



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Monday, December 2, 2019

5:30 PM

Municipal Center

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

SPECIAL CALLED PUBLIC WORKS MEETING AT 5:00 P.M.

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

President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore said, the Mayor is under the weather tonight so he asked if I could conduct the meeting.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

3. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK DONNA JACKSON

Present 12 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain and LJ Bryant

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

Aye: 12 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain and LJ Bryant

[MIN-19:114](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON NOVEMBER 19, 2019

Attachments: [CC Minutes 11192019](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

[RES-19:167](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1328 WEST HUNTINGTON, PARCEL 01-143133-18100, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY DKI LLC.

Attachments: [1328 W. Huntington](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-166-2019

[RES-19:169](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1506 PRATT CIRCLE, PARCEL 01-144082-09900, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY CHARLES BOWMAN

Attachments: [1506 Pratt Circle](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-167-2019

[RES-19:172](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT CARAWAY ROAD, PARCEL 01-144283-08400, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY NE ARKANSAS HOSPITALITY LLC

Attachments: [Caraway 01-144283-08400](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-168-2019

[RES-19:173](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED ON GRIGGS AVENUE, PARCEL 01-144273-18700, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY SANDRA HEFNER

Attachments: [Griggs 01-144273-18700](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-169-2019

[RES-19:174](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED ON MITCHELL DRIVE, PARCEL 01-144233-01800, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY THE RAZA GROUP OF ARK, LLC

Attachments: [mitchell 01-144233-01800](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-170-2019

[RES-19:175](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT RICHARDSON ROAD, PARCEL 01-144273-19800, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY IGLESIA CHRISTIANA "VIDA NUEVA" CHURCH

Attachments: [Richardson 01-144273-19800](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-171-2019

[RES-19:177](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON VACANT PROPERTY LOCATED AT 129 N. BRIDGE, PARCEL 01-144181-55600, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY PATRICIA WILLIAMS

Attachments: [129 N. Bridge](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-172-2019

[RES-19:178](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 200 MULBERRY, PARCEL 01-144074-09600, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY LEON JONES

Attachments: [200 Mulberry](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-173-2019

[RES-19:179](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 200 S. ALLIS, PARCEL 01-144181-40800, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY MICHAEL DUANE DARLING

Attachments: [200 S. Allis](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-174-2019

[RES-19:180](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 719 W. MONROE, PARCEL 01-143134-18400, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY DALTON MASHBURN

Attachments: [719 W. Monroe](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-175-2019

[RES-19:181](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1301 SANTA FE CIRCLE, PARCEL 01-143231-23900, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY GARY SMITH.

Attachments: [1301 Santa Fe](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-176-2019

[RES-19:182](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 319 N. ROGERS, PARCEL 01-144172-18000, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY ERIC GRIGGS

Attachments: [319 N. Rogers](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-177-2019

[RES-19:202](#)

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE TITLE VI PROGRAM SUBMITTED FOR THE JET SYSTEM

Attachments: [JETS 2019 Title VI Program 11-13-19](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-178-2019

RESOLUTIONS PULLED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

[RES-19:166](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1313 PARDEW, PARCEL 01-144212-20200, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY STANLEY ANDREWS/MICHELLE NUTT

Attachments: [1313 Pardew](#)

Councilmember John Street said, I motion that we postpone indefinitely. The lien of \$360 has been settled with the city. Councilmember Mitch Johnson seconded the motion. All voted aye.

A motion was made by Councilperson John Street, seconded by Councilperson Mitch Johnson, that this matter be Postponed Indefinitely . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 12 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

[RES-19:201](#)

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF A BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, FOR THE TWELVE (12) MONTHS BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2020 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020, APPROPRIATING MONEY FOR EACH ITEM OF EXPENDITURE THEREIN PROVIDED FOR; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Attachments: [2020 Budget](#)
 [Jonesboro Budget 2020](#)

Councilmember John Street said, Mr. Moore, since the Mayor is not here and there is no rush on this, I would motion that we move this to our next scheduled council

meeting on December 17, 2019, that way the Mayor will be here to answer any questions the council or the public may have in regards to the budget. President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore said, I would agree with that. I am not in a position to answer the questions that some people may have. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman seconded the motion. All voted aye.

