



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

SPECIAL CALLED NOMINATING & RULES COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING AT 4:45 P.M.

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

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

President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore called the meeting to order.

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; Kevin Miller; Anthony Coleman; Janice Porter; John Street; Charles Coleman; LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver gave the State of the City address:

Well good evening, everybody, and Council. It is once again an honor to be in front of you. And, thank you for everybody that made the effort in room this evening as well as to be here. You know, it's a privilege to speak upon and be in front of citizens of the community that want to be engaged. I appreciate the Boy Scout troop for being here as well, Troop 4. That send a message, right? And, I'll get with that message later on in this speech. Tomorrow as well, we'll be announcing another engagement and it will be for the Chamber of Commerce, and we'll have over 500 attending that event. So, it says a lot about our community and engagement, so let me begin, council. It's an honor to provide you all the State of the City of Jonesboro. It's an honor to work daily, beside April Leggett and Carol Duncan. They always are looking for ways to help us improve our community. And, of course, I want to thank each and every one of our directors and if you would please stand. Some might already be standing, but if you would please stand, all our directors. They are over in this corner and over here. I think it's important to that, as I've always said, every city employee wakes up each day to execute their job with compassion and dedication. They rarely get the true appreciation that they deserve, and for all they contribute to this community's success. When a city runs smoothly, most of the time like Jonesboro does, it's often too easy to take the everything days that we do for granted to make a city function. But our employees are the finest, and they don't get enough pats on the back.

The State of the City of Jonesboro, Arkansas is strong. It's filled with potential

because of the people it is filled with. We retain a healthy financial portfolio with reserves exceeding \$33 million in projected revenues in 2025 of \$93 million. While having one of the lowest general sales tax rates in the state. Our prepared food tax continues to overperform and our tourism dollars are the strongest we've ever seen. You know, Jonesboro is anything but static. And, this job allows me little downtime and your administration. Long nights come with a job and honestly, we wouldn't have it any other way. Because maintaining the growth and prosperity of a growing city is constant, it's an everyday commitment for everyone. And here I'd like to interject and I'd like to have two individuals stand, Tony Thomas and Brian Richardson. I appreciate your support in the administration and the staff is always for supporting myself and all the department chairs and more importantly communicating as always with city council as well. Thank you very much. You're going to hear this theme throughout the night.

The larger we grow, the greater our needs become. Basic necessities like green space, fire protection, sewage, garbage collection, policing, utilities, playgrounds, and housing, more people mean more waste, more clutter, more recycling. It requires great effort to maintain a clean and presentable city. With the help of our wonderful Sanitation Department, Code Enforcement and Keep Jonesboro Beautiful, we had our first full year of monthly neighborhoods cleanups. All combined, they yielded 106 tons. More than 2,000 pounds of junk and 850 mosquitoes incubating tires. We restarted the glass recycling program and is shattering our expectations. The Jonesboro Airport won the Airport of the Year. Jonesboro was once again recognized as a Trend Center City with multiple awards at the Arkansas Municipal League. Many of you attended that. Our Parks Department brought home numerous accolades for their efforts and our A&P Commission won the Arkansas Delta Byways Tourism Support and Promotion Award for the 2024 Governor's Conference on tourism. Funding these efforts, though, requires more than just general revenues. Grants are vital and important to our success. Your Grants Department works tirelessly to look under every stone to find funding that is critical for the viability as a city.

Everyone in this room knows that Jonesboro manages with the fraction of the budget that other peer cities do. But with their efforts, we find funding to continue investing in Jonesboro. More people means more buildings, more houses, more sidewalks, more streets, more drainage, and the demand is hard, but our Inspections Department, MPO, Planning, and Engineering Departments do a great job. We have all heard concerns about our building approval process, and it needs improvement, and I believe there are practical adjustments that we can make. We can build safe and desirable developments in a customer friendly way. We will be engaging a firm for an independent review on our codes to recommend on how we can make changes together and streamline them. We completed with your help, a Bark Park near Jonesboro High School. We completed new trails in Craighead Forest Park. We cut ribbons on pedestrian infrastructure. Thanks to a record \$2.2 million grant and a new local match, we were able to announce new plans in a northeast Arkansas Park. We opened the first class pool at Parker Park with more than 5,000 kids that enjoyed the inaugural season and we watched the newly opened "Y" flourish with activity. Our recently created Master Parks Plan has now been recognized by the American Planning Association as plan of the year.

