



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, June 21, 2016

5:30 PM

Municipal Center

PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING AT 4:00 P.M.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING AT 5:00 P.M.

PUBLIC HEARING AT 5:25 P.M.

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

3. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK DONNA JACKSON

Present 11 - Darrel Dover; Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Rennell Woods; Charles Coleman; Todd Burton and Robert Long

Absent 1 - Chris Moore

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

COM-16:035 Presentation by Mayor Perrin to Jonesboro High School State Champion Baseball Team

Sponsors: Mayor's Office

This item was Read.

COM-16:038 Presentation by Dr. Gil Fowler, with Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR)

Sponsors: Mayor's Office

This item was Read.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

Aye: 11 - Darrel Dover;Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Rennell Woods;Charles Coleman;Todd Burton and Robert Long

Absent: 1 - Chris Moore

MIN-16:076

Minutes for the City Council meeting on June 7, 2016

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

This item was Passed on the consent agenda.

RES-16:067

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ACCEPT A PERMANENT DRAINAGE EASEMENT FROM DELANEX, INC. (JORGE DE LA GARZA) FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

Sponsors: Engineering

Attachments: [Permanent Drainage Easement](#)

This item was Passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-065-2016

RES-16:076

A RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR COPS (COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES) HIRING PROGRAM THROUGH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO.

Sponsors: Grants and Police Department

This item was Passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-066-2016

RES-16:077

A RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FOR THE 2016 JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) PROGRAM FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO.

Sponsors: Grants and Police Department

Attachments: [Application package](#)

This item was Passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-067-2016

RES-16:079

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH SAGA COMMUNICATIONS OF ARKANSAS LLC D/B/A JONESBORO RADIO GROUP FOR RENTAL OF SOUTHSIDE SOFTBALL COMPLEX

Sponsors: Parks & Recreation

Attachments: [Southside Fireworks Contract.pdf](#)

This item was Passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-068-2016

RES-16:080

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE NO-COST EXTENSION AGREEMENT OF THE 2015 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAM WITH THE NORTH JONESBORO NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE

Sponsors: Grants

Attachments: [Nocost_Extension_NJNI.pdf](#)

This item was Passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-069-2016

6. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

ORD-16:031

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM C-4 TO C-3 LUO FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1425 E. JOHNSON AVENUE AS REQUESTED BY AYAD TALIB

Attachments: [Plat](#)
[Planning Dept. Report](#)

Councilman Street offered the ordinance for first reading by title only.

Councilman Street asked if there was any opposition to the rezoning. City Planner Otis Spriggs answered no.

A motion was made by Councilman John Street, seconded by Councilman Mitch Johnson, that this matter be Waived Second Reading . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 11 - Darrel Dover; Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Rennell Woods; Charles Coleman; Todd Burton and Robert Long

Absent: 1 - Chris Moore

ORD-16:033

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM RS-1 TO I-1 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 6106 SOUTHWEST DRIVE AS REQUESTED BY PAULETTE QUINN

Attachments: [Plat](#)
[Planning Dept. Report](#)

Councilman Street offered the ordinance for first reading by title only.

Councilman Street asked if there was any opposition to the rezoning. Mr. Spriggs answered no.

A motion was made by Councilman John Street, seconded by Councilman Chris Gibson, that this matter be Waived Second Reading . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 11 - Darrel Dover; Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Rennell Woods; Charles Coleman; Todd Burton and Robert Long

Absent: 1 - Chris Moore

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

RES-16:074

RESOLUTION SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE ABANDONMENT OF A PORTION OF AN ALLEY LYING SOUTH OF LOTS 9 THRU 14 OF BLOCK 1 OF HURLEY AND MOORE'S ADDITION AS REQUESTED BY HISPANIC COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.

Attachments: [Amended Resolution](#)
[Plat](#)
[Petition](#)
[Utility Letters](#)
[Engineering & Planning Dept. Letters](#)

Councilman Street noted that the resolution had some corrections that needed to be made to it. A corrected version of the resolution was presented to the Council members.

Councilman Vance abstained from discussion and voting on this item because he is involved in the construction project.

Councilman Coleman also abstained from discussion and voting on this item since he serves on the HCSI board of directors.

Councilman Street motioned, seconded by Councilman Johnson, to amend RES-16:074 with the corrected version as presented. All voted aye.

