



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, April 20, 2021

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

PUBLIC SAFETY 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 BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

Present 10 - Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent 2 - Ann Williams and Charles Frierson

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

[COM-21:019](#)

PROCLAMATION HONORING THE JONESBORO HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM AS THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

Sponsors: Mayor's Office

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, Good evening councilmembers and staff. It is my honor this evening and last meeting we had the state champion Lady JHS and we got to open the roof again tonight and that is a true honor. I will say before I read the proclamation, Coach Swift plays a big part in these young men's lives, but not only does he play a big part in athletics, but it is about the leadership role that he continues and instills in all of his athletes and it is about education. I am honored that he takes such a tribute to that and again, I appreciate your commitment to our community and to our youth because these are going to be the leaders. I know many of these men in this room. So, gentlemen, I am going to read this proclamation honoring the Jonesboro High School boy's state basketball champions. Whereas the Jonesboro High School boys' basketball team defeated Maumelle 58-56 last month for the State 5-A State Championship and whereas winning its 20th consecutive game, the Hurricanes won their third state title in the last five seasons with a record of 24-3 and finished ranked number 3 in all divisions according to the Arkansas Press and whereas Coach Wes Swift and this season's Hurricane team won because of mental toughness and maturity and great defense. And, whereas, senior Mr. McBride was declared state finals MVP and averaged 18 points per game on the season and fellow seniors Mr. Rouse, Mr. Richardson, Mr. Clark, Mr. Anderson, they were all team leaders. And, whereas, Assistant Coaches Sammy Lewis and Kenton Weaver, Coach Wes Swift's teams have won four state titles in the past eight seasons and are considered the most dominate high school basketball program in Arkansas over the past decade according to the

National High School sports website Maxpreps. Now, therefore, I, Harold Copenhaver, Mayor of the City of Jonesboro, by the virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the state of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim today Jonesboro Hurricane Day of the City of Jonesboro, Arkansas. Thank you so much gentlemen and I want to say I listen to all of your games, thus I am an alumni, you know that, you let Maumelle come back too quick you guys. Okay, you made everybody a little nervous, but you knew what you were doing. 58-56, it is a tribute, but its more of a tribute for what you do for this community by the standards that you lead and go forward. So, thank you again and I appreciate everything you all have done. Coach, here is your proclamation and there is a copy for every gentleman and person. So, again, thank you so much.

Read

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

At the request of the Finance Department, Councilmember Joe Hafner requested to remove RES-21:061 and RES-21:062 from the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Chris Moore motioned, seconded by Councilmember John Street to remove RES-21:061 and RES-21:062 from the Consent Agenda. All voted aye.

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Moore, seconded by Councilperson John Street, to Approve the Consent Agenda. The motioned PASSED

Aye: 10 - Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent: 2 - Ann Williams and Charles Frierson

[MIN-21:027](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON APRIL 6, 2021

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-21:033](#)

A RESOLUTION TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE "JONESBORO BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION" TO "KEEP JONESBORO BEAUTIFUL."

Sponsors: Mayor's Office

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-21:055](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS AS RECOMMENDED BY MAYOR HAROLD COPENHAVER

Sponsors: Mayor's Office

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-21:058](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ACCEPT THE RESPONSIVE LOW BID AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH CRABTREE & SON CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR THE PATRICK STREET SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS -

PHASE 3

Sponsors: Engineering

Attachments: [Bid Tab](#)
[Contract Documents - 2021 07](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-21:059](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH COOPER MIXON ARCHITECTS, PLLC TO PROVIDE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES FOR THE CITY MAINTENANCE FACILITY PROJECT (2021:99)

Sponsors: Engineering and Building Maintenance

Attachments: [Agreement - City Maintenance Facility](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-21:063](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONTRACT WITH FIRST SECURITY BANK FOR SPONSORSHIP OF ONE ATHLETIC FIELD AT THE JOE MACK CAMPBELL SPORTS COMPLEX