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

Aye: 12 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

6. NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

RES-19:203

A RESOLUTION TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE ABANDONMENT OF A 15' x 350' ALLEY ON THE WEST SIDE OF LOTS 1 THROUGH 7, BLOCK A OF EARL KIECH SECOND EDITION BY FISHER AND ARNOLD ON BEHALF OF CMU INVESTMENTS, LLC

Attachments:

[Petition #1](#)

[Petition #2](#)

[Survey Plat](#)

[Vicinity Map](#)

[Notification - Winters](#)

[Notification Nettleton School](#)

[Abandonment Concurrence - Bevill - Keich second addition](#)

[CWL Letter - Earl Kiech 2nd Add](#)

[AT&T Abandonment Concurrence](#)

[CenterPoint Abandonment Concurrence](#)

[Suddenlink Abandonment Concurrence](#)

[Ritter Abandonment Concurrence](#)

City Attorney Carol Duncan asked, do we have a date and time for that? President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore asked, what is the date of our next meeting? City Clerk Donna Jackson said, December 17, 2019. President Pro-Tempore Moore asked, do we want to set that for 5:25 p.m.? The public hearing was set for 5:25 p.m. on Tuesday, December 17, 2019.

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

Aye: 12 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Enactment No: R-EN-179-2019

RES-19:207

A RESOLUTION TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING TO ABANDON AND VACATE THE RIGHT-OF-WAY AND DRAINAGE EASEMENTS IN THE JACKSON MINOR PLAT OF

PART OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 11, TOWNSHIP 14 NORTH, RANGE 4 EAST BY GEORGE HAMMAN ON BEHALF OF JACKSON INNOVATION, LLC

Attachments: [Abandonment conc - Civilogic - Jackson - George H signed petition](#)
[jackson minor plat subd plans 8-16-19](#)
[Engineering Abandonment Approval](#)
[ATT ABANDONMENT CONCURRENCE](#)
[CENTERPOINT ABANDONMENT CONCURRENCE](#)
[CWL ABANDONMENT CONCURRENCE](#)
[Ritter Abandonment Concurrence](#)
[Suddenlink Easement Abandonment 11-13-2019](#)

President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore said, we just set on at 5:25 p.m. so I would think this one would be at 5:20 p.m. on December 17, 2019. The public hearing was set for 5:20 p.m. on Tuesday, December 17, 2019.

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

Aye: 12 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Enactment No: R-EN-180-2019

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-19:054](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO CHANGE THE NAME OF COMMERCE DRIVE, ALONG WITH ITS FUTURE EXTENSIONS, TO DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DRIVE AND TO ERECT APPROPRIATE SIGNS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Attachments: [Letter to the Public Works Committee pdf.pdf](#)
[Emma Agnew 10152019](#)
[Sandra Combs 10152019](#)
[Lisa Melton 11052019](#)
[Sandra Combs 11052019](#)
[Judy Casteel 11052019](#)
[Michael Gray 11052019](#)
[Michael Gray 11192019](#)
[Roy Ockert 11192019](#)
[Roy Ockert 11202019](#)
[Lisa Melton email 11252019](#)
[Gilchrist email 11292019](#)
[Sandra Combs 12022019](#)
[Emma Agnew 12022019](#)
[Richard Freer 12022019](#)
[Lisa Melton 12022019](#)
[Sandra Combs 12052019](#)

Councilmember John Street said, for the purposes of putting it on the agenda, I motion that we suspend the rules and offer ORD-19:054 by title only. Councilmember Bobby Long seconded the motion. All voted aye.

