



# City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center  
300 S. Church Street  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

## Meeting Minutes City Council

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Tuesday, August 6, 2024

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

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

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

#### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

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

**Present** 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

**Absent** 1 - Chris Moore

#### 4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

*Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, Council, we do have a short presentation I'd like to make to you this evening. Danny, if you would, please come forward? Last month was a proclamation that I was not able to present due to Parks Director Danny Kapales absence, but it was for National Parks and Recreation for the month of July. I am not going to read it, but I want to say thank you for what you and the Parks Department do. The City Council allows you to do many things in this community and so we are very honored to have that. I am going to provide you with this proclamation along with we have several other awards that were received and I was blessed to receive one myself, but I think it is really important that we dedicate this to council and to the employees of the City of Jonesboro. We were the winner of the Best Park, Craighead Forest Park. It was the best park in the city. And, then the Miracle League Park did receive the silver award as well. And, again, Council, this is given from the community and nominated by the community. Joe Mack Campbell Park also won a silver award. So, again, thank you Council for allowing us to have the ability for these parks in the community, but I wanted to say thank you to the community for voting and using our parks in the community. It is very key. Thank you. Thank you. So, thank you Council.*

#### 5. CONSENT AGENDA

*Councilmember Chris Gibson motioned, seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison, to adopt the consent agenda unless changes are noted. Councilmember David McClain asked, Mayor, if I may? That is the only item I think that is on the consent agenda but I do have a couple of questions for that on RES-24:077. Mayor Copenhaver asked, do you want to pull that off? Councilmember McClain said, that is the only item that's on there. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, the minutes are on*

there. Councilmember McClain said, please pull RES-24:077 off.

[MIN-24:068](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON JULY 16, 2024

**Attachments:** [CC Minutes 07162924](#)

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

**Aye:** 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

**Absent:** 1 - Chris Moore

#### RESOLUTIONS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

[RES-24:077](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO AMEND THE FY2024 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR ADDITIONAL STREET OVERLAYS AND AMEND THE CONTRACT WITH ATLAS ASPHALT, INC. THE 2024 ASPHALT MILLING AND OVERLAYS FOR SELECTED CITY STREET PROJECTS

**Attachments:** [2023 - 2024 Overlays Since First Step Report](#)  
[2024 Additional Overlay Targets](#)

*Councilmember David McClain said, the only question I have, I appreciate Engineering Director Craig Light sending me the list of streets so we can actually see exactly where, I don't know if there is a rank. I would love to know if there was some type of ranking system that maybe we looked at to determine what's next on the list. But, also, do we anticipate another round or is this going to be the final round for this year in terms of overlays? I know we have had increased revenue from not spending money on the revenue bond, but do we anticipate putting more towards overlays this year or is this, again, is this the end of it? Mayor Copenhaver said, that is a good question. And, the priorities, they were set in place really by several avenues. One of which was the study that we did in the Fall of 2022. So, that prioritized many of the streets that we are utilizing at this point. Then, also, what Engineering and Planning are seeing that we can do for our infrastructure upgrades when it comes to water mitigation as well. So, some of those are coming into priority here as well. Steve, if you would, go ahead and I know you addressed it at the Finance Committee, but you brought up the point of how this would be funded. We don't see any more additional asks for the rest of the year when it comes to the overlay part of that because of timing to have Atlas Asphalt, this is probably, Craig, you could probably follow me up, this is really about all they can complete this year if we were able to get it to them in a timely manner. Councilmember McClain said, got it, okay. Finance Director Steve Purtee said, yes Mayor, we did set aside franchise fee revenues specifically for a revenue bond. Since that did not come to fruition, those funds are available for reappropriation and that is what these funds would be used for. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Steve. Councilmember L.J. Bryant said, Mayor, I was kind of going through the original spending plan that wasn't passed late last year and I kind of feel like we are just doing little pieces of it at a time. I would still, and maybe it is coming soon, I'd still like to see us, kind of see what the whole plan is that wasn't passed last fall. I just have concerns about voting on this now without knowing how all the other little pieces come together. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you.*

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

**Aye:** 10 - Brian Emison;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and Ann Williams

**Nay:** 1 - LJ Bryant

**Absent:** 1 - Chris Moore

Enactment No: R-EN-074-2024

[RES-24:036](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 3718 Schley St. Jonesboro, AR 72401; Parcel #: 01-144272-04900

**Attachments:** [3718 Schley Inspection Report UPDATED](#)  
[3718 Schley Map](#)  
[3718 Schley Precondemnation Notice Affidavit](#)  
[3718 Schley Boarding & Securing Notice Affidavit](#)  
[3718 Schley Boarding & Securing Notice Certified Returned Sig Card](#)  
[WIN\\_20230421\\_14\\_37\\_55\\_Pro](#)  
[WIN\\_20230509\\_14\\_53\\_32\\_Pro](#)  
[WIN\\_20230509\\_14\\_54\\_20\\_Pro](#)  
[WIN\\_20230509\\_14\\_55\\_09\\_Pro](#)  
[WIN\\_20230509\\_14\\_55\\_52\\_Pro](#)

**A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Gibson, seconded by Councilperson John Street, that this matter be Postponed Temporarily. The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

**Absent:** 1 - Chris Moore

[RES-24:067](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 416 West Forrest Street, Jonesboro, AR 72401; Parcel # 01-144073-28700; OWNER: The Heirs at Law of Leotha Kersey, deceased

**Attachments:** [416 W Forrest Boarding and Securing Affidavit](#)  
[416 W Forrest Boarding and Securing Returned Cert Letter](#)  
[416 W Forrest Inspection Report](#)  
[416 W Forrest Map](#)  
[416 W Forrest Notice of Violation Affidavit](#)  
[416 W Forrest Notice of Violation Returned Cert Letter](#)  
[IMG\\_1736](#)  
[IMG\\_1738](#)  
[IMG\\_1740](#)  
[IMG\\_1741](#)  
[IMG\\_1743](#)  
[IMG\\_1748](#)  
[IMG\\_1751](#)