Sponsors: Parks & Recreation and Finance

Attachments: [FirstSecurity Joe Mack21](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-21:064](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO ACCEPT A STATE FARM MINI GRANT

Sponsors: Grants and Finance

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-21:065](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO APPLY FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FY21 LOW-NO EMISSIONS GRANT

Sponsors: Grants, Community Development and JETS

Attachments: [04.13.2021 Low No Applicaiton Budget](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

RESOLUTIONS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

[RES-21:061](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4506 JANICE, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144271-15500, OWNED BY CHARLES LANCE & AMY BETH SLOAN

Sponsors: Code Enforcement and Finance

Attachments: [04.13.2021 4506 Janice](#)
 [Receipt of Payment-Lien 4506 Janice](#)

At the request of the Finance Department, Councilmember Joe Hafner requested to postpone temporary RES-21:061 until May 4, 2021. Councilmember Chris Moore motioned, seconded by Councilmember John Street, to postpone temporary RES-21:061 until May 4, 2021. All voted aye.

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Moore, seconded by Councilperson John Street, that this matter be Postponed Temporarily . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 10 - Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent: 2 - Ann Williams and Charles Frierson

[RES-21:062](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 706 W. JEFFERSON, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-143134-16800, OWNED BY DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST CO

Attachments: [04.13.2021 706 W. Jefferson](#)

Councilmember Joe Hafner motioned, seconded by Councilmember John Street, to postpone indefinitely RES-21:062 because it had been paid. All voted aye.

A motion was made by Councilperson Joe Hafner, seconded by Councilperson John Street, that this matter be Postponed Indefinitely . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 10 - Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent: 2 - Ann Williams and Charles Frierson

6. NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

[RES-21:066](#) A RESOLUTION TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE ABANDONMENT OF A 12' ALLEY LOCATED AT 101 SOUTH CHURCH IN JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AS REQUESTED BY HTHREG, LLC.

Attachments: [4.5.2021 Resolution - Alley Abandonment - 101 S Church](#)
 [SOUTH CHURCH ABAND](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Moore, seconded by Councilperson Bobby Long, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 10 - Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent: 2 - Ann Williams and Charles Frierson

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-21:017](#) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, ARTICLE III, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL TO C-3 GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4503 SOUTHWEST DRIVE, JONESBORO, AR AS REQUESTED BY DEBRA MANGRUM AND TOM KIRKSEY

Attachments: [Staff Summary - City Council](#)
[Rezoning Plat](#)
[Application](#)
[Aerial View of Location](#)
[Description](#)
[Warranty Deed](#)
[Valley View School USPS Green Card](#)
[USPS Receipts](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Joe Hafner, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-21:017 by title only. All voted aye.

Councilmember John Street asked that ORD-21:017 be held to three readings.

Held at one reading

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[ORD-21:014](#) AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE AND ABANDON A 5' PORTION OF AN EXISTING 25' DRAINAGE EASEMENT LOCATED WITHIN THE BRENDAR VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT AS REQUESTED BY CITIFIRST PROPERTY GROUP, LLC

Attachments: [PDF sent from Petitioner](#)

Held at second reading

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-21:010](#) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 117-2 AND ORDINANCE 117-139 TO DEFINE AND PROVIDE ZONING CLASSIFICATIONS FOR HOMELESS SHELTERS

Sponsors: Planning

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

Aye: 10 - Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent: 2 - Ann Williams and Charles Frierson

[ORD-21:011](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR SUPPORTING ADVANCEMENT, INC. D/B/A LOST PIZZA CO. AT HILLTOP TO BE LOCATED AT 3410 E. JOHNSON AVENUE

Attachments: [Lost Pizza Private Club Permit Application](#)

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

Aye: 10 - Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent: 2 - Ann Williams and Charles Frierson

[ORD-21:012](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM C-3 LUO, GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT, LIMITED USE OVERLAY TO RS-6 SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3506 SOUTHWEST DRIVE AS REQUESTED BY JEREMY BEVILL OF FISHER & ARNOLD ENGINEERING ON BEHALF OF SOUTHERN HILLS REAL ESTATE, LLC