President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore said, before we get started, I would like to make a couple of comments and make sure everyone knows the process and give everyone ample opportunity to discuss. First of all, the discussion is to be limited to the question before the council – that question is “Whether or not to change the name of Commerce Drive and an unnamed section after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive.” This is not and will not be a discussion on racism, white privilege, past offenses, or Hattie Caraway. The Council rules do not allow a speaker to question the motive or motivation of a person of opposing view. Everyone should have respect for the other person’s point of view. This includes charges of racism, bigotry, and unfounded accusations of being in the Klan, etc. What can and should be debated are the merits rather of naming the street after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. based on his deeds and accomplishments, the advantages or disadvantages of renaming a street, facts such as prior street renaming history like Mrs. Judy Casteel presented at one of the earlier meetings. Also, personal preference of whether you want or you do not want to rename a street is perfectly appropriate. The order of debate will be as follows: the proponents will go first. Everyone who wishes to speak in favor of this, line up, and I will let every single one of you speak. Then, the opponents will speak. Then, questions and comments by the council. And, then, motions by the council. The rules give me the authority to maintain order which I intend to do. If you are out of line or out of order, I will issue one warning. If you are out of order a second time, I will ask the Police Chief to remove you. With that in mind, anyone who wishes to speak in favor of this, please come to the podium.

Sandra Combs, P. O. Box 2686, State University, AR, said, First, I would like to say, I used the word Klan and the records will show that each time I used it, it was C which means family, group, members in my past remarks. I was a member of the Unity Advisory Committee, I am a supporter of naming Commerce Road in honor of Dr. King, a slain civil rights leader who won a Nobel Peace Prize, has a federal holiday, a U.S. postage stamp, and a massive monument in Washington, D.C. I am a taxpayer, registered voter and Ward 3 homeowner, and my opinion is that a street named after Dr. King will be an asset in Jonesboro. My opinion is that an overpass is not a street and an unfunded parkway or trailway is not a street. I respectfully ask that you hold on to two facts. First, that there is not a law in Jonesboro, to not rename a street. And, second, the U.S. Postal Service will deliver mail to streets with name changes. I also remind you that Red Wolf was changed from Young to Stadium and to Red Wolf and other streets also. In 2000, Rogers Chapel Road was renamed Nestle and Councilmembers Moore, Williams, Perrin and Street voted yes. In 2005, part of that same road was changed back from Nestle to Rogers and Councilmembers Moore, Perrin, Street and Johnson voted yes. I respectfully ask that you take in consideration how hurtful it is to essentially say, "Let's name a street after Dr. King but it doesn't exist yet and who knows what real date it will exist." Also, I ask that we NOT try to put ourselves in Dr. King's shoes and say what we think he would want. I don't think there is anyone in Jonesboro who is qualified to do that. And if anyone is saying that Dr. King wouldn't want a street in his honor and, therefore, we shouldn't have it, I ask whether we say the same things about Robert E. Lee or Stonewall Jackson. There are countless schools, streets and monuments named after these gentlemen, but I don't think anyone ever asked whether or not they would want that done. Nevertheless, I respectfully ask that you consider that there are Jonesboro taxpayers, registered voters of all races, genders, politics and religions, who look up to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who know him as a justice for all man and who would love all of Commerce

Road named in his honor. Finally, I respectfully ask that the spirit of transparency, before voting, that each honorable Councilmember, at least, openly reveal why they vote yes or no or abstain. That way, it gives me and others who are really concerned an opportunity to address those issues if given the time. Thank you in advance for seriously considering naming all of Commerce Road in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore said, thank you Ms. Combs and let me state that the rules do not allow you to question the motive or motivation of why somebody votes for a particular item. That is from the Arkansas Municipal League. Ms. Combs said, I wasn't. President Pro-Tempore Moore said, you said you would like a statement of why each individual voted for or against an item and I am saying you are not entitled to a statement or a reason of cause. Ms. Combs said, I was just asking how they came to a conclusion. President Pro-Tempore Moore said, you are not entitled to that Ms. Combs. They vote yes or no. There is no secret anything. They are going to vote right here in public on any motion before the council.