Do you all see you running theme here? Jonesboro's doing good folks. It was just selected by the ACEC Engineering Excellence Award in 2025 already this year for the vision of making all parts accessible to those of all abilities. The streets of Jonesboro heard a trolley bell for the first time in ages and we're going be increasing routes as they officially hit the road this year. Last year, more than 100,000 people hopped on board, but we want more. Next year, we want more people to ride our Red Wolf Express, which is a partnership with ASTATE to take people from downtown

directly to the front gate of ballgames. We worked with our Washington delegation. Senators John Boozman, Tom Cotton, Congressman Rick Crawford to secure \$3.5 million dollars in funding for our E-911 and Real Time Crime Center and one of the Police Chief Rick Elliot's favorite lines, he has many, y'all know that, right? But, one of his favorite lines is public safety is expensive. And trust me, it is. But, folks, safety is everything. Without it, where would we be? Nearly half of our \$84 million budget is devoted to keeping Jonesboro safe. Our Communication Department, they continue to push more and more information out to the public through various platforms. Between FOIA requests, partnering with Information Systems to broadcast our meetings, they update our website and keep me on message, and they've got their hands full there. But they share a passion with the rest of our administration for spreading correct information and keeping the community engaged and informed. In 2024, we saw \$3.5 million in rolled overlay projects, including addressing neck jarring bumps on Main Street by Jonesboro High School. We provided healthy funding for overlays, drainage, sidewalks, and lighting which are desperately needed for a city our size, growing at the rate we are. If we want a city that we can support our flow of traffic and people and attracts commercial developments, infrastructure is critical. Even good roads need upkeep. And, as we come out of the winter, our dedicated Street Department is already repairing winter born potholes, mending broken curves and replacing street signs and just trying to keep pace with Father Time. As we grow, we must keep blight in check.

In 2024, our Code Enforcement spurred the removal of significant repairs of 150 buildings or homes. Their efforts transformed rundown properties into clean slates, all ready for new construction, which helped redevelop struggling areas. Together, we established the Humanitarian Outreach Fund to help provide much needed funding for local nonprofits to help those in need. While the \$500,000 was a great start, we need to continue finding funding for the program through appropriations, donations, or grants. More people means more pets, which sadly means more abandoned animals. Larry Rogers and our Animal Services force don't deal with just troublesome animals though, they provide personal care and compassion for large and small animals. And if you or anybody watching the night, would like to take a dog home, I'm sure we can see you up. They keep the public informed as well, though, on health issues that may affect their pet like distemper, or even bird flu.

More people means more public safety needs. Ronnie Sturch and our team at 911, they answered 150,000 calls this year. They handled 120 dispatches last year from a tired, cramped, and outdated building desperately in need of replacement. And our Fire Department responded to more than 10,000 of those calls. With the council support, we helped relieve a tad of that burden with a dozen new firefighter positions last year. Look, they just don't put out fires. They don't just stop bleeding. They do triage, mental illness. They help fall victims in their home and are typically the first one on the scene, when loved ones are having a medical emergency. And I experienced that personally and I appreciate your support and efforts for our community. Thank you to Chief Hamrick and your crew for the fine work that you do every day. Actually, our Fire Department saw a record rookie class this year and they had their 125th anniversary. And, I obviously can't mention public service without again mentioning Chief Rick Elliot, Assistant Chief Lynn Waterworth, and the proud men and women in blue. Daily, they handle issues that would cause most of us to lose sleep, and I get those calls, and I do lose sleep. It's a tough job, but one that must be done, but in addition to investigating crime and keeping our road safe, they are hard at work building bridges with the next generation to reduce the roots of crime at a young age. Each of our officers double as social workers when duty calls. Like a child facing hunger, bullying, trouble at home or myriad a challenges our youth face. It's hard being a kid today. It's hard growing up but with the dedicated work of our first responders, we are making a difference long term. To that end, I simply say,

thank you for the hard work to the men and women of the Jonesboro Police Department.