Attachments: [Staff Summary - City Council](#)
[Rezoning Plat](#)
[Cover Letter - Rezoning](#)
[Application](#)
[Overall Vicinity Map](#)
[Traffic Volume Letter](#)
[Nettleton School Email](#)
[Certified Mail Receipts](#)

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

Aye: 10 - Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent: 2 - Ann Williams and Charles Frierson

ITEMS THAT HAVE BEEN HELD IN COUNCIL

[ORD-21:006](#)

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING BY REFERENCE THE COTTAGE HOUSING STANDARDS TO ENCOURAGE AN ALTERNATIVE TYPE OF DETACHED HOUSING BY PROVIDING RESIDENCES FOR HOUSEHOLDS OF TYPICALLY ONE TO TWO INDIVIDUALS WITHOUT UNDERGOING THE SUBDIVISION PROCESS AND TO

PROMOTE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE FOR THE CITIZENS OF JONESBORO

Sponsors: Planning

Attachments: [Cottage Housing Ordinance 1.26.21](#)
[Shirley Moore Handwritten Message 03022021](#)
[Cottage Housing Ordinance Revised 3.2.21](#)
[Billy Brown Drop Off 03102021 Cottage Housing](#)
[Northside Coalition Petition 03112021](#)
[Billy Brown email with petitions 03102021](#)
[Cottage Housing Ordinance Final Revised 3.18.21](#)
[Citizen Comments Regarding Cottage Housing](#)
[Citizen Comments Regarding Cottage Housing Updated 04202021](#)

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I want to first thank Planning Director Derrel Smith for his patience with us in the community, especially with our Northside Initiative. I think he did and is doing a great job on trying to get this thing taken care of. The only item that I have is that I hope in further dealings with this type of housing that there be a wider gap between them than the 10' situation. I want to make sure that him coming to our meetings and other meetings in our community, I think that is really appropriate and a lot of other people need to do it and address the citizens' concerns. I want to make sure that he gets credit for all of the work that he has done. Even though I disagree with a lot of things, I still think that he did a heck of a job. Mayor Copenhagen said, duly noted Councilmember, duly noted.

Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road, said, I have a couple of comments that I need to make and I have a couple of questions that I would appreciate if Derrel could answer. I got a couple of questions from some people. Would that be okay? Mayor Copenhagen said, you can address me on the questions, yes ma'am. Ms. Lack said, okay, thank you. First, I want to say that is as much as I enjoy coming up here to the front and seeing all of you is that I wish I didn't have to and I wish you guys probably have the same feeling. One of the reasons why I come up here and ask a lot of questions is that I am finding that the questions that I email are not getting answered. So, I never know what the answer is to some of my questions. And, I am finding that when I write the department head, is that I don't get a reply from the department head being the expert. I am finding that I am getting a reply back from Bill Campbell and we go back and forth when I do hear from him. And, I did hear from him today, so I appreciate that on a different issue. With that being said, I know last week or two weeks ago, I came up here and told you guys that I took the time and I went around Jonesboro and I went to the downtown area to look at the different types of zonings in areas that these cottage homes could be placed in. And, I took the map from the Planning area and it was really difficult to read and so I blew up the map to find out the different colors and I got the reply back from Senior Planner Ryan Robeson which I told you that the city is still using the old zonings. So, last week or two weeks ago, I also told you that I sat with Gary Harpole and he showed me on his phone the new rezonings that you could pull up doing an extra step on that planning map. So, on Thursday after the city council meeting, I emailed the planning department and Derrel and asked him how I could do this to find out exactly where the rezonings are and the new rezonings so I could find out some more information. I have not gotten a reply back from him. So, I still have not been able to look at that. So, what I am trying to say to you all is that a concerned citizen if they wanted to find out whether this ordinance is a good thing or a bad thing or whether it is going to be being built in their neighborhood, they can't find out because even I can't find the answers of how to look on the map. So, with that being