Emma Agnew, 1215 Dupwe Drive, said, although I am the president of the local branch of the NAACP, I am speaking for myself tonight and not on behalf of the NAACP. Having worked for the City of Jonesboro for a few years, I have had the pleasure of at least a brief conversation with most of you; and an in-depth conversation with some of you. And I know you to be good, decent, hard-working men and lady; and those who have supported this effort thus far, I say to you, "Thank You." And I pray and trust you will not waiver from that support. Tonight I just kind of wanted to see if I could bring some clarity to why the black community feels so strongly about this street naming. And, an explanation of why we think it should be a street. Dr. King fought for the freedom of all people. But if you were born free; his legacy does not and I submit cannot mean as much to you as it does to me and those of us who happened to be born black. I was born in 1952, the daughter of the ancestors of slaves. I had no more to do with being born black than you did being born white. And while I had great parents, I had nothing to do with who my parents were any more than you had the option of choosing who your parents would be. When I grew up during the 50's and 60's. change had not come to America. I remember the outright, blatant voter suppression. I remember separate and "unequal" schools. I remember not being able to use the restroom or get a drink of water because all that was available was for "Whites Only." Black people had to go to the back door of a restaurant to get food, and in many cases, simply were not allowed at the restaurant period. Less pay for the same work, having to sit in the back of the bus, fire hoses turned on kids, dogs let loose, and yes, lynchings. I can go on and on about how painful it was for a little black girl to suffer this for no reason other than she was born black. While it is not discussed often, we live with the memory of this every day. If you think it goes away after a few years, I am here to tell you, it does not. I remember, Council, transferring to a predominantly white school when I was in the tenth grade, and being spat on for walking down the hall. I remember white boys dumping buckets of water on the heads of black girls. I remember the "N" word hurled at the 5 or 6 of us like it was our actual names. So, I hope you at least begin to see that for your black residents, this is about so much more than naming a street in honor of Dr. King. It is about a man who gave hope and the idea of inclusion and that we were all created equal. I have two things to say to those who ask If we think Dr. King would want this kind of division and confusion. First of all, if you have to ask this question, then you don't understand who he was. And, if you don't think he would want this kind of division and confusion, then stop opposing it. If you believe, as you say, that Dr. King is certainly worthy of the honor for the legacy he has left. And secondly, Dr. King was a non-violent man, but make no mistake about it, Dr. King was a warrior. He fought hard for the ideas and

equality and justice. He was eloquent. He was passionate. And, he was deeply troubled by what was happening in this country. If Dr. King believed that an international icon, Nobel Peace Prize winner, etc., etc. was deserving of a certain honor because of his legacy, then, yes. He would fight even harder for that individual than we are fighting for him. And, "yes," there was way more confusion and division during the civil rights movement and he was right in the thick of that. I will close with this: Dr. King fought for equal rights and freedom for all people. However, if you have always had equal rights, if you have always been free, you probably don't understand how much his legacy means to those of us who have not had that privilege. For us, your black community, his legacy is life to us. Dr. King is largely, in part, the reason we are where we are today. An overpass won't work, a memorial highway won't work, and while I am not opposed to a trail, a trail alone will not satisfy. I implore you gentlemen and gentelady, lets rename Commerce Drive and future additions in honor of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, and lets move this city forward, together. Thank you. Thank you. President Pro-Tempore Moore said, thank you Mrs. Agnew.

