



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Public Safety Council Committee

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

5:00 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL (ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE) CONFIRMED BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

Present 7 - David McClain; Chris Moore; Brian Emison; Janice Porter; Chris Gibson; LJ Bryant and Kevin Miller

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[MIN-25:085](#)

Minutes for the Public Safety Committee meeting on Tuesday, September 16, 2025.

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

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

Aye: 6 - David McClain; Chris Moore; Janice Porter; Chris Gibson; LJ Bryant and Kevin Miller

4. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED

[ORD-25:033](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 6 - ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES TO COMPLY WITH CHANGES TO THE ARKANSAS LAW REGARDING PRIVATE CLUB PERMITS

Sponsors: City Attorney's Office

Attachments: [Alcohol Permit Application 2025.docx](#)
[Final Jonesboro Application for Change in Business Operation of Private Club](#)
[Final Jonesboro Application for Transfer of Location of Private Club Permit.docx](#)

Councilmember Chris Moore said, Carol, could you give us an explanation of that or tell us the highlights of what's changing? City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I can. Essentially what happened, and I wished I brought the definition with me because I probably won't quote it word for word. But essentially, what happened is that the state in the last legislative session changed the wording of what constitutes a private club, and they removed the requirement that it be a non-profit corporation. It can still be a non-profit corporation, but it can also be just a regular corporation, LLC, a partnership, a sole proprietorship. So, they basically removed the requirement that you have a non-profit corporation involved in forming a private club. So, what this does is it just

changes our definition of a private club to match the state law definition of a private club, and then it also took out references that required things to be submitted for the non-profit corporation because they might not be applicable. Does that make sense? Councilmember Chris Moore said, so it brings us into compliance or into alignment with state law? City Attorney Carol Duncan said, it changed our definition to match state law definition. Yes.

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

Aye: 6 - David McClain;Chris Moore;Janice Porter;Chris Gibson;LJ Bryant and Kevin Miller

[ORD-25:036](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE THIRD- PARTY INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS FOR PASSIVE FIRE PROTECTION

Sponsors: Engineering and Fire Department

Councilmember Chris Moore said, Mr. Chair, am I understanding it right that right now the city Inspection Department does the passive fire protection, and it'll remove that from the city inspection requirements, and it'll hire a third-party? City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I know Chief Hamrick's here, but I believe it's the fire marshals that do that inspection, I believe. Maybe that can speak on that. I'm not sure.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, Craig, I guess my question is right now who does it? Is it the architect or is it Tim and them? Engineering Department Director Craig Light approached the podium and said, right now what is happening is we're having the developers do it as a third-party, but it's not a mandated requirement and so it's a bit arbitrary. And we think by doing this it'll just make it more consistent across the board. That it is a requirement to have third-party inspections on them, because honestly without the third-party the inspections are not being done as thorough as they should be and this will rectify that problem.

Councilmember David McClain said, Mr. Chairman, if I may. So, this doesn't eliminate the fire marshals going out. The developer has to get a third-party come out and they give us a report to the city and the fire marshals? Director Craig Light said, the fire marshals are going to continue to do sprinkler system inspections. Councilmember David McClain said, ok. Director Craig Light said, that is their primary role is to do sprinkler systems and hood suppression systems. They don't typically do the passive fire protections so it's kind of a combination. Councilmember David McClain said, what's passive fire protections? Give me an example? Director Craig Light said, instead of using a sprinkler system they'll use fire corridors, fire doors, fire rated walls, extend walls all the way to the ceiling and penetrate through, just a bunch of different ways to not have to sprinkle a building. But if they're done improperly, they're ineffective. It takes a lot of time for the fire marshals and the building code officials, the department, to go out there and look at all these different pipe penetrations and wall penetrations and make sure they're all compliant. This would require the builder, if he's going to use passive fire protection as his source of fire protection for the building, to have a third-party inspector do that work or use a sprinkler system. Which is what would be preferred from the city but is not mandated by the code to do.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, Craig, does this just apply to commercial construction or does it apply to residential also? Director Craig Light said, it applies for anything that requires an architected design which would generally be commercial. It's really where it becomes being used mostly is in the hotels. Stick framed buildings, multi-story stick frame buildings, where it's becoming an issue. Councilmember Chris Moore said, the trigger is if you need an architect then you'll have to? Director Craig

Light said, yes. If it meets a requirement for fire prevention safety code for either sprinkler system or passive fire protection it would be required. Most of the time that is commercial. I say, this is more fire marshal's office and building inspections, they're more involved with this. I was just involved with the writing of the ordinance to try to resolve this issue that's been a recurring problem for some time for us.