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

**Aye:** 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

**Absent:** 1 - Chris Moore

Enactment No: R-EN-075-2024

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

*ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING*

[ORD-24:023](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR CITY TRAILS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

*Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-24:023 by title only. All voted aye.*

**Held at one reading**

[ORD-24:024](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 TO C-3, GENERAL COMMERCIAL FOR 0.91 ACRES LOCATED AT 5441 E. NETTLETON AVENUE AND IS BEING SUBMITTED BY PAMELA H. WARD

**Attachments:**

[Application](#)

[Rezoning Plat](#)

[Rezoning Signs](#)

[Certified Mail Receipt and Letter](#)

[Staff Summary - CC](#)

[Publication Receipt](#)

*Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-24:024 by title only. All voted aye.*

**Held at one reading**

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

*ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING*

[ORD-24:018](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO PLACE VARIOUS TRAFFIC SIGNS AT DESIGNATED LOCATIONS AS DETERMINED BY THE TRAFFIC CONTROL COMMITTEE

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

**Aye:** 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

**Absent:** 1 - Chris Moore

Enactment No: O-EN-022-2024

[ORD-24:020](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 TO C-3, LUO FOR A SHOP BUILDING ONLY FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5415 SOUTHWEST DRIVE AS REQUESTED BY JEREMY MOORE

**Attachments:**     [Appeal Letter](#)  
                          [Zoning Application](#)  
                          [Zoning Plat](#)  
                          [Zoning Mail Receipts](#)  
                          [MAPC Meeting Minutes](#)  
                          [Publication Receipt](#)

*Councilmember David McClain said, Mayor, the only thing, I was just going to say I do not plan on voting for it. The only reason I feel like I don't want us to get into the habit of overturning things that the MAPC that they do. They do a good job for us and I don't want to set that precedence or start to go down that path. Councilmember L.J. Bryant asked, Mayor, just for clarity, voting yes is to overturn? Is that it? Mayor Copenhaver said, no. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, no. Yes is to approve the rezoning. Councilmember Bryant said, yes is to approve. Okay, got it. Thank you.*

**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:** 8 - Brian Emison;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

**Nay:** 3 - Chris Gibson;David McClain and Charles Coleman

**Absent:** 1 - Chris Moore

Enactment No: O-EN-023-2024

[ORD-24:021](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH AN ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT IN HISTORIC DOWNTOWN JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

**Attachments:**     [Exhibits](#)  
                          [Handout DJA Entertainment District](#)  
                          [Bob Hester Handout 07022024](#)  
                          [Handout from Janice Porter 07162024](#)

*Mayor Copenhaver said, before we start any comments, if there are in the audience, what I would like to ask is that no redundancy be made in the comments. Keep it in a timely manner, but also if we have no's, I will accept the no's first and then we will move forward with yes's. So, I will open the floor up at this time for any questions. Councilmember Chris Gibson said, Mayor, just one quick point. I think we need clarity because I keep seeing the number of \$157,000 or \$158,000 recurring. Can we get some clarity on that before we move forward with public comment? Mayor Copenhaver asked Police Chief Rick Elliott to come forward. Mayor Copenhaver said, basically, this was a discussion of a worst case scenario over the course of a*

year situation. As we have gone through this, obviously, I think that is going to be one of those learning curves that we are going to see how it moves forward with it, but Chief, if you would please, address that question.

Chief Elliott said, so after we began this endeavor, I looked at security and as we move forward and closer to the end, after talking to other agencies that have this entertainment district in their area, they just weren't seeing the problems. So, our initial thought is if this passes, I will not place security and evaluate every week. If there becomes problems, then we will start adding officers to the mix. Now, if that becomes a situation between now and the end of the year, the Mayor and staff have found some money for overtime that can cover that cost. So, I am trying to be proactive. If this turns into I need four to six officers three days a week, that number could look like \$157,000 a year if it got to that point. So, I am trying to forecast high numbers because I don't want there to be any gaps down the road that like we didn't see this coming. So, as of today, if it passes, it could be virtually zero expense. But, as time moves on, we could see some expense. Councilmember Gibson said, but based on your due diligence in talking to these other entertainment district cities, it looks like it is going to be on the very low end of that spectrum. Chief Elliott said, right, we are thinking on the very low end. And, most of those districts have more places that sell alcohol than we do. So, if they are not seeing the problems and the people violating the law and breaking the rules, then we may not have that issue. But, again, my goal is yes, I will have officers down here on duty. And, yes, from time to time, I'll place plain clothed officers down here just to kind of test things to see how it is going. And, hopefully working with the business people and DJA, you know, kind of curtail those problems. And, we all know we are dealing with humans, so there is going to be somebody out there that is going to break a rule here and there. The bottom line is if you get caught, there's a consequence. Councilmember Gibson said, thanks Chief. Chief Elliott said, so, all state laws are applicable. You know, we kind of discussed that in other meetings and we have mechanisms in place that if you are caught without a band drinking in public, we will take the alcohol away from you and you can be charged with drinking in public. So, there are consequences built in and we do have the mechanism on our end built in to make sure people for the most part are doing the right thing.