Dick Freer, 912 Willow Oak Circle, said, Good evening members of the City Council. So who I am and why am I here? I have lived in Arkansas for 40 years. My wife Rosemary and I have raised our five children here. I retired as Faculty Emeritus from Arkansas State University, "Go Red Wolves!," after 21 years of service in the social work department where I focused on social justice. Jonesboro is my home. So, I thank you for the opportunity to advocate for honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by naming a street after him. Who is Dr. King whom you may honor today? I think you have heard some of this, but it bears repeating. Some of it is new. Dr. King was first a pastor and scholar with an earned Ph.D. along with 50 honorary doctorates that are not given out for nothing. He was a peace maker. At a time when segregation and denial of the right of Black Americans to vote threatened to tear the nation apart, he led the civil rights and social justice movements through non-violent actions. He was assassinated in 1968 in neighboring Memphis at age 39. For this work, he was honored by the Nobel Peace Prize and the National Medal of Honor. Presidents Reagan and Bush dedicated a holiday to honor Dr. Martin Luther King which is celebrated by all 50 states. King remains an inspiration to millions of people at home and abroad. A national monument honoring Dr. King is aptly located across the pond from the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., one of the most inspiring sections of the city that I have ever seen. For those who may not know, he is also a published award winning author and a spoken word and recording artist. Since I come from academia, I offer you some prospective from our point of view. David Alderman from U-T Knoxville, is a social geographer. He studies MLK Street naming. Estimates are that there were over 900 streets named after Dr. King in 41 states in the U.S. Arkansas is one of those states. The 10 Arkansas cities with streets named after Dr. King are: Rockport, Malvern, Forrest City, West Memphis, Kensett, Arkadelphia, Texarkana, Hot Springs, Little Rock and Fayetteville. By your actions Jonesboro could be #11. Let me share a brief story. In 1965, in Brown Chapel in Selma, Alabama, just days after the police attack on non-violent freedom marchers at Pettus Bridge, a man short of stature stepped to the podium, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "God works in mysterious ways, his wonders to perform. Today God works through the Supreme Court of the United States of America which ruled that Alabama must permit us to march to Montgomery. The packed crowd rose as one to cheer this announcement. I was one of those who stood and cheered. I was thrilled at the time, but I had no idea that this was an historical moment and one that would profoundly affect my life. King's words and actions inspired and challenged me to pursue a life dedicated to equality and social justice and through a career in social work. History choose me, I just showed up in Selma. Back to the action at hand. The street name change will affect businesses and their needs should be and can be addressed as they were in Fayetteville with accommodations by the

U.S. Post Office and a transitional period from 3 to 5 years for giving businesses time to adjust. I submit to you, if Fayetteville could find a way, certainly, Jonesboro can find a way if you have the will. That said, it is my understanding that having a street named after Dr. King conveys a positive climate which attracts new businesses. I believe that a Jonesboro street named after Dr. King would aid recruitment of faculty and staff at ASU as well. In the words of a highly regarded African American scholar referring to prospective university faculty and staff, and I quote: Professional colleagues of color looked for signs of progressiveness within our communities that show a greater understanding of his, King's, message of equality and acceptance. Signs that we matter and progress is being made. Research shows that nationally MLK streets represent important "memorial arenas" to African-Americans. The naming of a small, less prominent streets represents a degrading of King's historical importance and the legitimacy of all black Americans. Which after hearing from our colleagues and residents here is not atypical. It is normative. Think about that as you move forward. After compromising on renaming Southwest Drive which I support, Johnson which I support, and Aggie which I support, the proposal on the table is the acceptable option, one that does not degrade. I believe that this is an historical opportunity for the City of Jonesboro and for each of you on the City Council to do the right thing. I urge you to vote in favor of the amended motion to name all of Commerce Drive in honor of Dr. King. When your children, nieces and nephews, and grandchildren ask, "How did you vote on honoring Dr. King?" Will you say, "I voted no because the City Council couldn't find a way to satisfy business owners or the wishes of some of my constituents weren't there." Or will you say "I voted yes, because Dr. King's message was needed to promote unity and hope in our hometown of Jonesboro? It was the right thing to do." Thank you for this opportunity. President Pro-Tempore Moore said, thank you sir. Any other proponents? This will be the last call for proponents.

