



City of Jonesboro

Meeting Minutes

City Council

900 West Monroe
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING AT 4:30 P.M.

1. Call to order by the Mayor at 6:30 P.M.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

3. Roll Call by the City Clerk

Present 10 - Judy Furr;Darrel Dover;Faye McCall;Ann Williams;Cecil Province;Jim Hargis;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson and Tim McCall
Absent 2 - Charles Frierson and Harold Perrin

4. Special Presentations

5. Consent Agenda

MIN-07:1710 Minutes for the September 18, 2007, City Council meeting.

Attachments: [091807](#)

This matter was Approved on the Consent Agenda.

Aye: 10 - Judy Furr;Darrel Dover;Faye McCall;Ann Williams;Cecil Province;Jim Hargis;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson and Tim McCall
Absent: 2 - Charles Frierson and Harold Perrin

6. New Business

7. Unfinished Business

Ordinances on Third Reading

ORD-07:3138 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TITLE 14, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES LOCATED ON STRAWFLOOR ROAD, ENCOMPASSED BY CASEY SPRINGSROAD AND TALL BIRCH DRIVE, AS REQUESTED BY THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS.

Attachments: [Landfill Plat](#)
[MAPC Report](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Moore, seconded by Councilperson John Street, to read the ordinance by title only. The motion PASSED by a unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Moore, seconded by Councilperson John Street, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED by a unanimous vote.

Aye: 10 - Judy Furr;Darrel Dover;Faye McCall;Ann Williams;Cecil Province;Jim Hargis;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson and Tim McCall

Absent: 2 - Charles Frierson and Harold Perrin

Enactment No: O-EN-042-2007

ORD-07:3139 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TITLE 14 OF THE JONESBORO MUNICIPAL CODE KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR A CHANGE IN ZONE DISTRICT BOUNDARIES LOCATED NORTH OF JOHNSON AVE. BETWEEN ROGERS ST. AND SCOTT ST. AS REQUESTED BY EVERS BROWN

Attachments: [Plat](#)
[MAPCReport](#)

Councilwoman Williams stated she had received some calls of concern regarding the rezoning and asked for it to be tabled until the next meeting.

A motion was made by Councilperson Ann Williams, seconded by Councilperson Chris Moore, that this matter be Tabled . The motion PASSED by a unanimous vote.

Aye: 10 - Judy Furr;Darrel Dover;Faye McCall;Ann Williams;Cecil Province;Jim Hargis;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson and Tim McCall

Absent: 2 - Charles Frierson and Harold Perrin

8. Mayor's Reports

COM-07:050 October 2nd progress report for Fire Station #3, Fire Station #7 and the animal shelter.

Attachments: [Fire Stations and Animal Shelter Update](#)

Mr. Adam Seiter presented the Council with updated reports for Fire Station #2, Fire Station #7 and the animal shelter.

This item was Read.

Welcome Home to the 875th troops

Mayor Formon welcomed back the 875th troops from their deployment to Iraq. He stated the six City employees that were part of the 875th are currently going through the process of returning to their jobs.

COM-07:051 Information regarding Disaster Assistance for recent flooding victims.

Attachments: [Disaster Assistance](#)

Mayor Formon handed out information concerning disaster assistance for those affected by the recent flooding in Windsor Heights. He stated the Arkansas Department of

Emergency Management will have people in the area to go door-to-door and visit with the affected homeowners. He asked for anyone who was affected by the flood to call the Mayor's Office for assistance. Councilman Moore questioned whether those outside the City limits can also contact the Mayor's Office. Mayor Formon stated yes, people outside the City limits can also call.

This item was Read.

9. City Council Reports

COM-07:052 Statement by Councilwoman Furr regarding recent flooding

Attachments: [Statement](#)
[Flooding Picture 1](#)
[Flooding Picture 2](#)
[Flooding Picture 3](#)
[Flooding Picture 4](#)
[Flooding Picture 5](#)
[Flooding Picture 6](#)
[Flooding Picture 7](#)
[Flooding Picture 8](#)
[Flooding Picture 9](#)
[Flooding Picture 10](#)
[Flooding Picture 11](#)
[Flooding Picture 12](#)
[Flooding Picture 13](#)

Councilwoman Furr read a statement expressing her concerns over the recent flooding in Windsor Heights and the City not cleaning out Bridger Creek. Mayor Formon stated they will be talking with Street Superintendent Teddy Hooton soon. He then questioned whether the flooding would've still occurred if Bridger Creek had been cleaned out. Assistance City Engineer Craig Light stated it is hard to tell whether the flooding would have occurred. He added he thinks they will need to clean out Bridger Creek as well as re-shape it and possibly put in detention to solve the flooding problem. Councilwoman Furr stated had the City done it's job then a garage or house may have flooded, but the problem wouldn't have been as big as it was. She stated this is an issue that should've been handled by the Street Department when she first addressed it in July of 2005. Mayor Formon noted he met with County Judge Dale Haas and the County is willing to help solve the problem. He stated the Judge will help with widening or if a bridge needs to be put in. He added City Engineer Kelly Panneck is working on a plan that they hope to get done as soon as possible. Councilman Hargis stated he would like to know what a hydrologist would recommend especially considering the S curve in Bridger Creek.

