics at the new sports complex, establishing a humanitarian outreach fund, a multi-million dollar road maintenance allocation, various pedestrian improvements, street lighting improvements, \$1 million towards Parks Master Plan implementation, and additionally, a \$3.25 million of ARPA funding was allocated for an emergency demolition of the Citizens Bank building. I wanted to show you the timeline and the last year and a half that we had proposed. This is more than we have ever done before and it's going above and beyond for public input, City Council input as well. And, so, this evening is just in that line. We still have over a month before we vote on this. And with that, I would just like to bring this to a close, but the last page is really critical. And for you, the public and council, as I've reiterated, revenue bonds, this is not a new tax, this is not a tax. We use leveraging from financing from municipal revenue bonds to be able to purchase and provide the quality impacts of projects in our community. The repayment of these bonds is specifically backed by franchise fee revenue. The fees collected from the utility providers for the use of public rights-of-way not predicted project revenues. So, Steve, is my number correct? We utilized about 70% of the franchise fees. Is that correct? (Off camera, Finance Director Steve Purtee nods his head in agreement.) So, again, that gives us the flexibility, hopefully for as we see our revenues, whether up or down, that gives us a comfort level. The key features of the revenue bond, it's not a tax. It is a specific revenue source with no burden on the taxpayers. Specifics to this revenue bond, it'll project totals of \$16 million, leaving \$1.5 million for absorption of additional or unexpected project costs. The revenue bond does not authorize purchase of property. The revenue bond construction proceeds must be expended within a three year time period, and the revenue bond expenditures must adhere to the city standard purchasing and procurement guidelines. So, with that Council, I'll close in saying, and I've said it before, and I mentioned it to y'all in my State of the City address, to you, Council. We all like to think big, and we should. And, we can't overlook these basic responsibilities as leaders of this community. I believe, like you,

that we have a moral responsibility, a moral mandate to prioritize projects that will save lives. So, the floor is now open. Do we have any questions by Council? Councilman Joe Hafner asked, Mayor, can you just kind of talk a little bit more about the task force you are talking about for the Real Time Crime Center and who's going to be on it? Mayor Copenhagen said, what Councilman Hafner is asking me to do, earlier in the Public Safety Committee, through the process of this last year and a half, and here recently, we have been hearing of discussion of other possibilities of locations. So, to prioritize and to get the input from the community in order to move the revenue bond forward, I have asked for a task force that will consist of our leaders on the City Council that are the Chairmen of their committees. So, every one of the committee chairs, along with Councilman Moore, who is Mayor Pro-Tempore, who will be working in conjunction with the mayor's office, will then interview and see with architects, with design engineers, with our 911 facilitator, with our police department, with the community downtown and other parts of the community, the importance and the location of this. And, then at that point in time, Councilman Emison, who is the Public Safety Chair, has agreed to chair that commission, and they will come up with the time frame to reach an answer, and I'm looking forward to their service on this, but again, I think it's important that we be transparent 100%. We need the public input, and we want the best decision because this is moving Jonesboro, not 5 or 10, this is a 20 to 30 year project that we need to be able to have as a facility that can be utilized for our community for the future to come. So good question. Thank you, Councilman. Anyone in the audience? I don't see any, so we'll go ahead at this point in time. I'll bring this to a close. Thank you very much.

[COM-25:016](#)

PRESENTATION OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT REVENUE BONDS

Attachments: [Destination 100k.pdf](#)

Read

1. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR HAROLD COPENHAVER TO BE CALLED FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC HEARING

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

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

Present 10 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent 2 - Chris Gibson and Charles Coleman

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

5. CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGEND

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

Aye: 10 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent: 2 - Chris Gibson and Charles Coleman

[MIN-25:039](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MAY 6, 2025

Attachments: [CC Minutes 05062025.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-25:039](#)

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ACCEPT A PERMANENT CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT AT 1507 WOOD STREET FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS

Attachments: [Permanent Constructionn Easement 1507 Wood Street.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-056-2025

[RES-25:040](#)

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE FOR A PERMANENT CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT AT 1503 WOOD STREET FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS

Attachments: [Offer and Acceptance - 1503 Wood Street.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-057-2025

[RES-25:042](#)

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE FOR A PERMANENT CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT AT 1511 WOOD STREET FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS

Attachments: [Offer and Acceptance - 1511 Wood Street.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-058-2025

[RES-25:043](#)

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE FOR A PERMANENT CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT AT 1505 WOOD STREET FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS

Attachments: [Offer and Acceptance - 1505 Wood Street.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-059-2025