City Clerk Donna Jackson noted the amended resolution reflects the wrong address for the Council Chambers. The resolution states 900 W. Monroe when the correct address is 300 S. Church Street.

Councilman Dover motioned, seconded by Councilman Johnson, to amend the amended resolution to reflect the correct address. All voted aye.

A motion was made by Councilman Chris Gibson, seconded by Councilman Rennell Woods, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 11 - Darrel Dover; Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Rennell Woods; Charles Coleman; Todd Burton and Robert Long

Absent: 1 - Chris Moore

Enactment No: R-EN-070-2016

RES-16:084

A RESOLUTION TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE ABANDONMENT OF A 25 FOOT PUBLIC STREET RIGHT OF WAY AS REQUESTED BY CAREY SMOTHERMON

Attachments: [Engineering & Planning Dept. Letter](#)
[Petitions](#)
[Plat](#)
[Utility Letters](#)

A motion was made by Councilman Chris Gibson, seconded by Councilman Mitch Johnson, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 11 - Darrel Dover;Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Rennell Woods;Charles Coleman;Todd Burton and Robert Long

Absent: 1 - Chris Moore

Enactment No: R-EN-071-2016

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

ORD-16:029

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO AMEND THE 2016 BUDGET TO ADD ONE NEW SRO POSITION TO VALLEY VIEW SCHOOL DISTRICT

Sponsors: Finance and Police Department

After passage of the ordinance, Councilman Street motioned, seconded by Councilman Woods, to adopt the emergency clause. All voted aye.

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

Aye: 11 - Darrel Dover;Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Rennell Woods;Charles Coleman;Todd Burton and Robert Long

Absent: 1 - Chris Moore

Enactment No: O-EN-028-2016

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Perrin reported on the following items:

Yesterday they opened the bids for ditch mowing. There was only one bid to open, but they discovered earlier today another bid was submitted on time and was signed for on the first floor of the Municipal Center. The first bid came in at \$1.8 million with the second one coming in at \$114,700. They are going to go back and check the bids because he thinks there's something wrong. He is going to look into the company that submitted the second bid and look at the advertisement that was published in the newspaper. The city will have to get permits from the Corps of Engineers to do the work. They have been talking with Congressman Rick Crawford's office and think the city will be able to get the permits in time to do the work, including the stabilization and channelization after mowing the ditches. Mayor Perrin stated the advertisement was only for the mowing, but there was a big difference between the two bids.

The mitigation plan has been submitted to ADEM. Hopefully it will be reviewed quickly. It will then have to be taken to FEMA in Denton, Texas. After the plan has been approved, the city will then be able to receive mitigation grant funding.

The city has extended the options for the land for the firing range because the city is still doing its due diligence. They are hoping to have an MOU with Arkansas Game & Fish next month to be presented to the city. He is still pulling all costs on the project to make sure it blends with the 75/25 cost for the city. Game & Fish has already voted and approved \$2 million to Jonesboro for the firing range project.

The city has closed on the purchase of Dan Avenue property next to the Parks Department to add more land to the Parks Department. The city gave the property owner six months to move, as she is trying to find a nursing home to relocate to. The deadline will be November 27.

He announced a Building & Facilities Committee meeting on Friday, June 24, at 2:00 p.m. They discovered some land the city owns in front of Nice-Pak and appraised it. The company has expressed interest in the property. He added the city can use the money from the sale of the property to put towards another project, like the firing range.

The Parker Road Extension Project is back on schedule. The project will be complete by September.

Several city officials attended the Municipal League summer conference this past week. There were good conferences attended by people around the state.

The city will be submitting the COPS Grant on Thursday. The grant will be to fund five new officers. They should receive a response sometime in October.

ADEM has set up a call center for people who had damage in the recent flooding. Director David Moore indicated to him that all of the flooding information is going to be through the county, not the city.

Police Chief Rick Elliott explained they are looking into several issues with public safety with the first being pedestrians in crosswalks. He noted pedestrians in crosswalks do have the right of way, yet drivers tend not to stop for them. They are trying to educate the public to stop for pedestrian in crosswalks. He added there's a big problem with crosswalks in the downtown area, especially during nighttime. The second campaign they are starting is dealing with bicyclists in the road. He explained the law requires a car be three feet or more from a cyclist when passing, but most of the time vehicles don't get bicyclists enough room. They are teaming up with ASU and will be placing signs around the community to advertise the three feet requirement.

