



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

PUBLIC SERVICES COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING AT 4:30 P.M.

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

Absent 2 - Chris Moore and LJ Bryant

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

[COM-24:001](#)

PRESENTATION OF SERVICE PIN TO COUNCILMEMBER CHRIS GIBSON

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, first of all it is always a wonderful pleasure, number one to be able to work with our city councilmembers and to hear your concerns and to hear how we can move our community forward. But, I must say it is always a wonderful time for me to be able to present something to city councilmembers and one of them is the time of frame that they have been here. So, Chris Gibson, if you would please come forward. And, I think your fellow colleagues can join me in appreciation of the service that you provide to our community and you have done so for the last fifteen years and you have gone above board and we appreciate you as not only community, but as working together with you daily and I appreciate your service to our community. Councilmember Chris Gibson said, thank you Mayor, I appreciate it. Mayor Copenhaver said, absolutely.

Read

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

PASSED

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

Absent: 2 - Chris Moore and LJ Bryant

[MIN-24:001](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON JANUARY 2, 2024

Attachments: [CC Minutes 01022024](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-23:313](#)

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ACCEPT A PERMANENT SIDEWALK EASEMENT AT 501 W. HIGHLAND DRIVE FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS

Attachments: [Permanent Sidewalk Easement-501 W Highland](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-005-2024

6. NEW BUSINESS

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[ORD-23:045](#)

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

Held at second reading

[ORD-23:048](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE TRANSFER OF LOCATION OF A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT

Attachments: [Transfer of Location of Private Club Permit Application](#)
[Publication Fee Receipt](#)

Held at second reading

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-23:046](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 AND C-5 TO C-3 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 915 SOUTHWEST DRIVE AS REQUESTED BY G. S. BRANT PERKINS

Attachments: [Staff Summary - C.C.](#)
[Application for Zoning Ordinance Map Amendment](#)
[H23-075 Cahoon Boundary survey with aerial \(002\)](#)
[H23-075 Cahoon Boundary survey](#)
[Ltr](#)
[Perkins](#)
[Signed Owner Notifications](#)
[U.S](#)
[Warranty Deeds](#)
[Zoning Sign](#)
[Patti Lacks Handout on Trees 12192023](#)

Councilmember John Street said, Mayor, there is some discussion going on about this right now to correct that. I would ask that we postpone that until our next meeting on February 6, 2024. Councilmember David McClain said, I will second that motion. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I think that is agreement with the applicant. Mayor Copenhaver said, with the applicant as well. They are in the room. If you would please come forward. Councilmember McClain said, as a point of order, we don't have any discussion on a postponement. Ms. Duncan said, that is true. He can just acknowledge that they are in agreement and then we will have that on the record. Brant Perkins, Perkins Law Firm on behalf of Mark and Thyrsie Cahoon, said, that is all I was going to do. We consent to the continuance. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you.

A motion was made by Councilperson John Street, seconded by Councilperson David McClain, that this matter be Postponed Temporarily. 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

Absent: 2 - Chris Moore and LJ Bryant

[ORD-23:047](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, ARTICLE III, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM AG-1 TO I-1 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2650 MOORE ROAD AS REQUESTED BY JOHN EASLEY WITH ASSOCIATED ENGINEERING

Attachments: [Staff Summary - C.C.](#)
[Plat](#)
[23142 - CWL Rezone Mail Receipts](#)
[23142 - CWL Rezone Signs](#)
[Deed](#)
[Rezoning Application](#)
[Rezoning Plat](#)
[2650 moore](#)

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

Absent: 2 - Chris Moore and LJ Bryant

Enactment No: O-EN-002-2024

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported on the following:

We have had a lot going on here at the beginning of the year. First of all, I would just like to say that we had several directors along with Chief Elliott, Tony Thomas, and I, councilmembers Porter, Street, and Dr. Charles Coleman. We attended the winter conference of the municipal league last week. It was only not important for Jonesboro because we won a statewide trendsetter award for the Arkansas Business magazine for our flood finishing upgrades but because of some significant meetings we were engaged in. One that I am hopeful about involves creating a system to make our public bid process more competitive and I will meet later this week with a group as a procurement strategy that has proven to save cities millions on bids for all types of projects and development. Now, without going to the conference, I would not have met several of these CEO's that have been presenting this throughout cities and states all across the nation. So, hopefully, it will be a more competitive way and it will save our taxpayers money when we come to the bid process. So, let me go back to the trendsetter award. Jonesboro won a first place statewide in infrastructure and water for the city's efforts to curtail flooding in recent years. As flooding has grown, more commonplace and in its significance, the National Weather Service has for several years sent warnings that such events will happen more frequently in the future. We, therefore, found it incumbent upon ourselves to address the problems so we don't experience more flooding such as we did in 2016, the so-called 100-year flood, that impacted more than 300 homes in our community. We doubled our excavator fleet to four and we have them working on 400 miles of drainage year around. Meanwhile, we doubled code enforcement to six employees and emphasized large item issues such as inoperable vehicles and furniture. In doing so, we recognized another problem sitting right under our noses and that contributed to flooding and that was the need to clean up our city on a large scale. Of course you know we picked up more than 100 tons of garbage and old tires since last January, helping property owners make sure that our city is cleaner, even to the bare eye and before. We started an educational campaign with our Communications Department. We have an undying support of a brand new Keep Jonesboro Beautiful Commission lead by Beverly Parker. Adding a partnership with Breaking Bonds to clean roadsides including I-555 and now we have a much cleaner city. An Arkansas business recognized this improvement and rewarded us last week with the Trendsetter of the Year Award.