Mayor Copenhaver said, and I will add, in just a minute here councilman, I will add to that as well. Then, we will be making an announcement of a seven team committee and that committee is made up of various members of downtown. And, they will also be an oversight and they will have a lot of input as this progresses along as well. Councilmember Joe Hafner asked, Chief Elliott, isn't it correct that some of the organizations already provide security on the weekend at their own expense? Chief Elliott said, yes sir, that is correct. There are some businesses downtown that do hire officers to work security inside of those facilities. So, primarily, those officers are at the door and when people come in, they kind of help check id's and things like that. And, obviously, if they see something out in the street, they are going to step in and intervene also. Mayor Copenhaver said, alright, thank you.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, just to follow up on some things that they said based on this. Chief Elliott, good to see you by the way. Chief Elliott said, you too sir. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, so, I just want to know, has there been issues in the past that we have seen that has caused you to say, hey we potentially need some officers Thursday through Sunday. I'm just using that for an example. Chief Elliott replied, well, this whole concept is new to us. Now, any place that sells alcohol, there are going to be problems. There have been problems at those facilities. Now, we are moving alcohol into the street. So, again, how much alcohol consumption is that really going to equate to because again, we look at the number of businesses and where there are really spots on the streets here in

Jonesboro because the sidewalks downtown are very narrow. So, we are not looking to end up with a big street block party kind of atmosphere with the streets still being open. So, we kind of look at everything in totality, it is like, I understand the desire, what they are wanting to create down here in this movement with alcohol, but as far as it being problematic, I'm not seeing, I don't expect to see some of the problems that they may have in some other bigger places. But, again, it's like I said and like Mr. Moore brought up there in other meetings, this is all new to us. It is a new concept. I've done the best due diligence I can to reach out and look at other entities that are doing this, look at the numbers, talk to businesses, talk to my officers, and at the end of the day, if it becomes problematic, we will start adding officers. And, if it becomes problematic over that, I will be the first to come back to the council and go this is a bad idea. It's time to repeal it. So, like anything that we do, we all do, you know, it is subject to change. So, this is not 100% engraved in stone forever. It can be changed to go back the other way. But, again, we are looking at what DJA and the people that have invested in downtown, what they are trying to accomplish and hopefully to create a better environment or more whatever party environment they are trying to create for the downtown area to bring people in. Then, we are trying to accommodate the best we can. Our goal is public safety. So, whatever the will of the council. You know, we are always going to try to make it work in public safety. We are here to accommodate.

Councilmember John Street said, Chief, the laws are still in place. You still can't be PI or intoxicated in public. Chief Elliott said, that's correct. Councilmember Street said, you can't be disorderly conduct. No laws are being side-stepped by this. Chief Elliott said, that's right. All state laws are still applicable. Again, the only thing the ordinance does is just allow you to walk out of that facility with alcohol which currently is against ABC laws. So, you can walk out with alcohol, but you can't go beyond the district boundaries with alcohol. Once you do, then I can charge you with drinking in public. It's real simple. So, you violate the law when you cross that threshold, you have violated the law and you face a consequence of being cited. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, so Mayor, I have a question. You mentioned a seven person committee and so, this is the first I have heard of this so I just want to make sure. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, it is in the ordinance. Mayor Copenhaver said, yeah, it's in the ordinance. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, okay. So, with this committee... Mayor Copenhaver said, it will be made up of, I've got it right here, one member of the City of Jonesboro governing body. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, I remember. Mayor Copenhaver said, two business owners. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, I do. Mayor Copenhaver said, okay. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, but the question is and I don't remember seeing this, when do they come back to you or administration or council based on what we've seen say in three months? Six months? This committee. Mayor Copenhaver said, well, that committee is going to be enacted pretty quickly within this week. And, so, once they meet, they can set the boundaries of when they want to return. So, if there is a recommendation that you would like to make for that committee, I would like to hear it and would be more than willing to do that. Chief Elliott said, Mayor, if I may, I would suggest that maybe a Public Safety Committee meetings, I could give a report. Hey, since the last meeting, we have had this number of incidents or no incidents or this is what we have seen. I think this being new, that whatever information we gather that we present it to you and have this feedback going back and forth from my perspective and from the committee's perspective. So, in speaking with Ms. Doss, she asked that I be part of the advisory part of this committee so whatever issues that we see we can address. And, hopefully, if this thing goes, then we want it to go smoothly and safely.

Councilmember Janice Porter said, one question my constituents ask is why isn't the DJA contributing to the cost of the security? Why is this a taxpayer expense? Chief

*Elliott said, that question, I cannot answer. I don't know. Mayor Copenhaver said, we will let them announce that when they get up. Ms. Doss will probably announce that here in just a minute. Chief Elliott said, I just present the financial possibilities that it could be from minimum to maximum. The funding source is out of my control. Councilmember Porter said, thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Chief. Thank you for your questions. Chief Elliott asked, are there any more questions Mayor, Council? Thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you council for your questions. Now, we will open it up to the audience.*

*James Elwyn Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, said, last night I spent quite some time listening to a local sheriff and a local judge, both of whom I have the utmost amount of respect, talk about the fact that currently in Craighead County, there is no consequences for committing a misdemeanor. And, I assume these charges that we just heard there will be consequences, it will be on record, but there are no consequences. That is one of the reasons we are being asked to raise money for a new detention center. So, you might want to before you vote this, talk to our local judges and local sheriff. Next, let me remind you that on three occasions, the voters of Craighead County have voted for this to be a dry county. In fact, at the last meeting, we heard a lady that said that she felt her vote was being trampled on because it's not being respected. We are talking here about, as he said, moving alcohol out on the streets. We are talking about public rights-of-way, public property, public tax money. Before we do this, I really think this is something that needs to go before the voters of the City of Jonesboro to see if they want this.*

