



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Finance & Administration Council Committee

Tuesday, June 28, 2022

4:00 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

1. Call To Order

2. Roll Call by City Clerk April Leggett

Present 7 - Charles Coleman; Ann Williams; John Street; David McClain; LJ Bryant; Joe Hafner and Brian Emison

3. Approval of minutes

[MIN-22:054](#)

Minutes for the Finance Committee meeting on June 14, 2022

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

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

Aye: 6 - Charles Coleman; Ann Williams; John Street; David McClain; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

4. New Business

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

[RES-22:107](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ENTER INTO A REFUND REVIEW CONSULTING AGREEMENT WITH SALT GROUP OF ARKANSAS

Sponsors: Finance

Attachments: [Municipal Agreement](#)

Councilmember Ann Williams said, "What does the tax saving result from?" Chairman Joe Hafner said, "What they do is come in and go through all of our invoices that we receive from vendors, and if there's a case where we paid sales tax on something that wasn't really taxable then they would file a refund and get it back. I have used this at companies that I have been a part of. When I was over at Walnut Ridge one time, we actually got a refund because we had a Walnut Ridge zip code but we were actually outside the city limits of Walnut Ridge. That's just an example. It was something we would have never caught. They go through and do the work, and if there is no savings they don't get any money but if there's a savings then they would get a percentage of

it.” CPA Mike Burroughs approached the podium, “They could be overcharged on taxes. They have to deal with so many different agencies and tax units throughout the country so they could possible use this at times. Situations where we make a mistake and over pay taxes.” Chairman Joe Hafner said, “Mr. Simmons if you would like to come up. Jeff does work with many different municipalities, and once upon a time in his career he was on the other side.” Jeff Simmons, Principal Consultant with Salt Group of Arkansas approached the podium, “That’s correct, I left the dark side many years ago. I’ve done this for probably 50 cities across the state of Arkansas. What we do is we come in and see where you’re overpaying in tax. Most of you know that motor vehicles are not subject to sales tax but if you rent a backhoe, that is consider the sale of a motor vehicle, you shouldn’t be paying taxes on that as well. I rule out any of the city of Jonesboro taxes because you have already paid it in and have it back in your pocket, so what I do is get the Craighead County tax back and I will get the State tax back.” Councilmember Ann Williams said, “So the fee is a contingency type thing?” Mr. Simmons said, “That is exactly it. You don’t pay me until you get your money, so once I get it approved I send an invoice, money comes in and I get a percentage of that.” Chairman Joe Hafner said, “Another thing it does moving forward, it helps you learn what not to pay taxes on and what to look out for.” Councilmember David McClain said, “Does that include leases too?” Mr. Simmons said, “Yes, if you lease a backhoe, a dozer, or you lease golf carts, as long as it’s motorized and can be driven. A software that is downloaded is another example. We really don’t know what we are going to see until we get in. We had a city that was paying tax on street paving and they shouldn’t be. You just really never know what you are going to see until you get in there.” Chairman Joe Hafner said, “Another thing it does, it’s a good check on ourselves to make sure that not only are we not overpaying on taxes but that we are not underpaying on taxes. When he goes through he will keep a spreadsheet.” Mr. Simmons said, “I will look at both sides for you.” Councilmember Brian Emison said, “I view it as a win win. The way that I read it there is no base fees. It’s great for us, so I like this and I think it’s a good direction to go.”

A motion was made by Councilperson John Street, seconded by Councilperson LJ Bryant, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 6 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

5. Pending Items

6. Other Business

7. Public Comments

8. Adjournment

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

Aye: 6 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison