



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Public Safety Council Committee

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

5:00 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL (ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE) CONFIRMED BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

Present 4 - Brian Emison; David McClain; Janice Porter and Kevin Miller

Absent 2 - Chris Moore and LJ Bryant

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[MIN-26:010](#) Minutes for the Public Safety Committee meeting on Tuesday, January 20, 2026.

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

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

Aye: 4 - David McClain; Janice Porter; Kevin Miller and Chris Gibson

Absent: 2 - Chris Moore and LJ Bryant

4. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED

[ORD-26:006](#) AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO PLACE VARIOUS TRAFFIC SIGNS AT DESIGNATED LOCATIONS AS DETERMINED BY THE TRAFFIC CONTROL COMMITTEE

Sponsors: Engineering

A motion was made by Chris Gibson, seconded by David McClain, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 4 - David McClain; Janice Porter; Kevin Miller and Chris Gibson

Absent: 2 - Chris Moore and LJ Bryant

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

[RES-26:016](#)

A RESOLUTION TO PURCHASE FIRE DEPARTMENT SAFETY AND RESCUE EQUIPMENT AND AMEND THE FY2026 BUDGET

Sponsors: Fire Department and Finance

Councilmember David McClain said, just one question Mr. Chairman. Chairman Brian Emison said, yes sir. Councilmember David McClain said, are we replacing items? Chairman Brian Emison said, I think Chief Hamrick's got our answer here. Fire Department Chief Marty Hamrick approached the podium and said, yes sir. We'll be upgrading many of these. The Max Fire Seek and the FirePRO 3,000 are thermal imaging devices. The ones we currently have are way outdated. It's a much better product. And likewise with the Extrication Combi Tool. We're running gas powered units currently that are 15 to 20 years old. These are all battery operated. Much more efficient and faster. So yes, they're all upgrades. Councilmember David McClain said, thank you.

A motion was made by Chris Gibson, seconded by Kevin Miller, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 4 - David McClain;Janice Porter;Kevin Miller and Chris Gibson

Absent: 2 - Chris Moore and LJ Bryant

5. PENDING ITEMS

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Brian Emison said, I show that we've got a little bit of time between now and City Council so I was going to see, Chief Elliott, if you wanted to come up and kind of go over the annual report and all the statistics from 2025 please. Police Department Chief Rick Elliott approached the podium and said, absolutely. Good evening, Mr. Chair and councilmembers. As you know from recent stories in the news media, we posted our 2025 crime stats. And as you've noticed, the numbers are down again this year. Past few years, last year or I'm sorry, 2024 was a peak year on major crimes against persons. The numbers are down since then. Taking a historical look at our crimes against persons going back 19 years. We've seen these numbers from 2007 until present have only risen anywhere from 80 to 120 cases a year. So, these numbers have been what I say fairly consistent over the past 19 years, again between 80 and the 120 range, give or take, during this time frame. We've seen the population of Jonesboro grow to over 15,000 people. We look at it against the crimes against property section. Again, that number is down, has trended down for the past couple years. Our peak year was 2020. Peak year before that was 2007. In 2007, those numbers dang near matched 2020's. So, crimes against property during the early 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, were higher than it has been in the past 4 or 5 years. So overall, when we look at crime in Jonesboro, historically, we've seen higher numbers years ago compared to what we have in the latter few years. Now, we're not saying that Jonesboro is perfect and Jonesboro's crime free. That's not our take on it. But people take numbers and we keep getting labeled that Jonesboro's crime ridden. Comparing us to Memphis, Chicago, things like that. When you look at the violent crime numbers, the fact that in spite of this kind of population growth, the numbers have only changed anywhere from 80 to 120, in that category for over that period of time, per year. I think it's pretty good for what's being said about the people in Jonesboro. The community that we live in. So sometimes numbers come across and people take numbers and do what you want to with them. A lot of times they'll fashion them with what benefits them at the time. But these are the numbers that when we generate a report. They go in at the end of the month. It's automatically uploaded to the FBI through Nabbers. These are not numbers that we control. Once

a case gets in the system and it's identified with a particular category then that's what's submitted each month. Each month we submit monthly reports. You get those monthly reports every month. You can see where those trends are. If you collected all the reports at the end of the year you'd come up with the totals that you see on the 10 year crime stats. Our crime reports are out there for public viewing every day. So again, when you're looking at crimes of the violent nature, these are out there. We're not hiding any information. All this information is public accessible. So, for those that want to sit home and criticize and talk about things then they're obviously not doing their due diligence and gathering the facts. So, I think it's important that we present the information and if you don't believe what we're saying then this information certainly that's can go back and research yourselves and come up with those numbers. Chairman Brian Emison said, well thank you chief.

Councilmember David McClain said, just real quick, what do you attribute, you know, numbers are trending down. What do you attribute that to? Chief Rick Elliott said, good question. There's no one particular thing you can contribute this to. It's you're dealing with human nature. You're dealing with people. And the fact that crime across the country has historically gone down this past year, so even our bigger cities have seen a decrease in crime. I called, in our area I would say it's everybody working together, is the main thing. If you see something say something. We say that all the time, but the good thing is it works here in Jonesboro. When things happen, we do get those calls. We are getting those tips now that we may not have gotten just a few years ago. I think people are taking ownership in the community, taking part of the community, getting involved in the community. Giving us information, giving us good intel on what's going on. That makes us more efficient in what we do day in and day out. The Real Time Crime Center, our cameras and license plate reader technology certainly has helped on the solvability of crime here in Jonesboro. Bad things happen. A lot of that we cannot stop. Again, we're dealing with human, human nature, but the probability of making an arrest on that has certainly increased with our new and latest and greatest technology. So, between technology, people working together with the Police Department, and I would hope that maybe just human behavior across the board has gotten a little bit better. People being a little bit more responsible. But again, the numbers here are down, but they're also down across country in a lot of areas. So, it's not just one thing, it's a combination of multiple things.

Councilmember David McClain said, are you still seeing, I know in 2020, maybe 2021, you saw an increase in, you know, the population having feelings towards the police that were not very favorable. Are you still seeing that? Are you still having trouble with that? Or has that come down as well? Chief Rick Elliott said, with what now? Councilmember David McClain said, so basically, remember 2020 2021, you know, law enforcement was not seen as you know very favorably. Do you still have that issue when you go on a call are y'all still being faced with? Chief Rick Elliott said, sure. Not locally. Typically, anything that happens in law enforcement world nationally will have a residual effect on us on what we do day in and day out. So, we always look at what's going on on the national level and we address it in staff level. Make sure that there's things that maybe could be done different than what some other agencies doing. I'm not going to be critical of another agency as I stand here, but you always look at those lessons learned out there and if there's ways of doing things better then you want to take those lessons and do better. Engaging in the community is a key important fact, so we always stress, since I've been chief, to have that positive community engagement. We do know that bad things happen from time to time in our community. And the community should be aware that if it does happen on our end, we certainly will deal with it, have it investigated and then I'll certainly deal with it after the fact. But again, just having that positive relationship with the community is important. We still foster that positive relationship. So that's always going to be a work in progress, but the end result is I don't quite have the drama that

they do up in other parts of the country right now. So, it's just handling business a little bit different than other parts of the country do. Councilmember David McClain said, yeah. Thank you.

Chairman Brian Emison said, gotcha. Chief speaking of that monthly report that we get on that, I noticed on the one we received today, I think that the camera systems that we have had another success story that I haven't necessarily seen out there. Do you want to share that with us? Chief Rick Elliott said, it did. Just a few weeks ago we had a young lady, she was upset with her parents, and she got up and left her house at 1:27 in the morning. It was about 10 degrees or less. And she took off walking and she was on the east side of town. And fortunately, one of our camera systems, we were able to pick her up. And with AI technology in this particular system, it identified a pedestrian. We identified her and subsequently were able to track her movements through Jonesboro from pretty much Prospect Road to Main and Highland at Walgreens. So, it took several hours. She was at Walgreens for several hours. By the time we finally caught up with her. But through this camera technology we were able to track this young lady and get her back to her parents. Basically, she was upset with her parents. They took her cell phone away from her, so she had no way of calling. We had no way of tracking her through the cell phone, so she was on her own in 10 degree weather or less and so she was quite hazardous to her own health. And so, we had all hands on deck trying to run, go through data and put the pieces of the puzzle together to get her back to her family. So that's just one of many happy success stories that we have through the system. We try to relate a success story in our monthly reports and they're attached to this. There's many every week, but they'll take a highlight and kind of note it on the bottom of these reports now just so you can see what's going on with the technology. The technology we have is... we're constantly looking to upgrade, as you're aware of, the city received a \$3,500,000 grant here recently from the federal government. We can do more upgrades with our technology. So, between it and the building of the new Real Time Crime Center and dispatch center, I think what we're doing will just be bigger and better as we move forward. Be more efficient in what we're doing because I can never get enough boots on the ground to do what we need to do in the world of policing at this point. We just have to be smarter at what we do and we depend on a lot of technology to get it done. Chairman Brian Emison said, that's great. Thank you chief. Chief Rick Elliott said, anybody else? Ok, thank you sir.

Chairman Brian Emison said, thank you once again, chief, for coming up and speaking about that. I know, gosh, we see a lot of numbers up here and it's always good to hear those stories of the decisions that we've made and the leadership that we have in the Police Department and also the Fire Department, and those lives that get saved every day because of the people that work in those areas. So, thank you both once again for coming up today.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 4 - David McClain; Janice Porter; Kevin Miller and Chris Gibson

Absent: 2 - Chris Moore and LJ Bryant