*Katie Dorton, 710 E. Nettleton, said, I just have a few extra numbers to add to what Chief Elliott talked about. And, first of all, I want to say thank you so much. He has spent countless hours putting together a plan of action on this to keep our citizens safe and to stay within budget so thank you Chief. I appreciate that. The first thing I want to talk about is events that are held downtown. A lot of the large events happen from this time through the end of the year. And, we ran some numbers and last year alone they paid anywhere between \$40,000 and \$50,000 for security. So, I think those events alone are going to handle a lot of that budget that we are talking about. The second number I want to bring up is in our research, we found that everybody talked about the increase in visitors that they experienced with their entertainment district. Mountain Home specifically used an app to track their visitors from the beginning of their entertainment district to present and they found that they had an 80% increase in visitors. It's a big number. They also stayed longer. They stayed 50% longer. So, you can see how that would equate to extra revenue for the city. The second number that we came across was the property value increases. So, a lot of the places obviously in Arkansas and all over the place we have had property values go up, right? The state average is 27% which is right where Jonesboro sits. We found that in places with an entertainment district that it was going up double and sometimes triple in those areas. Batesville, specifically, went up 70% which was surpassing Fayetteville at that point. So, again, property value can equal the tax revenue increases. I do think that we have worked really hard on this. There has been a lot of hours and a lot of time. I would like to have the people who came in support tonight, please raise your hand. We haven't come across a lot of opposition in this. It is a good thing for Jonesboro. So, I am asking you to please vote yes today. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you for your comments.*

*Eldon Richardson, 1300 Mays Road, said, I have lived in Jonesboro about 35 years. My wife and I started Northside Christian Ministries a little over 30 years ago. In fact, we built the first gymnasium on the north end of Jonesboro before CityYouth or Parker Park was there. We've done whatever we could to try to improve Jonesboro and especially north Jonesboro. I can't see where moving the drinking of alcoholic beverages out into the street uptown here is going to improve the City of Jonesboro.*



*And so, of course, I am against doing that. And, it will be out where there are families driving up the street and viewing people that are drinking out in the street. And, I don't think that will be good for the community. Thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you for your comments.*

*Bob Hester, 7096 CR 333, said, I noticed you don't have a timer up here. Did you quit your timer? Mayor Copenhaver said, normally three minutes Bob. Normally three minutes. Mr. Hester replied, oh, I thought it was five minutes and mine was going to cover five minutes. Is that okay? Will y'all cut me off before? Mayor Copenhaver replied, that will be fine. Mr. Hester said, okay. This is all about alcohol. Downtown Jonesboro Leadership, DJA, has hung their success and future on alcohol. That was the plan when the first alcohol permit was granted to Piero's Restaurant in 2004. They're still trying it. In 2004, a Jonesboro Sun article quoted DJA President Betty Shaw saying about Piero's receiving the first alcohol permit downtown. "The ruling will benefit the city by enhancing the economic development of the downtown area. I think long term, it is going to provide stability for downtown." Dismal failure. In the first nine years since downtown Jonesboro began relying on alcohol to be successful, 75 businesses came and went, closed or moved from the area. That was an average of one business closing every seven weeks. Sixteen of those businesses were businesses that sold alcohol. However, based on information supplied by the DJA during this nine-year period when these businesses were coming and going like wind so fast, the supposed vitality of this area was hyped to the media using words like "booming," "thriving," "bustling," and "wow factor." In one article from the Jonesboro Sun titled, "Cities Downtown Gets Wow Factor," seven businesses supposedly signed long-term leases. Okay, of those, one was gone in six months. Now, these are supposed to be long-term leases. One was gone in six months. One signed a five-year lease. They were gone within less than a year. Every one of those businesses supposedly signed long-term leases were gone within a year. That's hype. Smoke and mirrors. All of these impressive words we used over 18 articles by advocates of the downtown area who have a vested interest in making the public believe the area is doing well. It looks like smoke and mirrors to me. Ghost town. The advocates of downtown tried to make people believe that the downtown area was just a ghost town prior to the revitalization using alcohol as the catalyst. Someone actually used the word ghost town in an ABC hearing and I was there when they said that. In reality in the 13 years between 1990 and 2003, pre-alcohol, there was an average of 25 businesses in the 200 and 300 blocks of Main. Twenty three of these businesses were retail shops. The loss of retail shops is truly amazing. While there were 23 downtown retail shops in 2004, by August of 2009, five years after alcohol was introduced, there were only five. That was a loss of 80% of the retail shops in just five minutes after alcohol was supposed to make them successful. Ironically, the Height Palmer Study, y'all probably know this, remember this, told them they needed more retail shops downtown. They did the opposite or they had already done the opposite. Money spent by the city, the city of Jonesboro had spent in the vicinity of \$2 million by 2012 in effort to improve this area. That was nine years into a so-called revitalization. Now, I don't know what that would be by now. This is money taken from taxpayers across the city and channeled into very small areas for just a few businesses to make money. In the 15-year period since 2004 when the first alcohol permit was granted to 2019, a total of 100 businesses left downtown. Does that not amaze you? That's facts. I didn't make it up. I've got a list back there if you want to see it. That averages about one every two months in that 15-year period of businesses leaving. Now, has the coming and going stopped? Since 2019 until now 2024, about 20 businesses have come and gone from this area and it may be more. It is hard to keep up with them. They come and go so fast. That averages one every three months in the past five years leaving downtown Jonesboro. The latest to go is Buff City Soap which left in February. Ichiya Ramen, I don't know if I'm saying that right or not, currently it's a restaurant I believe, an eating establishment. It currently*

has a sign on the door moving to Red Wolf Boulevard. And, I counted about 15 buildings currently for sale in this area. And, this so-called revitalization of the downtown area did nothing to reduce the crime rate. Actually, it was the opposite. Calls for police to the downtown Main Street area, 359 calls in 2011 was three times higher than for this same area in 2005, 101 calls. Yet, they foolishly continue to rely on alcohol. This entertainment district is just another way of depending on alcohol consumption to try to make this small area successful at the cost of other parts of Jonesboro. Selling booze at this entertainment district only benefits a small number of people and small sections of Jonesboro about 8 or 9 businesses. And, I know there is a little bit of an argument about that, but anyway. Now, here's the question, if this area is so successful like they claim, why do they need this entertainment district. Nothing good, there is nothing good or beneficial about this and everything bad. I challenged the President of the Downtown Jonesboro Alliance to a public debate on the merits of this entertainment district. I got no response. If it is so good, why were they not willing to come out and defend it in a venue where it could be discussed at length instead of here where time is restricted? Houston, we have a problem. No, downtown, you have a problem and it can't be fixed with alcohol. I ask this council to reject this terrible plan and I thank you. Mayor Copenhaver asked, Mr. Hester, what is your address? Mr. Hester replied, 7096 CR 333, Jonesboro.