This item was Read.

Councilman Street welcomed home the 875th troops. Mayor Formon noted the adjutant general of the 875th expressed his appreciation for the support from Northeast Arkansas.

Councilwoman Williams asked Police Chief Michael Yates to discuss a recent survey by the FBI that listed Jonesboro as the 74th most violent place to live in the country. Chief Yates noted the survey was a metropolitan area statistical analysis, which included not only the City of Jonesboro but also the area around it including Poinsett County and unincorporated areas of Craighead County. He also explained he has analyzed the data from the first quarter of 2007 and Jonesboro saw a 15% decrease in the violent crime rate when compared with 2006 data. He further discussed the data used by the survey and stated to apply the data strictly to the City of Jonesboro is misleading. He explained they

do have issues with gangs and drugs that will need to be addressed. He noted if you look at the City's homicide rate the City would rank 109th. Chief Yates also explained Jonesboro uses a different form of reporting criminal data that is used by a minority of cities in the country that tends to make the data more accurate, which could result in incidents being reported in Jonesboro that would not be reported in other areas. Councilwoman Furr questioned how many police officer slots are needed to maintain the force, assuming the attrition issue being taken care of. Chief Yates stated in order to get the deployable manpower where it needs to be the attrition problem needs to be taken care of first. He added the City needs a deployable force of 150-160 officers. He explained they have 134 authorized positions and 132 of those positions are filled, but 20 of those positions are either in some form of training or on medical leave. Mayor Formon questioned how many people are currently in the CID unit. Chief Yates stated they currently have 13 officers in CID. Councilwoman Williams questioned the value of the take home vehicle program. Chief Yates stated they will save money on maintenance costs and the program is helping to retain officers.

Councilman Moore asked for the Welcome to Jonesboro signs to be washed and the area around them cleaned up. Mayor Formon stated they cleaned the signs about 4 months ago. He asked for Maintenance Director Keith Sanders to take care of the signs.

Councilman Hargis questioned how the recent state turnback money will be spent. Mayor Formon stated a large portion of the money will be used for the purchase of Optimist Park. Mr. Tony Thomas added they will be purchasing new equipment for the park as well. Councilman Hargis then discussed the financial report handed out at the last Finance Committee meeting. He questioned the assets and reserves being \$36 million when it was indicated to him by Interim Finance Director Herb Davis that the assets and reserves were at \$48 million. Mayor Formon stated they no longer account for the police and fire retirement funds in the assets and reserves, which is why the funds are now listed at \$36 million. Councilman Hargis further discussed the receipts being 22.6% below anticipated receipts. Mayor Formon asked Councilman Hargis to contact him tomorrow and he'll get the answers to his questions.

Councilman Province stated he has received several compliments concerning the Police Department's response to the recent problem at the fair. He then expressed concern over the growing gang activity in the City. Chief Yates noted a group that was partially responsible for the problem at the fair is dealt with on a regular basis. He stated gangs are an evolving issue that will go on for a long time.

Code Enforcement Officer Ronnie Shaver questioned why two condemnations were not on the agenda. Ms. Nikki Nottingham looked the files up on Legistar and noted the items had not been taken to the Public Safety Committee yet due to the last Public Safety Committee meeting being canceled. Mr. Shaver questioned whether the files will be on the next agenda. It was explained the items will be on the next Public Safety agenda. Mr. Shaver questioned whether he has to give the homeowners another 20 day notice even though he's already given them a 20 day notice. Councilman Moore noted the items will most likely not be taken to Council at the next meeting because they will be going to Public Safety that night. He added the items will probably go to the first November Council meeting. City Attorney Phillip Crego asked Mr. Shaver to meet with him tomorrow.

10. Public Comment

Mr. Mike Levi stated he was displaced by the Willows Apartments condemnation. He explained Code Enforcement is not proceeding with condemnation due to a potential buyer. He questioned what would happen if the potential buyer fell through. He further explained he is currently renting an apartment from the Mayor and expressed concern

about crime next to his apartment. He discussed a recent incident with his neighbors and stated the Police Department knows about the residents but hasn't done anything. He added he has been having problems with his Suddenlink service and has been having to go through the corporate office to get his service. He stated he should not have to live with being harrassed by his neighbors while he's going to his vehicle. He questioned how he can get relief when the Mayor is his landlord. Mayor Formon stated the City employees have worked hard to get the problem with the Willows taken care of and Parks Director Jason Wilkie has given Mr. Levi a job. Chief Yates stated they helped find a place for Mr. Levi to live, gave him some money and found him a job. He added Mr. Levi's main complaint over the weekend was that the neighbors were harrassing him, but the responding officer stated Mr. Levi indicated the neighbors were only asking if Mr. Levi wanted to go to church with them.

11. Adjournment.

A motion was made by Councilperson Mitch Johnson, seconded by Councilperson Tim McCall, that this meeting be Adjourned. The motion CARRIED by a Voice Vote.

Aye: 10 - Judy Furr;Darrel Dover;Faye McCall;Ann Williams;Cecil Province;Jim Hargis;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson and Tim McCall

Absent: 2 - Charles Frierson and Harold Perrin