Lisa Melton, 605 W. College, said, dear members of the council, I want to apologize to each of you for my behavior at the last council meeting. I am sorry for saying that I have lost respect for the council, and for painting with the broadest of brushes when characterizing each of you as having been involved with kind-of a backroom process. I do not have evidence of that and I do not have any real knowledge about how this unfolded. Further, I know not every member of the council has been involved with the process, and those who were involved were likely trying to do their best given what they knew and when they knew it. We all want peace and unity. Keeping the peace and fostering unity feels different depending upon your vantage point. Plain and simple, I was angry and ashamed. The atrocities committed against people of color whether native, enslaved, or immigrant, sickens and saddens me. I carry the guilt of having descended from the white power structure that at a minimum has allowed it to happen and has benefited from that structure. I have been this way always and I do not apologize for these values. My temper got the best of me and I did a disservice to all in the room, so I apologize. Why do I continue to carry this guilt? Because there has not been a clean break with that foul and evil past. Indeed, I along with every white person in this room continues to benefit from it. Please forgive me Mr. Moore. I am going to talk a little bit about white privilege because that is my experience and that is what I bring to this discussion. President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore said, I would just ask you to keep the discussion to the question before us Ms. Melton, and I appreciate your comments, and the Mayor called me last night after he received your email and he wanted me to thank you for the comments also. I want to assure Ms. Combs and you both that the Mayor and his administration and this council, there has been no scheme behind the scenes to either promote this or to defeat this in any way. There has been no straw vote behind the scene. I mean this is all, there will be a vote tonight and I will insist on a roll call also so that everybody's vote be tallied. What I would ask is that you keep your comments to the question before us on whether or not Dr. King's works

are deserving of a street being named after him, not your personal white privilege, white guilt, or whatever. So, I would ask you to keep the comments in that vein. Ms. Melton said, it is so hard to separate it. It is isn't it? President Pro-Tempore Moore said, I know it is. Ms. Melton said, to me, unequivocally, if Hattie Caraway and if all of these other folks have had streets named for them, unequivocally, he is worthy of a street, unequivocally. So, I guess the point of my remarks which I would like to leave with Mrs. Jackson and I would like to have Mrs. Jackson include in the record if that would be possible. I will not go through them if that somehow offends the council this evening. But, the point that I would make is let's put our whiteness, our white privilege aside and let this community tell us what they need for the first time ever. They don't travel down any street that applauds their heritage and their history. They don't go to any building that applauds their heritage or their history with exception of maybe E. Boone Watson Community Center, a small little community center where there is an African American history museum. Let's just do the thing that will unify us and that will provide the greatest level of peace in this community and do something that I think we, to a person, agree that Dr. King is worthy of great accolades, of great applause. You know, I just really urge you from, yeah, maybe I am different from a lot of white people. I know I am. I grew up in South Carolina and I grew up in Arkansas and I saw a lot of things. I saw a lot of white people saying and doing things that, from a little girl that I didn't think were right. So, I am just asking that we do our best to allow this community to speak to us for a change and to show us what they need. Thank you. President Pro-Tempore Moore said, thank you Ms. Melton. If you want to submit your written comments to the City Clerk.

President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore asked, is there anyone else in the audience that wishes to speak in support of this item? Hearing none, we will move on to opponents. Is there anyone that wishes to speak in opposition?

Roger Watkins, P.O. Box 16, Jonesboro, said, in 2005 there was a resolution. Once a name was selected for a public park, public health facility, and/or street, it should be bestowed with the intention that it will be permanent and changes should be strongly resisted. Commerce Drive is approximately one mile from I-555 to Highland Drive with 25 businesses and 7 houses on that. It is approximately five miles from Highway 49 back to I-555. Allen Park, which is to be designated a trail is approximately five miles from Allen Park to downtown Jonesboro. The Council's Public Works Committee suggested a commemorative or a memorial drive in memory of Dr. King. Highway 49 has approximately 46,000 vehicles per day. I-555 at Commerce Drive has approximately 38,000 vehicles per day. In Jonesboro, there is approximately 1,800 streets, avenues, boulevards, circles, drives, lanes, loops, roads, squares, and so on. In Kansas City, Missouri, the Council there voted to change a street, a 10-mile stretch from the present name that it was to Martin Luther King. There was a referendum and that was voted down 70% to 30%. The latest info that I have, there are 12 states that does not have a street named after Dr. King. And, in some instances, when a street has been changed to Dr. King, property values have actually declined 12.5%. Polls have been taken in Jonesboro that if the Council passes to change Commerce Drive to Martin Luther King and if there is a referendum, it will take 2,500 votes to get it to a public vote. The polls show that it will be defeated 70% to 30%. I suppose the City of Jonesboro would have to have a special meeting on that probably because it costs \$20,000 for that. My opinion, I think a memorial drive from I-555 to Highway 49 might serve as a good solution, a good compromise and no businesses would be effected. They wouldn't be hit with changing their letterheads. It is expensive if you have a business there to change that. And, with that said, I will appreciate you all's vote. Thanks.

