



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Public Works Council Committee

Tuesday, June 4, 2019

5:00 PM

Municipal Center

NO AUDIO DUE TO TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES.

1. Call To Order

2. Roll Call by City Clerk Donna Jackson

Councilmember Chris Moore arrived at the meeting at 5:19 p.m.

Present 6 - Gene Vance; Mitch Johnson; John Street; Charles Coleman; LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent 1 - Chris Moore

3. Approval of minutes

[MIN-19:044](#) MINUTES FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING ON MAY 7, 2019

Attachments: [Public Works Minutes 05072019.pdf](#)

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

Aye: 5 - Gene Vance; Mitch Johnson; Charles Coleman; LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent: 1 - Chris Moore

4. New Business

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

[RES-19:070](#) A RESOLUTION TO RENEW THE NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) SMALL MS4 GENERAL PERMIT (ARR04000) WITH THE UPDATED STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Attachments: [ARR040000-final-permit-20190801.pdf](#)
[SWMP 2019-2024.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Dr. Charles Coleman, seconded by Councilperson Mitch Johnson, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 5 - Gene Vance; Mitch Johnson; Charles Coleman; LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent: 1 - Chris Moore

[RES-19:072](#)

A RESOLUTION FOR THE RENAMING OF HIGHWAY 91/49, KNOWN AS JOHNSON AVENUE, FROM DAN AVENUE THROUGH CRAIGHEAD COUNTY ROAD 702 AT THE CITY LIMITS IN HONOR OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Attachments: [RES-05-402.pdf](#)
[Petition Opposing Johnson 060419](#)
[Proponents for Changing Johnson to MLK.pdf](#)
[Emails for renaming Johnson Ave.docx](#)
[emails against renaming Johnson.docx](#)
[Emma Agnew Statement 06182019.pdf](#)
[Sandra Combs Statement 06182019.pdf](#)
[Shakitha Robinson Statement 06182019.pdf](#)
[Lisa Melton Statement 06182019.pdf](#)
[Yesenia Hernandez Statement 06182019.pdf](#)
[Opposition Petition Johnson-MLK 06182019.pdf](#)

Chairmember John Street said I do need some clarification on this before I read it. It says from Dan Avenue through Hilltop Drive. I know that probably means Hilltop as a general area, but there is a Hilltop Drive and it is south of Johnson Avenue and West of Airport Road, off Airport Road. So, I don't know if you meant Highway 351 or you meant Airport Road. Does anybody know? Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said Highway 351.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman made a motion to amend RES-19:072 to change Hilltop Drive to Highway 351, seconded by Councilmember L.J. Bryant. All voted aye.

Ms. Emma Agnew, president of the Craighead County NAACP, said, along with the NAACP and several hundred members of the community who have signed petitions, we are requesting the renaming of Johnson Avenue in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. You have heard the resolution about why he is deserving of this honor. It is well overdue. We believe it will show how progressive Jonesboro is and that Jonesboro believes in diversity and recognizing all people for what they have done in the country, in the state, and in the community. Councilmember Dr. Coleman asked Ms. Agnew if she had the petition with her. Ms. Agnew said I do not. Councilmember Dr. Coleman said when you get a chance, would you mind forwarding that to the City Clerk. Ms. Agnew said sure. Chairmember John Street said yes ma'am so that can be part of the record.

Councilmember David McClain, 700 Laura Lee, said I wanted to rise in support of the resolution to change the name of Johnson Avenue, as Ms. Agnew said. I feel that it's long overdue and Dr. King represented so much that is good about people and about caring for each other. So, I would love to see this name change happen. I know some things will be brought up that it's going to be difficult for business, so I'd like to read something from a business owner who owns multiple properties on Johnson Avenue. The e-mail says, Alderman McClain, concerning Resolution 19:072 renaming Johnson Avenue to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as a business owner and a property owner of multiple properties on East Johnson Avenue, I support the resolution. I understand it received concern of creating additional costs for the businesses on Johnson Avenue, but by my analysis, the additional expense and time incurred over a few years to change our address is minimal. These minimal costs are less important to us than the benefit to the community of the increased awareness and respect for Dr. King that will

come from renaming the road. Sincerely, Bobby Lorimer with Textbook Brokers. Councilmember McClain said I'm not the only one here who would also rise in support, but that has something to say from business owners. Another piece to the ordinance that I would like to see us do would be ask for co-sponsors. So, if anyone would like to be a co-sponsor, I truly believe we should have those. Also, another amendment, and I know you don't like to make amendments, but one small amendment that I would ask for, and the main reason I'm going to ask for this amendment is because I think we should be consistent throughout. I'm going to ask that the amendment be made that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue does not stop at Hilltop, but that it actually goes beyond the city limits. So, I would love for somebody, if they are willing, to make that small amendment. I feel that it would give us consistency and we wouldn't have two street names on the same. So, going passed Highway 351 and on to the city limits. Councilmember Dr. Coleman asked Councilmember McClain if he had that amendment in writing. Councilmember McClain said no. I have jotted my notes down if you want them.

Councilmember Dr. Coleman said I would make the motion to amend RES-19:072 to change it to extend Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue past Highway 351 through to the city limits. Chairmember Street said that would be CR 702 past Nettleton Baptist Church to the traffic signal at Busch Agricultural. Councilmember Dr. Coleman motioned to amend RES-19:072 to read Dan Avenue through Craighead County Road 702 at the city limits, seconded by Councilmember L.J. Bryant. All voted aye.

Councilmember David McClain said I have asked members of the community who represent businesses on Johnson Avenue to be here in support and briefly state their thoughts and feelings about this resolution.