said, I think that we know that this ordinance is mostly geared for the downtown area and I don't have a problem with that. And, there is no doubt in my mind that these cottage homes are going to be super nice in this area. I think the reason why it is even going to be better is because the downtown area has a downtown overlay so they have a little bit more restrictions. So, I think they will be a little bit nicer. My concern is that if you have four-to-twelve of these small homes in the different areas of our city, they might not be as top notch or as high quality as the ones that are going to be down in the downtown area. I hope they will and I hope that we follow everything that is in that ordinance because I think that based upon the meetings that we have had and Dr. Coleman said with the neighborhood meetings is thank you for having those because I think we have added a couple of new things to the ordinance and then we have changed some to make it a little bit better ordinance. So, hopefully, those will be followed. So, if I could ask Derrel a couple of questions or I can ask you. Mayor Copenhaver said, yes, ask me and Mr. Smith. Ms. Lack said, Mr. Smith, excuse me for that. The first question is the parking. We have one acre. We have 12 homes. We have 24 parking spaces on that acre. Where are the visitors going to park especially with some of the narrow streets that we have in the downtown area? How are we going to handle that problem? That is the first question. Okay, the second question is that the newspaper article on Sunday, it said something about that the city could not regulate the owner occupied or whether it is a rental property. Is that I know that we have expanded or talked a little bit about the HOA. Is that what happens when those properties become all rentals? How are we going to handle that? The third question I have is that Derrel, Mr. Smith, excuse me, Mr. Smith has said that R-1, there are not going to be any cottage homes built in the R-1 which is an old rezoning and that the MAPC decided to take that out. I would like to ask him if he could explain the reason why they took that out. Two more questions. In the newspaper, it says that the cottage homes would be built in clusters of four-to-twelve maximum, all within an acre. My question is to Mr. Smith, is that what happens? Can I have a half of an acre and put six of them? Because the word within kind of gives a broad definition. What does that mean? And, the final question is that since the cottage homes can be built in so many zonings that we have right now, that property is already going to be zoned that way. So, will the developers have to go through the same process of going through the MAPC and then coming to you all to approve because there won't be one of those blue rezoning signs so no one will know what is going on. So, how are the citizens going to be notified that they are going to get cottage homes in their area? So, I would appreciate those questions. Mayor Copenhaver said, okay, thank you Ms. Lack. Ms. Lack said, thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, what I am going to do is have Mr. Smith email you tomorrow with answers in detail on your questions. Okay. Thank you. Duly noted. Ms. Lack said, okay.

Councilmember John Street said, Mayor, I have Ms. Shirley Moore on the phone. My name is Shirley Moore and I live at 1902 Mount Vernon Drive. I called last week thinking that this would just be great for retired people because they have so much to offer here in Jonesboro. When I went down and got the concept, and read on it, it was disappointing. One place here it says the lot average with the house and lot would be 1,250 sq. ft. and then there was going to be an upstairs. This sounds like it would be a loft bedroom and then on another page, it says all structures shall maintain ten feet of separation between houses. Well, ten feet between houses, that is a fire hazard. This is just unreal when I got to reading all of this stuff on here. And, it is something I sure wouldn't want in my neighborhood the way that it stands right now. However, when I called last week, I thought that this would be great for retired people. But, no it wouldn't be for them. And, I hope the council will give a lot of consideration on this. We had someone that was wanting to build a bunch of houses on a little lot and we had to get out and form a petition to try to stop it because we didn't want that type of thing in our

neighborhood and I don't think either one of you would want that many houses crammed on a lot in your neighborhood. Thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you for reaching out to us and your comments. They are duly noted.