Our community recently lost a man that has had a large impact on Jonesboro that we know today. His name was Mike Cameron. Mike was a good man. I appreciated his friendship and advice over the years. He was one of a kind and we will miss him.

I accompanied Brian Richardson and members of the committee, a committee to study the ways to make our parks more inclusive for those that face various challenges. We saw some great ideas in multiple areas in Central Texas, but I was also struck by the thought that we already have some great parks in Jonesboro. I am eager to continue the growth of these projects while ensuring that they are inclusive for people of all needs. And, I want to say that during that tour of various cities, a lot of which had more funding opportunities than we did, they had foundations in their communities that were established to provide great partnerships. But, one thing I noticed overall was that they are not as clean as our parks. And, so, I commend Danny Kapales and his entire parks and rec team for doing what they do, the

cemeteries. And, again, not only that, but then Chief Elliott making our city parks safe as well.

I want to mention that two JPD officers received promotions last week. Shay Racy was promoted to lieutenant while Jason Myers made sergeant. I am proud of these gentlemen and the entire JPD police force that protects us which includes officers Zach Hobbs, who is recovering from injuries sustained in an attack by a suspect. This incident reminds me, reminds us that a situation can change on a dime for our officers in the field. And, my sympathy goes out to all affected by this event.

I was honored last week to serve on a panel to discuss Jonesboro at the Arkansas Delta Women's Leadership Academy. It was hosted by ASTATE's Delta Center and by Andrea Allen. This was the inaugural event. We had over 25 lady participants that were chosen. They had to qualify and they were handpicked for this event up and down the delta. They will be traveling to other communities, but I was honored once again to be a guest speaker to brag on Jonesboro, so to speak, and to continue the engagement of women in our community.

Special thanks to Crafton Tull for its \$1,000 donation to Project CARE. Project CARE is a non-profit organization comprising of service providers for families of those who have special requirements.

Our E-911 Department hosted a special training for eight counties last week including nearly a dozen from the City of Jonesboro. A training involved crisis intervention and it was handled professionally because of our Director Ronnie Sturch and his team. We are proud of our dispatchers and their service to our residents.

RAISE Grant Public Involvement meetings have been met with great response and Director Jeremy Biggs, as some of you heard earlier this evening and I did as well, he did a wonderful job in his presentation. And, I appreciate the committee and your questions that you had earlier this evening. You will be notified of additional meetings that we will be having in the community. Your engagement in this process is so important.

While the MLK Celebration was postponed by the weather, most events will be held this coming weekend. We appreciate the Craighead County MLK Committee for its hard work.

As you know, the weather is not going to break soon and we appreciate all of the volunteers helping those in need including the Salvation Army and Hope House who deal first hand with the homeless. As a city government, we work hand-in-hand with these services and members of my staff have found numerous restaurant owners to continue to voluntarily feed our homeless during the weather events. I also want to point out that hotel owner Naz Kazi and JPD have provided hotel vouchers for many of those whom are without shelter. Mr. Kazi has been a long time servant of Jonesboro and his contributions are always appreciated greatly.

Finally, please stay safe for the foreseeable future until our weather returns to normal.

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, thank you. I just want to add that I was out due to a death in our family. I wanted to thank those that donated from the council and other people through the Christmas Drive even though it has passed, but we were able to give four gifts per child for 400 kids for Christmas. So, I just want to

thank everybody. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you.

Councilmember John Street said, Mayor, I would be remiss if I didn't say I've known Mike Cameron off and on for a big chunk of my life. We grew up in the same neighborhood. I served as an officer in the National Guard with him and worked in the same, well, he owned the building I had my office in, but I have known him for years. He was an outstanding member of the community and there will be a big hole left in his absence. He did more for roads and things not just in Jonesboro, but in Northeast Arkansas that most people have no clue that he was involved with. And, his presence in Arkansas and good roads and a lot of different committees that he was passionate about. We will sorely miss him. He was a very productive member of the City of Jonesboro. He was a good citizen. I would also like to thank Steve Tippitt for the work that the Street Department has done keeping the roads clear. As usual, they have done an excellent job. All of the cities great staff, but it is very evident that that they have been on top of the game. So, I hope they don't have it too bad Thursday. Mayor Copenhaver said, I want to say ditto on your comments on all accounts. But, Steve Tippitt, they have done an excellent job. They have worked around the clock and hopefully, tonight, they will get somewhat of a little rest, but they are still working half shift, nonetheless and their preparedness is paying off for our community. Councilmember Street said, I think they work all night, don't they? Mayor Copenhaver said, yes sir. Councilmember Street said, I got up to get a drink of water and I looked, it was early in the morning, 2 or 3 o'clock and they were going down the road. I thought, wow. Mayor Copenhaver said, it makes a difference to the point where our schools can be in school tomorrow hopefully. And, in that case, it saves a lot of taxpayer's dollars and time. So, thanks again.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Absent: 2 - Chris Moore and LJ Bryant

_____ Date: _____

Harold Copenhaver, Mayor

Attest:

_____ Date: _____

April Leggett, City Clerk