An important fact is with all that said, we did it within a balanced budget. We did it in 2022, 2023, 2024, and more good news, we've maintained and balanced that budget in 2025 as well. And before we move on to the future, I want to give an enormous amount of credit to Steve Purtee and the Finance team. With an iron fist, they keep us in compliance. They keep employee paychecks coming and manage every penny without standing professional scrutiny. Their efforts have led yet to another clean audit last year. Steve, I think that is 14 in a row if I'm not mistaken. That's worth bragging about. So, now let's move on to 2025. We have a lot of things to be excited about, but a lot of work ahead as well. Some of the work is already in place, thanks to the support of this council. I was able to look out my window at City Hall from City Hall today and finally see the fermenting eyesore for the better part of the last two decades start coming down. Yes. I wish it wasn't on our dime, but our downtown businesses needed our help and you all answered the call. This month we'll start turning dirt on a sports complex, a \$70 million investment in our future. These kids in the room, it is their future. They're going to be able to enjoy it. Once complete, it will absolutely serve as a catalyst for inner city development, but will be a windfall, a windfall for our hotels, restaurants and retail stores, because nobody spends like a parent on kids on a trip, other than a grandparent. We will spend another seven digits on road overlays, another million dollars on miscellaneous street and sidewalk projects, and more than \$4 million in capital improvements are slated to occur just this year. We will fund foundational pieces of our Master Parks Plan like key staffing, targeted pocket parks, and a half a million dollars in drainage improvements. 2025, we will have 25 new vehicles for our police department. The delivery of the new fire truck this fall and hopefully the construction of the new Hawk light at Parker Park.

While last week's sales tax returns showed a modest growth, we do have to be mindful of our financial resources while still investing in our critical infrastructure. You know it and I know it. It's no secret to this council, and most of you have been here a long time that Jonesboro doesn't play with the same deck of cards that other peer cities our size do. Our local sales tax rate is low. Our city property tax rates are low. But, our needs and wants are high. We must be creative in our approach and stretch every dollar among the most critical projects that need funding is extensive work on South Caraway Road, and the associated pedestrian accommodations. Every day, pedestrian's tight rope a narrow dirt path, an arms length from 15,000 passing cars. A similar dirt path can be seen along north side of Johnson heading east from Caraway Rod, created in a large part by ASU students, just trying to get to school.

As I mentioned earlier, our E-911 Center is outdated, camped, and in a poor condition. Dispatchers have one of the hardest and most stressful jobs on the planet, and they deserve better. When we talk about quality of life, I find it very interesting because a lot of things come to mind and the ones you usually come to mind are parks, festivals, concerts, fine arts and swimming pools. But to parents it's simply the comfort of knowing their child can safely cross the street or that they can call 911 and their caring, experienced dispatcher on the other end of the line. We all love to think big, but we can't overlook the basic responsibility as leaders of this community. I believe, like you, we have a moral responsibility, a moral mandate to prioritize projects that will save lives. We can do these things. But it'll take more than modest annual appropriations.

Last year, you supported the authorizing resolution to oblige franchise fees to fund a revenue bond that would provide an immediate cash influx of nearly \$18 million to fund these critical capital improvements. In the coming weeks, I'll bring it back to you in a resolution to complete that authorization process to get these projects going.

There's a lot to be excited for in the next year, but there's no time like today to start conversations and big ideas for a longer term. Folks, we grow to 100,000. We're going to be prepared to get to 100,000.