Councilmember Bobby Long said, Mr. Mayor, if you don't mind, I would like Derrel to come up to the podium and speak a little bit on some of the questions that were posed. I think that I would like to hear those and I think the people would too instead of it just being an email between the two. Mayor Copenhaver said, I understand that. I think that it is important too that we get back the correct information in detail and that is where I was going Councilmember and we will be more than happy to put that out for public comment as well. But, Derrel, there were six questions and some will require more detail. I just want it to be accurate. Councilmember Long said, yes. I think, I would hope that Derrel would be able to give us at least a summary of these things because I saw him shaking his head on some of the things so I am sure that he could have just a few comments for us right now and then post the detailed comments at a later date. Mayor Copenhaver said, Mr. Smith, if you would like to approach.

Planning Director Derrel Smith asked, Mr. Long, which questions, which ones do you want me to go through? Mayor Copenhaver said, the first question initially, Derrel, was parking. The parking requirements for each unit are listed in the ordinance. The ordinance requires non-detached parking. It can be either surface parking or garage parking. So, it will be there for the units. Visitors, as we review the site plan, which will go through MAPC for review, will look at parking and see if there is visitor parking available. And, if not, we will probably make those requirements to make that. Also, in the older areas, there will be on street parking. It is allowed. And, all of our streets in Jonesboro allow on street parking, even our residential areas allow it now. So, we will review that during the site plan review process and through MAPC. Councilmember Long said, I think another question was the overlay issue. Mr. Smith said, right. The overlay area is a little unique in that we have the downtown Jonesboro Redevelopment District. And, so, all of that area is considered an overlay. So, there are additional design guidelines that are required in that. It is true that not all of the areas are in the Redevelopment District. There are some that are not. But, we have, as we have stated in the past, we have done as much as the state is going to allow us to do in putting design guidelines on single-family homes because I still have the statute here. It would be Senate Bill 170 in 2019 where it basically says that cities cannot impose design guidelines on single-family homes. As far as the owner-occupancy versus the rental, we can't do that in a regular subdivision now. That will be up to the HOA to make those determinations. A Home Owners Association can make those requirements where a city cannot. Councilmember Long said, okay, so that can be a requirement by the HOA. Mr. Smith said, it can be a requirement in the Home Owners Association. Councilmember Long said, okay. Mr. Smith said, the city cannot make that requirement. Councilmember Long said, okay and I think one of the other questions was the R-1. Zoning those will not be allowed in R-1. Mr. Smith said, originally, we had included it in the R-1 zoning and MAPC had asked not to include it in R-1. I don't know. Councilmember Long asked, is it in there now? Mr. Smith said, it is not in there now. Councilmember Long said, so, you cannot build cottage houses in R-1. Mr. Smith said, that is correct. I am not exactly sure why they asked for it to be removed, but they asked for it to be removed from R-1 so we removed it and sent it to you. Councilmember Long said, alright. Mayor Copenhaver said, Derrel, why you are here, can you address the other lady's concern about a firewall. Mr. Smith said, we have a lot of single-family homes being built right now that are ten-feet apart. That is what the fire code requires is ten-feet without any additional fire barriers. So, you can still have windows and openings in your sidewalls. So, that is in our single-family subdivisions right now. It depends on the zoning. It can be anywhere from ten-feet to twenty-feet.

But, ten-foot fire codes do not require firewalls and it allows windows and doors on the sidewalls and so that is where we went with the ten-feet. Mayor Copenhagen said, okay. Mr. Smith said, the other thing is I think the half-acre. If the square footage is there, it is going to be determined by square footage for each unit. You have to have four. You can have up to twelve. You can have anywhere in between there. So, if it is a half-acre and you can fit four in there, or if you can fit six in there, that is what we will look at as a square footage for each unit. Mayor Copenhagen said, but again, you are assessing this through all of the ordinances that are already in place and everything else will apply. Mr. Smith said, yes sir. Yes sir. Mayor Copenhagen said, alright. Councilmember Long said, Derrel, thank you. Mr. Smith asked, are there any other questions? Councilmember Long said, I feel that Jonesboro has a unique opportunity right now to move forward with this type of housing that will benefit a lot of people. At the same time, Jonesboro also has a great opportunity to regain trust. I don't think it was a surprise that a lot of the comments were centered around we know what the ordinance says but we don't believe that it is going to be followed or it is going to be followed by some and not all. So, I think we have a unique opportunity to regain some of that trust that sometimes the city may not have. So, I think we are on the right track. Mayor Copenhagen said, well said Councilman and we will get those answers to you in detail as well.