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

[RES-25:030](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 2424 E Johnson Ave. Jonesboro, AR 72401; Parcel # 01-144162-07800

Attachments: [2424 E Johnson Inspection Report.pdf](#)
 [2424 E Johnson Boarding and Securing Affidavit.pdf](#)
 [2424 E Johnson Pre-Condemnation Notice Affidavit.pdf](#)
 [2424 E Johnson Map.png](#)
 [24119133-IMG_3261.jpeg](#)
 [24119139-IMG_3264.jpeg](#)
 [24119140-IMG_3265.jpeg](#)
 [24119145-IMG_3270.jpeg](#)
 [24119147-IMG_3272.jpeg](#)
 [24119152-IMG_3277.jpeg](#)
 [24119158-IMG_3283.jpeg](#)
 [24119160-IMG_3285.jpeg](#)
 [24119162-IMG_3287.jpeg](#)

Mayor and esteemed Council, my name is CJ Snipes. I am a representative of the Ruth Allison Steinseik Trust. I am also City Manager for the City of Clute. It is a little weird to be on this side of the day I guess. I do want to take one moment as a sidebar if I may to recognize Chief Elliott, the dispatch team, we had a break-in about three weeks ago, but you got a strange call from a strange man out in Texas watching cameras, and your units were on scene in 3 minutes and 45 seconds. I laid that down as a challenge to my officers. I told them if we could beat that standard, I would be much appreciative. I would also like to recognize the remainder of your staff, they've done a great job in terms of customer service being friendly, being affable and way easy to work with. They have been patient and kind and considerate and we greatly appreciate that. Without said, I would throw myself at your mercy. I am asking for an additional 60 days. As you know, Miss Shaw passed away. We have a new trustee in charge of the trust now, Dr. Sally Blake. She lives in Illinois. We are having to learn on the fly, everything that has been associated with this trust over the last six months and it's quite a handful. So, we're in the process right now. We are working with an appraiser. We have ongoing negotiations with a certain entity about a potential sale. A decision on that transaction will be made in the next 60 days, and so that would be our ask is 60 days extension. If you can't do that, we totally understand. As I said, I worked on that side of the day as well and I understand what Code Enforcement is, but I would appreciate it. City Attorney Carol Duncan asked, did Code Enforcement explain to you that you would have 60 days to still move forward? Mr. Snipes replied, I wasn't sure what the process here in Arkansas is. In Texas, once this decision is made, I've got a truck moving out the next day. Ms. Duncan said, no, that's not the way it works here. You would still have plenty of time even if they vote to condemn tonight. Mr. Snips said, okay, I appreciate that very, very much. Also, I'd like to say, I haven't lived in Jonesboro for 27 years. Y'all have done an amazing job. As a professional City Manager, game recognizes game and y'all have done a magnificent job. Mayor Copenhagen responded, we appreciate it very much. Mr. Snipes said, thank you. Any questions? Mayor Copenhagen said, I would recommend that you stay in contact with Mr. Roper and just keep him abreast and we'll be happy to work with you. Mr. Snipes responded, perfect, thank you Mayor. Mayor Copenhagen said, okay, thank you. Mr. Snipes again said, thank you. Councilmember Janice Porter asked, excuse me, could you describe what the motion is that we are voting on? Councilmember Chris Moore said, the motion is to condemn. Councilmember Porter said, to condemn, I see. After the vote,

Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you very much for your comments. I do appreciate that. I take great pride in our community. Thank you.

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

Aye: 9 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;John Street;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Nay: 1 - Janice Porter

Absent: 2 - Chris Gibson and Charles Coleman

Enactment No: R-EN-060-2025

[RES-25:045](#)

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING FREE UTILITY SERVICES FROM CITY WATER AND LIGHT FOR CITY-OWNED PROPERTY

Councilmember John Street asked to be recused from discussion and voting on RES-25:045 since he serves on the CWL Board of Directors.

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

Aye: 9 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent: 2 - Chris Gibson and Charles Coleman

Recused: 1 - John Street

Enactment No: R-EN-061-2025

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

[RES-25:052](#)

A Resolution to set a public hearing regarding the abandonment of an Alley in Block 3 of Knight's First Addition to the City of Jonesboro, Arkansas, as requested by First United Methodist Church, Jonesboro, Arkansas

Attachments:

[2025.04.28.ATT - abandonment.pdf](#)

[2025.04.28.Release - Summit Utilities.pdf](#)

[2025.04.28.response from Craighead Electric-Empower.pdf](#)

[2025.05.02.let from Engineering Dept. .pdf](#)