Francis Richardson, 1300 Mays Road, said, I hesitated about this. I am Co-Director of Northside Christian Ministries. I taught school for 23 years. I taught Special Education in the Jonesboro school system. I just wanted to read something I found on here and it may not be of any interest to any of you, but I am hoping it will. In the United States, the minimum drinking age is 21 years old as set by the Federal Uniform Drinking Age Act of 1984. This law prohibits people under 21 from purchasing or publicly possessing alcohol and states that do not comply may have up to 10% of their federal highway funding withheld by the federal government. The law was enacted in response to research linking lower minimum drinking ages to more alcohol related car crashes and increased public concern about underage drinking. I just have one question. With the brand new road and I am really not trying to be facetious, but that new road that's coming from ASU to downtown to the entertainment center or entertainment area, is just going to be a highway for young ASU students. I went to ASU and I know how new, young ASU students act the first year, the first month that they are away from home. I know because I had some that did that. I know how kids do. And, how are you going to keep these 18 and 19 year olds from up there drinking up on down the street. Are you checking them at the door and if they go out, you check them when they come back in to get more. I mean, what is your process for helping these young people keep it together? And, I am not against if they want to have bars. You know we are in a dry county. We are probably the wettest dry county in Arkansas, but we are still in a dry county. But, how are we going to do this? How are we going to keep these kids from building a thoroughfare from ASU to downtown? And, then we are going to let them drink or not drink or how are we going to stop them? That's what I need to know. If you are going to make it an entertainment, that's oh, that is entertainment, woo. That's the word they want to hear. And, I love my young people. And, I spent a lot of my life helping the young people trying to keep them alive, trying to keep them together. I mean, this has been a mission to do this. And, I just need to know. I am against this. I mean, I love Dr. Dan to death. And, I mean, I have down there and drank iced tea at his place. It's not that. It's that these young people have got to be corralled somehow. You have got to help them. Well, that is not going to help them. I mean, I looked down that street and it was wide open all the way straight from downtown to ASU. You know, these kids come here for an education, but some of them come up here to sow their wild oats. And, we don't need to be feeding them. Thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you.

*James Bickham, 304 South Main Street, said, I am one of the youth that is downtown now. I'm a business owner and my studio is right here downtown. I own the building right behind us. I rent from Dr. Dan. I know a lot of these people in here that are a part of the downtown community. Jonesboro has grown. It has grown a lot. I remember the days when Jonesboro was smaller, was no alcohol at all. I remember when the downtown area was somewhere that ASU students didn't want to go. We didn't care to go or we didn't, but nobody really cared to come downtown. It didn't have an impact on the community like it does now. I was there when the bars were starting to open up and the restaurants were starting to open up and that energy and that atmosphere began to grow, and it began to grow, and it began to grow into what we know today. I sit on my balcony today often and me and my wife sit out there and we relax and we watch the hundreds of people that walk up and down Main Street having a good time. They go to the restaurants. They go to the bars. They are having the time of their lives down there. And, even three years ago, four years ago, it was not like that. I, obviously, can't speak much on stopping drunk drivers from coming to college and this and that, but I can say that being downtown every day, living downtown, owning a business downtown, this is something that will do nothing but benefit downtown. It will benefit my business. It will benefit my home. It will make where I live, eat, sleep, and breathe, a better place. It will make this community better. It will make downtown more fun and it will do nothing but continue the growth of our downtown. We have had our Chief of Police get up here and literally say that there is no studies or statistics that shows that this is going to be negative, there's going to be an increase in crime, there's going to be an increase in drunk driving, there's going to be an increase in violent crimes or anything like that. That information is not there. It is not substantiated. It is not true. And, it is not beneficial to necessarily think that. So, as a business owner, as one of the youth, and I keep saying that because I want to hold onto that, as one of the youth downtown, and one of the up and coming community members, please vote yes for this. Vote yes. Let's open that district. Let's keep the ball rolling and keep that energy going. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you for your comments.*

*Keith Clark, 1605 Derrick Circle, said, I may be a little bit redundant, but I don't hear well and I didn't hear all of the conversation. I am against this proposal. It is not a good proposal. We know alcohol is one of our major problems in our community. As a young man, I started working in a city to the northeast of here, a sister city. I transferred there to one across the river. Then, I ended up here. That was in 1961. And, I have enjoyed this city. I could tell a difference in the people I was around in the business where I worked. I'm glad I stayed here. But, this is not a good proposal. Not all proposals are good proposals. If I suggested to you that we take all of the red traffic signals down because half the people at any given time in Jonesboro are having to wait, we know that wouldn't work. So, all proposals are not good proposals. I understand that you are faced with it, but let's look at it. In my work life, I did some work for a lady who was moving her offices from our northeast city because it was too dangerous. Since then, I have had a phone call from a customer that was wanting some work done and since I couldn't get to it quickly I suggested that she take it to that city across the river. She said no, I'm not going there. So, that is the thing we are dealing with. This whole discussion has been framed around security. Security here and security there. Yet, I read in the papers, I'm not trying to be confrontational, I read in the papers that this activity was going to be restricted from government offices. And, we are trying to hem it in on the downtown sidewalks, but it is still public, knowing that it is not going to work. Well, I am against that. It seems like we put a whole lot on the Chief's plate. He's already got a big plate and we keep adding on security here. Because of the cost of security, I don't think the revenue is worth the risk. I don't believe it ever is. It will not be controlled. I know it stated in the papers that it will be controlled. When I got to the city, folks could enjoy alcohol if they chose. We had private clubs all around here where people could go with amongst*