Councilmember John Street said, I would add Mayor that I think it is another viable option for housing in Jonesboro. Especially, everybody doesn't need a 2,000 sq. ft. house or whatever, especially maybe young newlyweds or older retired people. It is a good use of our land. They keep talking about sprawling. It is a good use of the land and I think it will promote revitalization when you use it on infill projects in some of the older areas. I think everything I have looked at from other cities will reflect that. So, I believe it is a positive thing as well. Mayor Copenhagen said, I commend councilmembers and staff for listening to the communities concerns and needs. And, so, they have done the due diligence on this. I commend everybody involved.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I abstain from voting. Councilmember Long asked, did Mr. McClain abstain? Councilmember David McClain said, no I didn't. I voted aye. Councilmember Dr. Coleman said, that was Dr. Coleman that abstained. Councilmember Chris Moore said, Mr. Mayor, I have to raise a point of order with Dr. Coleman. How can you abstain after you have engaged in discussions? I think that violates the council's rules. Councilmember Coleman said, well, after I thought about it, Chris, and I do agree with what you are saying, but at the same time, I still have questions and it is hard for me to vote for something I still have questions about. If that is being out of order, I guess I am just out of order. Mayor Copenhagen said, the motion still passes. Councilmember Long asked, is it a no vote or abstained. I think it counts as a no vote. Mayor Copenhagen said, it counts as a no vote.

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

Aye: 9 - Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Chris Gibson;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Nay: 1 - Charles Coleman

Absent: 2 - Ann Williams and Charles Frierson

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Copenhagen reported on the following items:

We have the March Financial Reports in front of us and if anybody has got any comments or questions, feel free to ask Mr. Purtee.

At the City of Jonesboro, we have defined 2021 as a year of innovation. We want to insure that this model is sustainable and doing that could require change at many levels and how we go about our business. We are taking an opportunity to truly look at where we are as a city, as a government entity that provides the fundamentals for the growth, success, and happiness of 80,000 residents. We are reviewing each department to find efficient ways to maximize our services. Meanwhile, we study other cities. Those that are thriving and those that are struggling. This is something that we have to do because this shows us what we are competing with. And it is revealing both our successes and our shortcomings. I am proud of our successes and the relentless commitment that our city of Jonesboro team continues to provide. Since the last council meeting, most of the calls and emails from concerned residents to our office involve slowing traffic in pedestrian heavy areas, our ongoing problems with Suddenlink, and continuing our focus on cleaning up Jonesboro. I saw a story in the Sun by Keith Inman last week about the cities in Arkansas and other states suing Suddenlink for price gouging, unfair trade practices and more. Also, legislation has been passed in Little Rock that loosens restrictions on cities seeking better competition for broadband services. We have talked about this since my first day in office, actually before I took office, and as a part of our commitment to innovation, we are exploring any option to improve access to technology for the people of Jonesboro. Our safety of our children and pedestrians is a top priority again of our administration. With nicer weather, encouraging more people to spend time outside, we have noticed an uptick in calls concerning speeders in residential areas. As a matter of fact, Chief told me today that we had over 290 accidents in the past month. So, there is an uptick. First, if you are one of those speeders, slow down. Our police and I will have zero tolerance on any speeding putting children and pedestrians at risk. In addition to stepping up patrols in neighborhoods, we plan to release guidance on approved traffic for calming investments. Then, individuals in their neighborhoods can invest for safety in their own neighborhoods. Last week Tony Thomas and Councilmembers David McClain and Bobby Long visited with concerned neighbors in the Countrywood area. With their help, we were able to identify several culverts that were not operating at full capacity which is likely hindering drainage. Our office is processing both historical and recent repeat flooding areas into a review to see where gridlock is occurring in our drainage system. Some properties will flood regardless of the extent of mitigation, but our goal is to take a very proactive measure to eliminate or reduce flooding where possible. While most of the calls regarding litter have been messages of thanks for litter that was picked up by either the city or recent cleanup efforts. We are still receiving some calls pointing out problem areas. Cleanups last week netted over seven tons of trash and litter to be hauled to the dump. That is a huge step. I implore everyone to stay engaged because we are making a difference now. Don't litter. Hang on to your trash and take it to your dumpster at home. And, pick up what you can. Don't leave litter at your feet because it is not yours. This is our city, our Jonesboro, let's take pride in keeping it beautiful. And, this weekend, we are also having a clean sweep through different parts of the community so please look on Jonesboro.org for those locations.