Matt Elam, 1802 Commerce Drive, Silver Moon Trailers, said, I have had that business for 23 years. I have spent over \$250,000 in those 23 years advertising 1802 Commerce Drive. I am not on a thoroughfare. I have to promote my business to get people there and it hasn't been easy. So, when this all came about and I have been following it until the last month or so, it disturbs me a little bit that I am going to have to be out a lot of money. I have spent that \$250,000 over this last 20 years to promote my address and now I am faced with the fact that not only am I going to be dealing with road construction over the next 3-4 years on that same stretch of road, I am going to have to spend tens of thousands of dollars changing signage, changing letterhead, business cards, envelopes, all of my advertising is going to have to be changed and that comes out of my pocket. I am just not, I guess coming at it from a business standpoint, I don't see the benefit of that to me. I know I am supporting my family. I have got seven employees and we are supporting their families too so this is a negative impact on us. And, it is a direct negative impact. It comes directly out of our pockets. I don't feel that is a necessary step, not when there are other solutions out there that have already been proposed. I don't know if anyone has any complaints about the new road that is going to go from Pacific to 49. Renaming the whole thing memorial highway, I think that is a fair compromise that wouldn't have any negative impact on my business or the other 25 businesses on that stretch of road. I do believe that there should be a road, but like I said, I think there is a perfectly good compromise that I think addresses all of the needs. That's all I got. President Pro-Tempore Moore said, thank you.

President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore said, last call for all opponents. Anyone else wish to speak in opposition? All right, questions or comments by anyone? Councilmember Charles Frierson said, Mr. President Pro-Tempore, I can't believe that there is anyone who in the next two weeks or a month are going to change their opinion on this matter with all of the information we have heard and read and understand. For that reason, I am going to move that we waive second and third reading and proceed to the vote tonight. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, second.

President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore said, I have a motion and a second to waive second and third readings. Does anyone on the Council or in the audience wish to make a comment on that motion?

Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road, said, I understand Mr. Frierson with that. I think we have battle with this since June. But, there is a process we have here and I know that it has been gone in some instances. But, there is a reason why we have second and third reading. You know, there is not an emergency with this and I feel for all of these people on both sides, but we have a process that we need to follow. And, whether there is going to be one extra person just like this gentleman from Silver Moon, he's been here. I've never seen him here. You know, especially with this being a special meeting that was called on a Monday because we had to switch dates. It is not fair to the other people on the other side that they don't have the opportunity to come in the next two weeks or the next four weeks. So, I don't see where there is an emergency on it so I hope you just go ahead and let the two more readings happen. It is only fair to everybody else on both sides. President Pro-Tempore Moore said, thank you Mrs. Lack.

Andy Adair, 1302 E. Thomas Green Road, said, when the option was Johnson Avenue, I went around Jonesboro getting signatures against the renaming of Johnson Avenue. And, the first thing I heard from everybody was we did not like the renaming of Stadium Boulevard. That is the first thing that people said. They said, I still call Red Wolf, Stadium. It causes confusion. It is a major inconvenience for businesses. Thank you. President Pro-Tempore Moore said, thank you Mr. Adair.

President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore said, is there anyone else that would wish to speak on the waiving of the second and third reading? Hearing none, Madam Clerk, call the roll.