Mr. Jerry Morgan, 1108 Dove, representing First National Bank said we did just invest heavily in that area and we would be in full support of this and we appreciate the amendment to extend it to the city limits, also.

Ms. Robin Kuykendall, vice president of the Craighead County branch of the NAACP, said this resolution is timely completely because of the other activities that are going on in this community. This would be a wonderful title to put on top of anything we do to build diversity. I might also point out that already in this community one of the premier community-wide events, the Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration, has been taking place at Arkansas State University over the past few years, and we hope that there will be an enlargement of the community service day, as well, to go with that. There couldn't be anything more timely in a more showy kind of way to point those things out.

Mr. Gary Tate, 2300 Manchester, said some of the business owners along Johnson Avenue contacted me this morning about what process to go through in order to oppose this change. Of course, my biggest point to them was that they just needed one spokesperson instead of having eight or 10 because it gets repetitive. So, I was named that spokesperson. As a couple of businesses state they are in favor, I have 51 signatures of property owners or business owners along Johnson Avenue who are in opposition. They are not in opposition of what the name is going to be changed to, but they are in opposition of any name change for Johnson Avenue. Not only that, when I drove the route, I drove from the city limits because that's what the article on KAIT had was that it went from Dan Avenue to the city limits. I counted 165 businesses that face Johnson Avenue. You have over 3,000 individuals. Stadium View Apartments alone has 300 apartments with four bedrooms with shared living rooms and kitchen areas. So, there's 1,200 people just in that one complex. If you look at all the other apartment complexes that face Johnson Avenue, you're looking at 2,500 to 3,000 people who

have a Johnson Avenue address. Again, no one is in opposition of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. I think he was a wonderful person and done wonderful things. When I was on the council and after the council, when I was able to walk, I walked in every MLK parade that has been done. I think the city has an opportunity here to name a road after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. that would not affect any addresses or costs or changes and that's the easternly bypass. If you name it from Pacific Drive to the Farville curve, there's no addresses there because there's no street there right now, and I do think that Dr. Martin Luther King needs to be honored here in the City of Jonesboro. We're just asking that you not make the change to Johnson Avenue because it's affecting 165 businesses. Although a few of them may be for it, these signatures were gathered in an hour and a half today from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Fifty-one business owners along Johnson Avenue and they didn't get to see everybody. There are several people here who are business owners and I would ask them to stand. Again, they talked to some other people and asked them to be here, but because we knew this meeting was going to be crowded because of Team Jonesboro coming for the 1% sales tax a lot of them couldn't make it here in the time that we gave them. We'd rather that this resolution does not get passed and that it dies here in the meeting, but I also again want to ask the city when the easternly bypass is done from Pacific Avenue to the Farville Curve that it is named in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. That would affect no addresses because there are no addresses there at this time. Also, the article in the paper said several hundred signatures. How many signatures are on your petition? Ms. Agnew said I'm not sure, but probably between 400 and 500. Mr. Tate said do you know how many of those people who signed that petition are actually property owners along Johnson Avenue. Ms. Agnew said that wasn't a question that was asked. Mr. Tate said let me clarify one thing. The resolution only has to be read one time. Is that correct? Councilmember Street said this is just to pass on to the full council. Mr. Tate said if this is passed on, is it walked on tonight. Councilmember Street said no. It wouldn't be on the council agenda for two weeks. Mr. Tate said again, we asked that it not be forwarded on and it has nothing to do with the name. These people are in opposition of changing it to any name. I think the city has a great opportunity of honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and that's with the east bypass. Thank you very much.

Councilmember L.J. Bryant said I told the City Clerk's office earlier that I added myself as a co-sponsor to RES-19:072. I own property on Johnson Avenue and I have visited some with several city officials today and they felt confident that both addresses could be used going forward. So, from a postal perspective and 9-1-1 service perspective, etc., that satisfied any concerns I had, but I wanted that to be part of the record.

Mayor Harold Perrin said I visited with ArDOT and, if this resolution does pass, what I will have to do as Mayor is write a cover letter and send that resolution to ArDOT, who will then make it a minute order and only the five commissioners will vote on that minute order to approve this. Councilmember Street said thank you, sir.

Mr. Gary Tate said I'd like to make one more comment since you brought up the post office. The change in address is not a big deal, but there are several businesses out there who have names, such as Johnson Plaza and Johnson Avenue Car Wash. Those people will have to change signs. For the Johnson Plaza sign, you're looking at about \$2,000 that the owner will have to spend to change his sign. Then you have business cards and people who are doing advertising, such as Bill's Cost Plus. I know they can do that rather simply a few months before the changes take place, but there are other expenses other than changing your address with the post office.

Mr. Andy Adair, Adair Corvette Center and Body Shop, said I'm a third generation small

business owner here in Jonesboro. My grandpa, James Adair, and my Dad, Ken Adair, started the business in 1974. It would be a big deal to a small business owner to have to change our address. We have customers. We have accounts. I love what I do and where I do it, and it's part of my heritage and family. I am against renaming Johnson Avenue. I am all for renaming another street, a bridge, or anything that would not be invasive to businesses. We've got websites, checking accounts. It would be a major deal. I'm just a small operation, but it would be a major deal to big companies.

Councilmember Street said he would ask that RES-19:072 be pulled from the consent agenda for the next City Council meeting on Tuesday, June 18. Councilmember Chris Moore said I request the same because I wasn't here for the full discussion.

A motion was made by Councilperson Dr. Charles Coleman, seconded by Councilperson Ann Williams, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 5 - Gene Vance;Chris Moore;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Nay: 1 - Mitch Johnson

5. Pending Items

6. Other Business

7. Public Comments

8. 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: 5 - Gene Vance;Mitch Johnson;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent: 1 - Chris Moore