[COM-21:017](#)

MARCH 2021 FINANCIAL REPORTS

Sponsors: Finance

Attachments: [Financials Overview March 2021](#)
[Schedule of Changes in F.B. and Required Reserve Report March 2021](#)
[Schedule of Revenue vs. Expense March 2021](#)
[Schedule of O&M Departmental Overview March 2021](#)
[Schedule of Fixed Asset and Cap. Imp. Detail March 2021](#)
[Deposit Collateralization Report March 2021](#)
[Sales Tax Report \(Combined\) March 2021](#)
[State Turnback Report \(Combined\) March 2021](#)
[Highway Sales Tax Report March 2021](#)

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9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember David McClain said, Mayor, can I ask you a question. You said neighborhoods would be able to see some examples of approved traffic calming methods. Did I hear you correctly? Mayor Copenhaver said, what we are putting together with our city engineer and staff are opportunities for communities or areas of our community if they are interested in slowing down traffic through their community, options that are available to them so we are going to be providing that whether it is a speed table as they call it, not a speed bump, but a speed table. And, possibly if they need to have their speed limits slowed down in their area. So, we are looking at ways that we can provide that through our engineer so we can do it the correct way for our communities. Councilmember McClain said, okay. The only other thing I had, May 1st, we have the cleanup out at Allen Park at 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon so if anybody can make it, we would appreciate you guys coming out and helping us clean up the area. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Mr. Councilmember.

Councilmember Bobby Long said, thank you Mr. Mayor and Tony Thomas that is in the room. I want to thank him especially for coming out. We had a large gathering with signs and maps and everything else. There were some people that were truly distraught about what was happening. They had some common sense reasonable approaches. They weren't asking for the moon. They were just asking for some help. Mr. Thomas was very clear, concerned, and stayed out there for as long as it took and for as long as people wanted to speak to him. I just want to commend him for that. It was a good night. So, hopefully, we can get some resolution to some of these issues. Another thing that I wanted to ask about was the same thing that Councilman McClain had brought up. These speed bumps or speed tables, would these be things that are regulated by the city? Would a neighborhood call up and say hey listen well just for instance, the neighborhood meeting that we just had, this guy had mentioned that he has a daughter that moved into the area and there is one particular vehicle that does 60 mph and pretty much drifts around the curve. He wants to know if that is something the neighborhood buys or is that something that would be available that they could request and the city would come out every so often and put them in at intervals that are consistent with what we need to have traffic flowing, but still have that traffic slowing down. Would that be something that the neighborhood would buy or would that be something that the neighborhood could buy through the city and the city come out and install? Mayor Copenhaver said, well, that would be where Engineering Director Craig Light is going to be giving your exact questions, that is what he is going to be answering. So, some will be mobile. Some can be permanent depending upon what the residents want. But, then, we will have the guidelines in place, the ordinances that are already in place so we don't have to adjust anything. So, that is a good question. And, I also want to say and I want to commend that group of people of about 25 from what

Mr. Thomas told me. And, they came with a solution and that is what this community is about. Councilmember Long said, they did. Mayor Copenhaver said, I think it is important that people that want to get involved, if they have got questions and concerns, come to us with a solution so we can incorporate those hopefully. So, I think that is great. Councilmember Long said, it was truly civil. It was a civil meeting and Mr. Thomas did a great job of saying what he feels can happen, what cannot happen, and everyone left with a sense that we are moving forward to a solution. So, thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Mr. Councilmember.