Councilmember Charles Frierson motioned, seconded by Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman, to suspend the rules and waive the second and third readings of ORD-19:054. Vote: Ayes - Frierson, Vance, Coleman, Moore, Williams, Gibson, Bryant, Hafner, McClain; Nays - Street, Johnson Long. The ayes have the vote at 9-3.

A motion was made by Councilperson Charles Frierson, seconded by Councilperson LJ Bryant, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 9 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Joe Hafner; David McClain and LJ Bryant

Nay: 3 - John Street; Mitch Johnson and Bobby Long

Enactment No: O-EN-066-2019

[ORD-19:069](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM COMMERCIAL, C-3 TO RESIDENTIAL, RS-7 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2702 AND 2704 FRED STREET AS REQUESTED BY CARLOS WOOD ON BEHALF OF HAROLD RAY SIMPSON AND LINDA Y. SIMPSON

Attachments: [Staff Summary - City Council](#)
[Rezoning Plat](#)
[Application 1](#)
[Rezoning Plat - Planning](#)
[USPS Receipts](#)

Councilmember Chris Gibson motioned, seconded by Councilmember John Street, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-19:069 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[ORD-19:065](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL AND REPLACE 117-255 Section C OF THE JONESBORO CODE OF ORDINANCES RELATING TO HEIGHT LIMITATIONS OF ACCESSORY BUILDINGS IN THE CITY OF JONESBORO

Held at second reading

[ORD-19:066](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE APPROVAL OF A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR NORTH HILLS SOCIAL CLUB, D/B/A THE EDGE EATERY

Attachments: [Private Club Permit Application Redacted](#)

Held at second reading

[ORD-19:068](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM COMMERCIAL, C-2 TO COMMERCIAL, C-3 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2401 RACE STREET AS REQUESTED BY GEORGE HAMMAN OF CIVILOGIC

Attachments: [Staff Summary - City Council rezoning plat 2401 Race Application](#)
[Rezoning Plat](#)
[USPS Receipts](#)

Held at second reading

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-19:061](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL AND REPLACE 105-259 OF THE JONESBORO CODE OF ORDINANCES TO PROVIDE FOR REQUIREMENTS IN BOARDING AND SECURING OF PROPERTIES IN THE CITY OF JONESBORO

A motion was made by Councilperson Bobby Long, seconded by Councilperson David McClain, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 12 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Enactment No: O-EN-067-2019

[ORD-19:063](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION OF THE CONTRACT FOR THE RENEWAL OF GRANICUS SOFTWARE, HARDWARE AND MANAGED SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO

Attachments: [Proposal for Renewal](#)
[Master Subscription Agreement](#)

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

Aye: 12 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Enactment No: O-EN-068-2019

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore asked, Mike, do you or Bill have anything? Chief of Staff Mike Downing said, I do not. Communications Director Bill Campbell said, no.

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember John Street said, Mr. Moore, our regular scheduled meeting that we voted on last council meeting was December 5, 2019. This is technically this and

Public Works was a special called meeting so I would ask that we vote to cancel the meeting scheduled for December 5, 2019. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman and Councilmember Chris Gibson seconded the motion. All voted aye.

Councilmember John Street said, the Christmas Parade is Thursday night. Everybody come out and if you haven't seen the lights yet, bring family and come out and check out the light display at Joe Mack Campbell Park. President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore said, it is my understanding that it is \$10 per car. Councilmember Street said, it is \$10 per vehicle and I am going to plug this. If you turn at Dollar General because it is going in the back way and everybody wants to turn in at the main entrance on Dan Avenue and they need to go down to Dollar General to turn in.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, on December 23, 2019 from 10-12 at 315 Allis, we are going to be giving toys away to kids. If anyone wants to donate toys, I am going to play Santa Claus again.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 12 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

_____ **Date:** _____

Harold Perrin, Mayor

Attest:

_____ **Date:** _____

Donna Jackson, City Clerk