[2025.05.15.let from Ritter approving abandonment.pdf](#)

[CWL 20250515_100615.pdf](#)

[Petition to Abandon an Alley \(FUMCJ\).pdf](#)

[Plat Depicting Alley.pdf](#)

[2025.05.15.CWL - UPDATED.pdf](#)

[2025.05.15.Optimum consent.pdf](#)

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

Aye: 10 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent: 2 - Chris Gibson and Charles Coleman

Enactment No: R-EN-062-2025

6. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-25:016](#)

AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING A DOWNTOWN JONESBORO ALTERNATIVE TRUCK ROUTE

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-25:016 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[ORD-25:010](#)

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-25:013](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 TO C-3 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3305 DAN AVENUE AS REQUESTED BY HORIZON LAND SURVEYING, LLC

Attachments: [Application](#)
 [Certified mail receipts](#)
 [Plat](#)
 [Rezoning Signs Posted](#)
 [Staff Summary](#)
 [MAPC Minutes](#)
 [Publication Receipt](#)

Held at second reading

[ORD-25:014](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR IMPROVING OTHERS, INC., D/B/A ABE'S PLACE, INC. TO BE LOCATED AT THE VILLAGE COMMONS, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

Attachments: [Application Redacted](#)
 [Publication Receipt](#)
 [James Elwyn Hinds Handout for 06032025 ORD-25-014.pdf](#)

James Elwyn Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, said, I'm almost amused by this ordinance because of the name of this organization. It's called improving others. I didn't know you improved others by trying to get them drunk. Now, I know that alcohol kills more

people than any other drug. I think we all know that. And, maybe they figure that speeding some people into the afterlife would be an improvement. But, I personally don't think that's an improvement we need to make. So I asked that you decline this permit.

Held at second reading

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-25:011](#)

AN ORDINANCE REZONING PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5905 E. JOHNSON AVENUE IN JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, FROM R-1 (RESIDENTIAL SINGLE-FAMILY) TO C-3 (GENERAL COMMERCIAL); AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Attachments: [Application](#)
 [Certified Mail Receipts](#)
 [Deed](#)
 [Letter](#)
 [Plat](#)
 [Rezoning Signs](#)
 [Site Photos](#)
 [Staff Summary](#)
 [Receipt](#)
 [MAPC Minutes](#)

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

Aye: 10 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent: 2 - Chris Gibson and Charles Coleman

Enactment No: O-EN-014-2025

ITEMS THAT HAVE BEEN HELD IN COUNCIL

[RES-24:115](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 1500 Danny Dr. Jonesboro, AR 72401; Parcel # 01-144214-10600; OWNER: Kevin Lyles

Attachments: [1500 Danny Board & Secure Affidavit](#)
[1500 Danny Board & Secure Returned Certified Letter](#)
[1500 Danny Inspection Report](#)
[1500 Danny Pre-Condemnation Notice Affidavit](#)
[1500 Danny Pre-Condemnation Notice Returned Sig Card](#)
[1500 Danny](#)
[WIN 20230418 15 53 41 Pro](#)
[WIN 20230418 15 53 43 Pro](#)
[WIN 20230418 15 56 37 Pro](#)
[WIN 20230418 15 56 53 Pro](#)
[WIN 20230418 15 57 07 Pro](#)
[WIN 20230418 15 57 18 Pro](#)
[WIN 20230418 15 57 20 Pro](#)

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

Aye: 10 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent: 2 - Chris Gibson and Charles Coleman

Enactment No: R-EN-063-2025

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported on the following:

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, I want to begin tonight by saying, I really am excited. I think the community is, as a whole. Congratulations to Main Street being open back up, and it was exactly right at one week ago. And as soon as we knew the intersection of Washington and Main could be open to motorized traffic, a quick ribbon cutting was pulled together and a large crowd showed up to celebrate. I do want to extend my appreciation, not only to Council, but to Nabholz for doing such an expedient and commendable job, not only on the project itself, but also in providing us with weekly updates to share with the public. Also, thank you to the Chamber of Commerce for gathering the Redcoat Ambassadors, the Downtown Association for helping spread the word, and the downtown businesses that work so hard to keep Main Street commerce viable. And thank you again to City Council for your tenacity and courage, in getting this done.

Kudos to some of our members of the Fire Department and their accomplishments at the 2025 Southwest Regionals Invincible Combat Challenge in Baton Rouge. Jonathan Edwards and Cody Nelson, both achieved second place in their respective divisions, while Hunter Pagan won first place in his. In a tandem event, Nelson and Logan Scott broke the state record at two minutes and six seconds. And then 15 minutes later, Pagan and Scott set a new state record a two minutes and two seconds, and they all qualified for nationals later this summer. And I would commend and give an effort to any City Council members that would like to go by and try a little bit about what they do. It's pretty interesting to do that sledge hammer.