A growing city needs a strong after school program like City Youth. We need a similar program for seventh grade to high school. If you don't take anything out of what I say tonight, take this one sentence, kids can't be it if they can't see it. Kids can't be it if they can't see it. Folks it is our responsibility as a community and as a city to provide opportunity for our youth because we will be ahead of other communities if we engage our youth in the process. Again, kids can't be it if they can't see it. We can't lose sight of how we address crime in the long term. Investing earlier in our youth to show them a better pathway is key. But so is recognizing immediate trends and patterns that are addressing in the present. We're going to turn up the pressure in areas and places in town that have consistent higher crime rates, whether it be through additional patrols, harsher sentencing, and even apartment abatement processes. We need people with bad intentions here in Jonesboro to be uncomfortable. And when they do break the law, there has to be real consequences. The justice system is complex. And just the first phase is under the city's control. But we will work hand in hand with all parties to toughen up where we have to.

We need more green space in downtown. It's coming. We need to work with our local nonprofits to support programs to help the underserved. We need to work with the Chamber of Commerce to grow our base and most importantly work with Arkansas State University to continue producing amazing young professionals to supply needs to local businesses. Not all of these items though require city funding, but they require yours and mine shared efforts to make them happen. Jonesboro is growing, and that does present challenges, but challenges are not to be feared. They are motivators for innovation. So, as Mayor, I'm blessed to be able to work with a strong city council who care about every corner of this community. I ask that you continue bringing your ideas and opinions and solutions, and I have no doubt that Jonesboro will reach its full potential. Thank you and God bless. President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore said, thank you, Mr. Mayor. Mayor Copenhaver said, thanks, again. I do appreciate everybody to be here in attendance this evening. I'll just let you know that a lot of hard work goes into this. There are a lot of people behind the scenes. Individuals have put a lot of heart and soul into what we present to the community to make you feel safe and confident and safe and confident in our future as well. So thank you to those behind the scenes.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Gibson, seconded by Councilperson Brian Emison, to Approve the Consent Agenda. The motioned PASSED

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

[MIN-25:014](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2025

Attachments: [CC Minutes 02242025.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-25:012](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1104 PRATT CIRCLE, PARCEL 01-144082-12300, OWNED BY CLAUDE MCDANIEL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,045.33

Attachments: [01. 1104 Pratt Circle Notice of Violation.pdf](#)
 [02. 1104 Pratt Cir Billing Request.pdf](#)
 [03. 1104 Pratt Circle Demo Invoice.pdf](#)
 [04. 1104 Pratt Cir Council Notice.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-027-2025

[RES-25:013](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2106 COTTON, PARCEL 01-144271-20700, OWNED BY MICKHAUL ROLLAND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,046.23

Attachments: [01. 2106 Cotton Notice of Violation.pdf](#)
 [02. 2106 Cotton Billing Request.pdf](#)
 [03. 2106 Cotton Demo Invoice.pdf](#)
 [04. 2106 Cotton Council Notice.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-028-2025

[RES-25:014](#) AN RESOLUTION CREATING THE JONESBORO MULTI-MODAL CONNECTIVITY COMMITTEE

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-029-2025

[RES-25:016](#) RESOLUTION FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO APPROVE HUMANITARIAN OUTREACH FUNDING AWARDS

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-030-2025

[RES-25:018](#) RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO ENTER INTO A JOINT AGREEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE TRAINFO CORPORATION AND THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ARDOT) FOR THE TRAINFO MOBILITY IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT (JOB 101237)

Attachments: [Agreement of Understanding Job 101237.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-031-2025

[RES-25:019](#) A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO CHANGE THE SCHEDULE OF USES TO ALLOW RETAIL SALES AS A CONDITIONAL USE IN THE I-2

GENERAL INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-032-2025

6. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-25:008](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE JONESBORO CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 2 ARTICLE 3, ENTITLED CITY COUNCIL, ESTABLISHING CITY COUNCIL RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR 2025

Attachments: [Exhibit A - City Council Rules REDLINED.docx](#)
 [Exhibit A - City Council Rules CLEAN 2025.docx](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison to suspend the rules and offer ORD-25:008 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[ORD-25:005](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE JONESBORO CODE OF ORDINANCES, SECTION 117.330(c), KNOWN AS THE SIDEWALK ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, PROVIDING FOR A CONTRIBUTION IN LIEU CONSTRUCTION EXEMPTION FOR PROPERTY IN PLANNED INDUSTRIAL PARKS