themselves and drink alcohol. They could take it home. But, then, willy nilly, we know how, you know, the past history. It's in there. Now, it is in our business districts. Alcohol is sold and consumed there. And, I have been down there to those places at noon time, but families come in there to eat with their children. I've been there in the early evening hours and seen families there with their children with alcohol just across the low wall there or, you know, being consumed and sold. We know that as soon as this is, I know what is stated publicly, but as soon as this permitted in downtown Jonesboro and on the public streets, there is going to be a slew of people up here facing you, petitioning you to allow the same activity on their patios and in their parking lots of their businesses downtown. We know it is coming. What will you say? We made a decision against what is stated by the people of the county to permit this activity. Are we going to say no? Well, will we refer back to the decision that was made, positively is what I'm hearing, to permit this entertainment in the city? How can we say no? If we say, well, we'll have to do it because we did it because we did it because we could. There's a lot of responsibility there. This is a great city full of traffic. The streets are crowded. That's what we want. The business district is growing. Do we want somebody to come up, they've got to leave the district. Do we want someone, the Chief, to be sitting down there all of the time to pinch him before he t-bones somebody on Johnson? And, other congested streets even more. Stay with me now. It can happen. It will happen. I think that is just too much if a decision is just made. You are our city government. When people live in close proximity like we do, we have to have direction and you're it. Are we going to make a decision based on the request of a few that's going to be a danger to many? I want to read a little statement here, right here. It won't take a minute. It says it's not too strong to say that the constitution was made to guard the people against the dangers of good intentions. There are men of all ages who mean to govern well, but they mean to govern. They mean to be good masters, but they mean to be masters. So, you have a serious decision to put a known product on the street that will it escalate all over the city, a fine city that people love to shop here, a regional shopping area. We're going to put that out there in the public where we cannot control it. Cameras do not control. They only record the event. I'm talking about the event. An unruly behavior, people that their reasoning is altered, their behavior is altered, their ability is altered and it won't work. I have a personal story. I know there have been a lot of statistics up here and I couldn't hear all of them. I have a personal story. I have a grandchild in my family that didn't have a drop of alcohol in his home when he was growing up, not one. But, as he has come of age and grownups have independence, through a weakness that many have, he has abused it. Now, his driver's license is restricted for two years in the middle of his twenties and that is not an isolated case. Now, that's all I have to say. Well, I just want to say I know we had alcohol in the city when I got here all those years ago in 1961, but it was still a good city because it was in a controlled nature where people could go and enjoy themselves by themselves and not affect the public. I do not overly concern myself with what people do with their choices. It's their choices. I'm really concerned about where they do it because that affects me and hundreds of others. And, that has to be considered to govern properly. Thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you sir for comments.

Victoria Riggs, 194 CR 395, said, I am against the entertainment district, putting that in Jonesboro. It says this will allow people to walk the street carrying an open container of alcohol. That's not legal anywhere at the moment. A bad idea. Alcohol is the biggest drug problem there is. Alcohol is not only bad for all of these reasons but the bottom line is alcohol kills. I watched as a child alcohol turn my own parents into useless lumps. I watched my brother die a slow death. It killed his liver because he drank alcohol too much. Alcohol has stole so much from me in my lifetime and it wasn't because I was getting drunk. Alcohol stole my family. When I was a child, my parents were raging alcoholics. I'm sure it started out with them having a drink or two to relax, but with alcohol you have no control. Alcohol will absolutely control you.

*Imagine a world in which everyone allows liquor to control them. I can personally tell you about that because that is how I have grown up. Parents are a child's world and mine couldn't stay away from that poison. Do yourself a favor and look up the effects of alcohol on your body physically and mentally. You won't find anything positive about it. Alcohol is a depressant. It changes your brain functions. The best thing that could happen is for alcohol to be completely illegal. If people don't stand up and say its bad, it will just continue to become more accepted and become more of a way of life. I have a child. I don't want him in that lifestyle. We don't need to allow this to happen. Wake up y'all. I'm sure that I don't need to get any more scientific about the facts that I already have. You guys already know. They have been stated to you. I'm sure you've looked them up. We already know the negative things that alcohol does so why endorse this behavior y'all? Is it money? Money is what it is looking at. Hey, we are just going to bring in revenue. Is it worth these lives that we are losing for a little bit of money? Another thing, why fix something that isn't broken. Jonesboro is already a thriving community. It has been said over and over by people who are for this and by people who are against it. It's already thriving. Why do we need to add anything to it? Please stop using the money argument in a life or death situation. I have personally seen this. It has affected my life more than most people. Don't put an entertainment district in Jonesboro y'all. It just wouldn't be a good idea. I think we are already good the way we are. Thank you.*