Councilmember LJ Bryant said, what kind of professional person would be doing the third-party? Director Craig Light said, there are some credentials, and I'm not sure what fire protection companies locally do that, but there's some out of Memphis that do that, specialize in fire protection. I actually had lunch today with, used to be Geotechnologies Inc., I think it's UES Consulting Engineers. They do that work and I had lunch with them today, and they're interested in that. They have an office here in town, but they have not provided those services in Jonesboro before.

Councilmember Kevin Miller said, Craig, if I understand, it's still incumbent on the developer to come up with the third-party inspector. It's going to be their responsibility, correct? Director Craig Light said, correct. We would get to approve who that inspector was. Councilmember Kevin Miller said, as long as their licensed and meet the requirements, but the developer would still be required to be able to come up with that. Director Craig Light said, yes, correct.

Carroll Caldwell, real estate agent, approached the podium and said, I'm concerned about the third-party inspectors. I don't want to call somebody from Memphis to get a CO. So, I think you all need to make sure there's some people in Jonesboro that can do these third-party inspections. I wouldn't even know who to call, and I'll be the first one to have to call somebody. Are there anybody that qualifies in Jonesboro? Every business wants a CO, and the building inspections department can verify this, they want it the next day. They want to move in. You think I'm going to call somebody from Memphis to try to find somebody from Memphis that does that does that. That's going to come over here fairly soon. I don't think so. I'd also like to have a ballpark price. I don't even know where to get a price. So, I'm not complaining. I'm not saying it's not a necessary thing. I'm saying let's do a little bit more due diligence and make sure we got some third-party inspectors. If not, I'm not going to get a CO.

Councilmember Chris Gibson said, that does raise a point. Do we need to have a preferred vendors list for the city? Councilmember Kevin Miller said, and this might get more into, without getting too deep into the woods. It's part of the requirement; we've been asking developers to do this for a while. This is not new. There's just nothing that requires by code that they have to do it. The architect, the engineer, whatever they're designing, whatever they're developing. This is part of the ongoing process. It's not at the very last minute, but through the process, someone has to verify certain aspects of the development that is very complicated and very specialized, that sometimes can be too detailed for the fire marshal's individual or the inspectors in the inspection department. They need basically a third-party, and independent person, to say yes this meets the requirements as the building is being developed and as it moves along. Again, this is something that we've been asking developers to do, especially in complicated situations for years. This isn't totally new. But we don't have anything on the books that says it is required you have to do it. And that burden has been falling back to the inspector's department and the fire marshal's office the way I understand it.

City Attorney Carol Duncan said, and did I understand it's an alternative to the sprinkler system or is it in addition to the sprinkler system? Councilmember Kevin Miller said, depending on what the building triggers, if the building meets certain requirements it

has to have certain fire protection. That protection maybe you have to put in a sprinkler system. Sprinkler systems can be very costly and cumbersome. There are ways to do engineering where you can build the building a certain way with fire rated sheetrock, fire doors, fire penetration, to where you can do it that way without having to sprinkle it. It can be one or the other depending on what the developer wants, and the cost associated with it. And those vary depending on the project and the size. Whether it's a multi-story hotel or a restaurant, it's going to vary widely depending on what the project is.

Matt Silas, local architect, approached the podium and said, my concern is, I wish there was more discussion between the local design professionals about it instead of just passing this ordinance straight out. I don't think there's any communication with our local chapter of AIA, American Institute of Architects. You know, passive fire protection could be very minimal like fire rated doors. I mean, do you have to have the third-party inspector come to come verify you got a fire rated door or not. I'm all for fire protection safety and making sure things are done properly. And I know there are complicated cases, but there are some simpler cases too. So, I would propose maybe tabling this vote until maybe we could have more discussion with local architects and the city with respect to this ordinance. That would be my suggestion.