Councilmember LJ Bryant said, just two or three quick things. I know Councilmember Hafner and I have both emailed Beverly Parker about helping with the cleanup along Harrisburg Road and we are trying to work out some details on that. And, then along the lines of speeding, I take my dog most every day to Craighead Forest and I know that we have a problem there. Certainly, there, traffic flow isn't much of an issue because you know at any given time, it is not like we have a traffic jam there. We certainly have a speeding problem there on occasion at least. I think the last thing I would say along those lines is that is exciting that we are going to make some movement there. That is something that we have really needed to do for a while so I'm really excited to hear that. And, I will kind of say what I have always said along these topics over the years, certainly we have partnered with groups at the city and folks have come forward and wanted to participate with funds, that is great. I just think that we always have to be careful that we don't disenfranchise lower income neighborhoods that might have speeding problems, but might not bring the funds forward or have the funds to bring forward to help with the problems in their neighborhood. So, hopefully, we can keep that in mind. Mayor Copenhaver said, good comments, Mr. Councilmember. Thank you.

Councilmember John Street said, Mayor, with regards to the cleanup last week, Judy Casteel had a well-organized group for the West End Neighborhood Association and some of them stayed another hour to hour and a half longer than the scheduled deal, but it was a really good success. They picked up a lot of trash and made a lot of difference. I was really impressed with the turnout. Mayor Copenhaver said, if I can add to that Mr. Councilmember, I was duly impressed as well with the city employees and how well-organized it was and again, that is from many years of doing this, but they had it down to a science. They really take pride in their communities. They enjoyed the fact that people had things out for them. And, so, again, they do it in such an expedient way, but they take pride in it.

Councilmember Chris Gibson said, Nominating & Rules met last week and there were a few items that we were going to forward onto full council tonight or walk onto full council. I don't see a reason to rush those items so we are just going to put them on the agenda for our next meeting. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Mr. Councilmember and I appreciate you calling that meeting last week.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, we have a cleanup on May 15th, also one in June, and also one in July. The one on May 15th will be on Fisher Street, Allen, Belt, Scott Street, and that area. The one in June will be over in the French Street area. We will meet at Parker Park. And, then we have another one in July. We don't have a designated place yet. I got an email from Mike Tyner today and we are making plans to get those taken care of. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Mr. Councilmember.

Councilmember Brian Emison said, I just have a few things for us this evening. First of all, I wanted to say I just recently started the 11th Chapter of the Jonesboro Citizens Police Academy. Thank you to Chief Elliott for putting that on. I am also honored to

have a couple of really good class members in there amongst others, but particularly seeing some of the city employees in there with us, Mr. Brian Richardson and Mr. Tony Thomas, along with Mr. Michael Eckert from over in Human Resources. It is exciting to see a lot of the employees from the city want to go out and do that, not only to see how life looks from the Police standpoint, but also learn more about how the citizens interact with the police department. So, I just wanted to say that and also, since we are speaking on police and public safety, also a big thank you to Code Enforcement. They went out and helped Mr. Michael and helped me out on a situation over on Edna Drive. So, thank you to that. I think that involved a couple of police officers as well. So, once again, they don't get paid enough and we need to support them in every way that we can. And, finally, I just wanted to put a note out there for the public. There has been a new part of the CARES Act that has been kicked out that is being called the restaurant revitalization fund. If you have a restaurant out there and you are still feeling some of the effects from COVID-19 or anything, Ms. Laura Miller out at ASU in the Small Business and Technology Development Center, there are some other governmental grants and funds out there to help you out so just ready to get Jonesboro back to work and back to entertaining the people that come and visit our city. Thank you.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 10 - Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent: 2 - Ann Williams and Charles Frierson

_____ **Date:** _____

Harold Copenhaver, Mayor

Attest:

_____ **Date:** _____

April Leggett, City Clerk