Congratulations to Steve Horton in the Building Maintenance Department. If any of y'all know Steve, he's a very hard worker, he's dedicated to his job, and I appreciate him for being sponsored by a First Security Bank here in Jonesboro as Employee the

Month. He does a great job and I appreciate him very much.

I'm very proud to report that May 9th marked the 20th year of Jonesboro Pre-K Center Trike-a-thon, fundraiser for St. Jude Children's Hospital. And, our hearts are full. Listen, these students raised \$15,000 this year pushing their total fundraising efforts the past several years to over \$100,000, all for the lifesaving mission of St. Jude's Hospital. What an amazing milestone. I had the pleasure of cheering on the kids as they triked all their way through. They built mini city built by their teachers, and it's complete with a city hall stop, all high fives, that was a great morning, and after the ride, the students celebrated with ice cream and danced in a glow party. Those pictures will not be shared, okay? Thank you, Jonesboro pre came for being a shining example of compassion community and care.

On Wednesday the 14th, we hosted a get together on the fourth floor of the municipal building for Jonesboro nonprofits to work with youth. The purpose was to discuss the need for and possible interest in Boys and Girls Club in Jonesboro. Jonesboro has many fine clubs for children. However, the offerings many times stop at sixth grade. We need services for young people, 7th through 12th grade, and continue of homing their life skills until the adult age and maturity. The response was enthusiastic and we are hopeful this need will be fulfilled soon.

This Thursday at 11:00 a.m. will be a big send off if any of you want to go. It'll be escorting our Special Olympic athletes on their way to Searcy for the State Special Olympics. It's a grand way to recognize these hardworking athletes who seek to achieve and excel in many aspects of life that take us, many of us, for granted. If you want to join them and wish them well, it's off again at 11:00 a.m. at the Resource Center on Gillis Road.

The unofficial beginning of summer has started. The Parker Park pool and other pool will be opened, starting this weekend. If anybody here wants to be a lifeguard, we've got several openings.

Monday is Memorial Day. There'll be lots of grills burning and outdoor fun with family and friends. So, let's also remember the real reason for Memorial Day, a ceremony to honor those who died in the service of our great country. It will begin at 9:00 a.m. at the Doughboy statue in front of Craighead County Courthouse.

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Janice Porter said, on a personal note, I would just like to thank everyone for their kindness and kind words of congratulations for my twin grandbabies. I am happy to report, they are out of the NICU and home and doing well. Thank you so much. I appreciate it. Mayor Copenhaver replied, thank you.

Councilmember John Street said, I do want to say and I know you know this, Mayor, but the MPO, the eight in the state, meet once every two years. It's always in North Little Rock with the exception of one time, it was in Fayetteville, but this October it is going to be here. It's going to be merged with another meeting from ARDOT. There will be over 400 people signed up for it. It's going to be a lot of influx for people into Jonesboro and downtown. It's going to be really exciting. I love to see our convention center being utilized on other, you know, state levels. It promotes Jonesboro in a very good way. And, I failed to say it last time, but the Valley View concert band won state in their title, two years back to back. So, I'm very proud of them. My granddaughter is a member of that band. But, they did a great job. All the kids that performed there did. Jonesboro High School hosted that and very big thanks to them. It was a great event. Mayor Copenhaver said, absolutely, thank you for your comments Council.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

James Elwyn Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, said, and I know you can say, well, this really isn't our business. You know, it's somebody else. But, it is a major factor, as far as quality of life in the City of Jonesboro, and if you say, well, that's somebody else's business more than ours, you can probably say that about almost everything else we list as quality of life in here. I was noticing about some of the events recently, and it is, notice what nice county fairs a lot of counties have around this area, and it is a shame that one county in this area that does not have such is the largest county in this area, which is, of course, Craighead. And I'm wondering if there's something the city could do to facilitate us having, of course, Northeast Arkansas District Fair now, but I assume that the other counties, if we don't even have a fair or not going to leave the district fair here, and we'll revert to that. Maybe we can look at some of the facilities we've got and think, maybe this is a place we could set aside a week or two out of a year and let them set up a fair here. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you for your comments.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 10 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent: 2 - Chris Gibson and Charles Coleman

_____ **Date:** _____

Harold Copenhagen, Mayor

Attest:

_____ **Date:** _____

April Leggett, City Clerk