*Jeremy Terrell, 2311 Autumn, said, side note, we got all four mayor candidates in here at the same time. Maybe we can have a quick debate before you guys leave. That would be pretty fun. Here's the truth and the truth is what somebody has already said, we cannot fit one more person in jail, not one. We are currently right now letting three time drinking and driving people walk the streets and not get in trouble. It's happening, absolutely it's happening. We can shake our heads no, but I heard it from the horses mouths last night. The people who run the jail, the judges that try to put them in jail. We absolutely 100 percent cannot put one more person in jail. We let people go on one, two, three and more drinking and driving. So, that has to be taken into consideration. It has to be taken into consideration. We are busting at the seams at our jail. And, if it passes, and we get a new jail, it's three to four years before we can have another jail. So, we have got to get real creative and how in the world we taken on any type of atmosphere that would cause somebody to go to jail. And, with all due respect to the people that said, there is no statistic, you obviously haven't been in a zone where people are drinking because aside from church basketball league, alcohol is probably the number one result in fights and aggravated assaults. I know my friend back here has the results, I mean the statistics. He can come up and tell you. Alcohol is a bad deal. And, here's the deal. I don't really, it's not up to me. And, it really shouldn't be something that you guys should be taking on. The city and the county has voted and voted and voted. So, here's the problem that I have. Here's the problem that I have. We have city ordinances that we are supposed to abide by when it comes to giving out alcohol licenses. Well, I've seen in the last few months that we have already superseded those ordinances. So, why do we even have ordinances? We're going to probably award an alcohol license right across the street from Jonesboro High School. In the ordinance, it says you can't do that. The argument was well the schools will be closed. Well, I don't know about any of you guys, but my kids go to Jonesboro and I am almost there every dog gone night of the week. There's basketball, football, band, plays. There's every type and sometimes its really hard to get out on the road after a game. We've got one going in next to a church. The ordinance was... (City Attorney Carol Duncan said, it doesn't say that in the ordinance.) It may, well, but that was the conversation here right? And, we're like, hey, let's not put it (Ms. Duncan said, there was a conversation.) next to the church or whatever. Ms. Duncan replied, correct, the ordinance does not say that. Mr. Terrell said, okay. So, but we are going to put it next to three churches, not just the one. So, if we allow this one to go in here, what's to say if Demo's and the restaurant right*

*beside it and then something else opens up, they want a zone because currently right now, the way that we sit and the history says we'll probably give them that zone. If there's one, if there's four or five on Caraway and they want a zone, what are we going to do? We can debate this all day long. The truth of the matter is that this absolutely 100 percent should be the people's vote, period. This shouldn't be about downtown which I think downtown is such a vital part to Jonesboro, 100 percent. I was one of the many people that tore some of these buildings inside out and helped rebuild some of them. But, it absolutely 100 percent needs to have the time and effort of Jonesboro city. But, at some point in time, we've got to realize that each of you guys represent the people of Jonesboro. And, I did hear a couple of people say, well, I haven't heard anybody against this and I can probably say the opposite that I haven't heard too many people for it. So, that's the debate. The only that you allow that debate to be finalized is that you put this on a ballot. You do not supersede the will of the people and that's what we are doing. Thank you.*

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

**Aye:** 8 - Brian Emison;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;John Street;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

**Nay:** 3 - Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter and Charles Coleman

**Absent:** 1 - Chris Moore

Enactment No: O-EN-024-2024

## **8. MAYOR'S REPORTS**

*Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported on the following:*

*So, it's been three weeks since our last City Council meeting and with July being one of those that have five Tuesdays in it so a lot of activities have been going on.*

*The lead story, if you will, we welcomed, it has gotten through the Senate Committee, \$3.5 million of federal funding for Jonesboro Public Safety. It's advanced through the Senate Appropriations Committee and the funding would be for our Real Time Crime Center for northeast Arkansas and the region. I want to thank Senator Boozman for advocating for this project and his continued request and advances to make this happen. Now, a lot went into this. This was over three years preparation for this. Senator Boozman and his staff have been in our community and they have seen not only what it is going to do for the City of Jonesboro, but for the region as a whole.*

*And, I will mention too another meeting that I had today that was so imperative that we continue that. So, it's just on the first step. It has to go to the House and then to the President's signature. Speaking of Senator Boozman, I met with him as well as Senator Cotton and Crawford at Arkansas State University at the Delta Center. This was regarding the steel industry and the importance to it in northeast Arkansas. The discussion focused on community needs for steel towns particularly on and around interesting enough, public safety and quality education of K-12, and the infrastructure in communities where steel employees live.*

*Also, today, we welcomed more than 400 childhood educators for a convention at the Red Wolf Convention Center at Embassy Suites. I always enjoy introducing and welcoming people to Jonesboro, but a lot of them are out of town guests and they play a vital role in our economy and the success of our local businesses.*

*July 15th and 16th, the Arkansas State Association of Executives Conference was also hosted in Jonesboro for the first time. It's about 80 leaders of regional associations exploring our community. Events were hosted by Arkansas State as well as excursions to Craighead Forest, the Jonesboro Shooting Sports Complex, and JETS providing transportation on these excursions. Gift bags were filled with huge selections made of products right here in industry from Jonesboro. We heard a lot of great comments, but we fully expect more conventions to be scheduled in Jonesboro because of the city's efforts to make attendees welcomed. In fact, more than two groups were booked for convention before they left.*

*We received notice last week that the Arkansas Municipal League appointments Tony Thomas will serve on the Economic Development Committee. I'll be on the Public Safety Committee as well as the Executive Committee.*

*And, I am also pleased as well to announce that First Security Bank Employee of the Month for August is from the Jonesboro Police Department, Amy Elrod. She was announced earlier and we want to again thank First Security for their endeavors there every month. And, that is a big shout out for our city.*

*The Jonesboro Fire Department is on fire with its newest recruitment class that's the largest rookie class, correct Chief? Fire Chief Marty Hamrick replied yes. Mayor Copenhagen continued on to say, 15 recruits. This says a lot for the future of our community, but more importantly the involvement of the morale that our Fire Department has within the city, but not only in this regional area as well. I commend you for those efforts.*