Held at second reading

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-24:037](#)

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AND CONSOLIDATING SPECIAL TRAFFIC PATTERNS NEAR JONESBORO PUBLIC SCHOOLS (JPS) CAMPUSES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

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

Enactment No: O-EN-010-2025

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported on the following:

So, I want to begin the Mayor's Comments tonight by pointing out several ways our citizens are becoming involved with our government and starting as young as ninth grade, so you in this room pay attention. Applications are now taken through April 1st, for the 2025-2026 Mayor's Youth Advancement Council. Young people entering 9th, 10th and 11th grade next year and attending the Jonesboro area high school, it can be any high school, home school, or private school can apply and go online at Jonesboro.org. This council helps advise the Mayor's office and City Council on issues affecting the youth. Plus, they get involved in making a difference in Jonesboro. All you need are two letters of recommendation, one from a teacher or school administrator and one from a community member. And, for the adults out there wanting to learn more about the Police and Fire, we have learning opportunities for you. The Citizens Police Academy spring session filled to a capacity quickly and is now underway. We had 35. It's 19 classes. This is in 19 class and 35 participants from our community are engaging themselves in the process of learning more about what in our officers work throughout the community. Also, we're doing the same thing for the Citizens Fire Academy. It starts on March 10th. It's a nine week hands on experience where participants suit up as a firefighter in the gear, vehicle training, high angle rescues. So, if you're afraid of heights, please join. It'll be good. It'll be fun. Experience live fire scenarios and CPR certification.

The Community Block Grant applications are now being accepted through March 10th at 4 p.m. Nonprofits in Jonesboro needing funding should consider applying for the CDBG public service program. Eligible nonprofits can receive up to \$20,000 to cover the cost of personal operational cost, contract services and more.

In conclusion, the City of Jonesboro proudly celebrated the month of February's Black History Month. Along with the activities was a proclamation on February 28th for a black community radio day, specifically recognizing KLEK for being the voice of the entire community. In addition, the Jonesboro Parks and Recreation Department supported two opportunities last week to help shape the future of the Martin Luther King Freedom Trail. This project will feature green spaces and monuments inspired by the powerful words and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Meetings were held February 24th and February 27th, seeking input for specific ideas. And, I'm sure we will have much more to report on that project as we go throughout the year.

And while we're on the subject of progress, I'm sure that most of you are anxious as I am, to see more action on the demolition of the former Citizens Bank building. The latest information to report is that tomorrow morning at 7:00 a.m. West Washington Avenue from Union to Main Street will be closed and Union Avenue will be reduced to one lane as the project site begins. These closures are expected to remain until the demolition is complete. Right turns on Washington will still be allowed as trucks continue to reroute to Bridge. Folks, I want to encourage everyone to continue patronizing our downtown businesses. Please use them. When this project is over, we want those businesses to be open and thriving.

On Monday, we lost one of our own, Todd Adams. He was a city electrical inspector. Todd was a good man, and he'll be missed at City Hall. Please keep his family and his coworkers in your prayers.

[COM-25:006](#)

DECEMBER 2024 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Attachments: [December 2024 Financials.pdf](#)

Filed

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I just want to thank the Mayor for coming to a luncheon interview for the potential new superintendent. I thank you for your questions and for being there.

Councilmember Ms. Ann Williams said, that John and I were at MPO today discussing policy and technical committees. John expressed the hope that we would be able to have the HAWK, the pedestrian crossing, on Highway 141 north finished this summer because the report was that we have a record number of unexpectedly large number of participants there this last summer using the pool and a lot of kids will be crossing that, Highway 141. Craig had told us as far as what the progress is. We are waiting on a couple of things for that, but hopefully we will have that done as soon as possible. The swim season will be here soon, before we know it. So, I just wanted to mention that. Thank you.