COM-16:040

Financial Statement for the Airport Commission for May 31, 2016

Sponsors: Municipal Airport Commission

Attachments: [Financial statement](#)

Mayor Perrin noted that the report reflects a negative balance. He discussed that with Airport Manager George Jackson. Mr. Jackson explained the negative balance is due not having been reimbursed yet with grant funding for funding they have spent. Overall, things are looking good at the airport this year.

This item was Filed.

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Woods announced tomorrow they will have their first pilot of the Jonesboro Workforce Program that was launched right before school was out. HR Director Dewayne Douglas and Chief Financial Officer Suzanne Allen have worked diligently to find places for the kids to work. There is no money, but they are hoping for a good start to the program.

Councilman Long thanked the council members for the welcome they have extended him. He stated everyone has been so nice and cordial. He looks forward to working with everyone to get things done.

Councilman Gibson thanked Parks Director Wixson Huffstetler and JETS Director Steve Ewart for their presentation during the Public Services meeting held earlier today.

Councilman Vance asked for the Mayor to explain why the city is "locked into" Suddenlink service. Suddenlink recently announced another increase in fees. Councilman Vance then stated he will miss City Planner Otis Spriggs. Mr. Spriggs accepted a job in Texas and will be leaving the city next week.

Mayor Perrin explained the Legislature allows companies such as Suddenlink to keep their franchise agreement with the city or go to the state. Suddenlink chose to take their franchise agreement to the State of Arkansas, which resulted in the city having no franchise agreement with the City of Jonesboro. They do still pay a monthly franchise fee. Other than that, the city has no control over programming or other features. He has heard a lot of complaints due to channels being taken off, yet there's nothing he can do. Councilman Vance stated he understands the circumstances, but wanted to make it clear to the public why the city can't do anything. But, another provider could come into Jonesboro if they thought it would be profitable. Mayor Perrin explained for a new company to come in, it would be a huge investment. They will do a press release discussing the issue to help inform the public.

Mayor Perrin commended City Planner Otis Spriggs for his work with the city. He stated Mr. Spriggs has done an outstanding job for the city, including projects such as Vision 2030 and a startup guide for companies coming into the city. He expressed his appreciation to Mr. Spriggs for his service.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Phillip Cook, 5216 Richardson Drive, thanked Councilman Vance for asking about Suddenlink. He expressed concern about Suddenlink's new requirement for customers to buy boxes, so he was happy to hear why the city isn't able to do anything. Mr. Cook then questioned why the Council suspends the rules on items and also passed the emergency clause without any explanation as to why. Mayor Perrin explained the City Council has the right to read an ordinance three times or suspend the rules and read it fewer times. As for emergency clauses, when an emergency clause is used the reasoning for the clause is stated within the ordinance. He noted all of the ordinances are on the city website and those will tell him what the reasoning is. Mr. Cook asked if it was too much for the reason for an emergency clause be stated at the meeting. Councilman Johnson explained that's not too much to ask; in fact, he usually asks but didn't tonight.

COM-16:045

Pictures of flooding as submitted by Richard Long to the City Council at their meeting on June 21, 2016

Attachments: [Pictures](#)

Richard Long, 1010 Russell Hill Drive, discussed water issues that he has had at his home. He provided the City Council with pictures of his property. He built his home in 2008 and had no issues, except for a little water during heavy rains but it didn't really hurt anything. But, an apartment complex was built near his home and ever since then if there's a big rain occasionally water will end up in his garage. He noted there have been a few times that the water has been within a quarter of an inch to getting into his home. He has spoken with the Mayor's Office and the Engineering Department, but no one has been able to provide help. He discussed his property and stated the ditch needs to be cleaned out. He also suggested putting in curbs and gutters to alleviate the problem. Mayor Perrin stated he and Chief Operations Officer LM Duncan will visit the property tomorrow, along with an Engineering employee.

This item was Read.

11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Mitch Johnson, seconded by Councilman Rennell Woods, that this meeting be Adjourned . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 11 - Darrel Dover;Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Rennell Woods;Charles Coleman;Todd Burton and Robert Long

Absent: 1 - Chris Moore

_____ **Date:** _____

Harold Perrin, Mayor

Attest:

_____ **Date:** _____

Donna Jackson, City Clerk