*The month of July was Animal Services Month and the Bissell Pet Foundation Empty the Shelters National Adoption Event. We had 31 dogs adopted last month. The adoption fee was dropped down to just \$40 and Bissell helps defray the cost to spay, neuter, vaccinate and microchip the animals.*

*On July 24th, we were presented the JPD officers composite at the African American Museum for the African American officers that currently serve and formerly served with JPD. It's at the E. Boone Watson Center for display. And, if you haven't been by there, you need to go by there and see this.*

*On July 24th, a new Project Search class of 2024-2025 interns toured City Hall and spent time in my office for questions. The city has partnered with Project Search for the last three years and it's the top ten employer in the state of Arkansas for Project Search graduates.*

*The Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation 2024 Officers and Leaders Conference was also hosted here in Jonesboro last month for the first time in 21 years. I saw lots of faces I haven't seen in a long time and met a lot of people who are seeing Jonesboro for the first time.*

*We had the pleasure of recognizing a young man as well, Cohen Smith, with a proclamation deeming July 16, 2024 as Cohen Smith Day. And, to honor Cohen's advocacy for promoting awareness of EOE disease and helping raise funds for the Children's Miracle Network supported by the Arkansas Children's Hospital.*

*I was also able to attend a PBA Event that was hosted by Hijinx this past weekend and it was four days. We had over 150 PBA members from all over the world right here in Jonesboro. This has been an ongoing annual event, but it's the first one ever that all three tours were here in one community, PBA, PWBA, and the Young Under 50 WPBA were all here. It was wonderful to see. They bowl in the mornings, but*

guess what they do in the afternoons and vice versa? They go out and play in our golf courses. They're around our community. They're spending taxpayer dollars here, but they are telling people about our community and that's what I love. They brag about Jonesboro, Arkansas and the people in it.

This past weekend, we did have our August neighborhood cleanup and it was held at Nettleton Church of Christ. I do appreciate that. We don't have the annual totals in yet, but we are far ahead of what we already did for the entire year last year. I want to say again thank you for our city crews as well doing that.

This past weekend, we had a remarkable Stuff the Bus event which collected a record breaking 45,000 school supply items including a good amount donated by the city employees, in particular, Animal Services. This is where I would normally gig our Animal Services Director Larry Rogers for his braggadocious behavior, but for once, I will let him have his moment of glory. We all know that it really matters because it goes to the kids in our community. So, supplies from that donation from the city employees and the residents of Jonesboro, I want to say thank you very much.

[COM-24:034](#)

MAY 2024 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**Attachments:** [May 2024 Financials](#)

Filed

## **9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I have just one question. Are they going to build that new police department starting next week? Mayor Copenhaver said, starting next week, that would be awesome if we could do that. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, well, I asked because I've been talking about this. Here we go again, another ten years. And, I am not sure I am going to live another ten years so I would sure like to see if before it happens. Mayor Copenhaver said, the great thing is now, Dr. Coleman, we do have \$4 million towards that project.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, I do have a question, thank you. Mayor, I was just kind of driving around the city today and yesterday and I didn't know, are we good with the workers that are cutting and all of that for our yards and stuff? And, I ask because some areas are not as manicured and doesn't have the same standard as some of our other areas in the city and I just wanted to know if there is an issue with that or are we making sure that we keep the Sanders in northside Jonesboro as well as mid Jonesboro and south? Mayor Copenhaver said, well, I can assure you and every Monday I meet with the directors and Scott if you would like to give an update of what your team does as a whole in each part of the city. The grass is growing quickly. That is just one manifest that is in play, but also is others. But, if you would just give them kind of a quick update of your team. Code Enforcement Director Scott Roper said, obviously with the weather that we have had, our grass is growing like crazy. I think if you talk to the Street Department Director, he will tell you the same thing. I would bet if there is a high yard, we probably have a case on it, right, and we give people usually 7-10 days to get that corrected. And, if they don't, we have other ways to deal with that. So, yes, it is a big problem this time of year and especially with the rain and heat that we have had. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman asked, do we have enough workers? Mr. Roper said, oh yeah, I mean we stay extremely busy. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, yes sir. Mr. Roper said, I think our numbers are way up this year from last year and so are our grass cases.



*Councilmember John Street said, I was also appointed by the Municipal League for the Advisory Council on Large First Class Cities. I don't know about you.*

*Councilmember Chris Gibson said, I have not seen my mail. I'm sure that I have probably got a letter. Councilmember Street said, I just got a letter yesterday to that effect. We are represented down there, so that's good.*

*Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I do have a question. I know it is past my time. But, on the Code Enforcement, are we going to increase personnel in Code because we are growing quite a bit. So, is that in the works? Are we going to increase individuals on Code? Mayor Copenhaver said, what we are doing right now is as we do every year, we are into budget time, so we are reassessing every single department with what we are going to be doing. Now, I will say this and I know that Scott, we have to delegate the responsibility obviously to other individuals to go mow yards and do things like that. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman stated, that is basically why I asked. Mayor Copenhaver continued, the resources that are limited that we have. And, so, again, personnel wise, we have grown the department and I think Scott and them are paying huge dividends with our numbers. And, I will say, I am going to brag, what I hear from people in our community that are visiting, they talk about how clean it is. And, so, we take pride in that, but I agree with you Dr. Coleman. We are assessing it. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman replied, I hear the same thing. I hear the same brags and I am an opponent of that same time, but at the same time, as a council person, we are really working those people that we have got to death and they just need some more people. Yeah, okay. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you.*

## **10. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Councilperson Mitch Johnson, seconded by Councilperson LJ Bryant, that this meeting be Adjourned. The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

**Absent:** 1 - Chris Moore

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Harold Copenhaver, Mayor**

**Attest:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**April Leggett, City Clerk**