Councilmember Chris Gibson said, Nominating and Rules met earlier this afternoon. I'd like to suspend the rules and walk on RES-25:021. Councilmember Chris Moore seconded the motion. All voted aye. Councilmember Chris Gibson motioned to adopt, seconded by Councilmember Joe Hafner. All voted aye. Councilmember Gibson said, to those who were just appointed to the A&P Commission, we have a meeting scheduled for March 12th to finalize the multi-sports complex.

Councilmember David McClain said, the only thing I have is that I appreciate you all sending out the financial stadium from December. I was just looking through it and had some questions, concerns maybe. I would love to maybe hear y'all's thoughts as far as the final numbers. I think we were down. It was like we were down quite not quite a bit, but it's like we're down almost 4% overall. Our turn back was down a little bit and also franchise fees. I was just curious what your thoughts are. Mayor Copenhagen said, and just bring everybody up to date, basically what those are, those are in arrears for you in the in the room. They usually run 60 days in arrears. So, the first months that we got in were down and last month, as I mentioned in my speech were slightly up. Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer Steve Purtee said, I heard part of what was asked, but not everything. Councilmember McClain said, the main questions, Steve, was just thoughts as far as the last year we were down. So going forward, I know, like you said, we were slightly up this month, what's the last month you said? Mayor Copenhagen said, well, it's about 4% and this month we're about, what, three. Mr. Purtee said, we are slightly behind our budget targets about 3% for first two months. We projected that we simply reforecast our budget for 2024 for 2025. We are monitoring that. So, it is something that we're monitoring. We started to year off with a little bit of a dip in January, which was consistent with earlier years. We saw that did rebound a little bit in February. So, we are continuing to monitor that. The franchise fee or revenues were off primarily the because of one vendor, and that's a cable TV service. It was down about 21% year over year. As we all know, that was probably expected. We anticipate that additional services are going to assist in that regard as we move forward. Again, it's paid in arrears, so it's something that we just have to monitor as we move along. We are optimistic that our revenues will hold. The encouraging thing was that on those December financials, we were about \$4 million better than our budgeted expenditures. So we were able to land in a positive position relative to budget with regard to that. So, in all, we are watching all of those avenues making sure that we can direct expenses accordingly, based on revenue short falls in that type of thing. Thank you.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, this actually can be an email if y'all will send it. I just literally thought about this. Citizens were asking, so I don't know if Tony

or Steve Tippitt can send a response to this, but the question is on speed tables and the costs and how they are considered in a particular area? Now, this is mine personally. I want always make sure that we continue to mention Prospect Road to make sure you consider that. So, thank you. Mayor Copenhagen said, we will get you that information.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said, I just want to say thanks for codifying the Connectivity Committee. I think this made a tremendous impact since it has been put back into action and thanks for the Chairman Andy Shatley for being here. I know it's a passion of his and I look forward to seeing continued improvement in our infrastructure. Thank you.

Councilmember John Street said, Ann touched on our MPO meeting today and Brian commented on it as well. We do hope there's something we can do to expedite the installation of the HAWK. The one on Johnson seems to be doing pretty good and pedestrian safety was a target of ARDOT as well. Something else that we talked about today was were the bid's going to be let on the municipal or the airport terminal building very shortly. That is going to be a big addition and George Jackson also talked about the extension of the runway. They are working on that already, another 500 feet at 150 wide. So, I told them if they weren't careful, you they might get airport the year again. But they are going to do some more hangar buildings out there as well and then Shane Woods discussed some of the ARDOT projects that are still ongoing. We are excited about Martin Luther King, Jr. extension and the airport road overpass. Hopefully that project will get moving to cut across and tie into Aggie. I mean, it's exciting time for some of the projects around Jonesboro. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you councilman.

[RES-25:021](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS AS RECOMMENDED BY MAYOR HAROLD COPENHAVER

Councilmember Chris Gibson motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore, to suspend the rules and walk on RES-25:021. All voted aye.

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

Aye: 11 - Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Abstain: 1 - Brian Emison

Enactment No: R-EN-033-2025

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

_____ **Date:** _____

Harold Copenhaver, Mayor

Attest:

_____ **Date:** _____

April Leggett, City Clerk