Councilmember LJ Bryant motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore, to postpone indefinitely ORD-25:036. 4 – Aye 2 – Nay.

A motion was made by LJ Bryant, seconded by Chris Moore, that this matter be Postponed Indefinitely . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 4 - Chris Moore;Janice Porter;Chris Gibson and LJ Bryant

Nay: 2 - David McClain and Kevin Miller

[ORD-25:037](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117 ARTICLE VIII, SECTION 117-324(g) TO REMOVE THE REQUIREMENT TO HAVE A VALID REGISTRATION OR LICENSE ON A BOAT, TRAILER, OR RECREATIONAL VEHICLE PARKED OUTDOORS ON RESIDENTIAL LOTS IN THE CITY OF JONESBORO

Councilmember LJ Bryant said, Mr. Chairman, could somebody from Code Enforcement maybe fill us in? Councilmember David McClain said, maybe somebody just explain why we're looking at this? Code Enforcement Department Director Scott Roper approached the podium and said, sure, what we found is we actually changed the in-op vehicle to remove registered insurance and license. Because we actually found in that there was a lot of people that had their dad's truck that was drivable, but they didn't drive it because they were saving it for their son, or other vehicles that they had on the property that were operational but didn't fit. And two things we wanted to fit with this because there are trailers that are in good condition that people are not using, and we didn't feel necessarily that it was fair to make them have this vehicle, trailers are a little bit different, boat trailers per say, but just match the other ordinances is what our goal was in doing so. Councilmember David McClain said, does the state not require this? Director Scott Roper said, the state, I mean, if it goes on the road they're required to have insurance and license, but sitting on their property our ordinance does require that, and we felt that was being pretty tight on people. I mean, if it's ugly and in disarray, we can deal with it. You know, an old beat up trailer that's got stuff on it, but a vehicle or a trailer that they're not necessarily utilizing for several years, which come across more often than not, that we wanted to have some leeway so that we could be consistent with in our in-op vehicles. But in the same token, if they were to get on the road, law enforcement still has the ability to take necessary arrangements if they're driving vehicles not insured or registered.

City Attorney Carol Duncan said, Scott, can you clarify for the public that it doesn't change the number of trailers, or boats or things that you can park on your lot. I don't want them to think that they can now park 20 unlicensed cars there. Director Scott Roper said, no. Correct. No and neither do we. This is just talking about the registration alone.

Councilmember David McClain said, so you're saying if it's something that's in disrepair we can still... Director Scott Roper said, yeah, if it's stuff that's a mess, we can deal with that. Councilmember David McClain said, but I don't have to have it licensed or registered on a boat, trailer... Director Scott Roper said, well actually, I mean, that was in there. You know a boat you pay registration one time and I think it's good to go. You will see bigger people that have several acres, they'll use a trailer back and forth to move wood and it's not registered. If it were on the road it would be different issue. We just felt like we could have a little more leeway on dealing with some of these situations. Councilmember David McClain said, when it comes to recreational vehicles, what are we talking about? Are we talking about a camper? Director Scott Roper said, yes, we're talking about campers and that type of thing.

Councilmember David McClain said, Mr. Chairman, if we do make a recommendation, can we make sure it's not on the consent agenda? City Clerk April Leggett said, for clarification, an ordinance will never be on a consent agenda. Councilmember David McClain said, that's right, I'm sorry. I thought it was a resolution. We usually have resolutions.

A motion was made by Chris Moore, seconded by Chris Gibson, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 5 - David McClain;Chris Moore;Janice Porter;Chris Gibson and Kevin Miller

Nay: 1 - LJ Bryant

[ORD-25:038](#)

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

Sponsors: Engineering

A motion was made by Chris Moore, seconded by Chris Gibson, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 6 - David McClain;Chris Moore;Janice Porter;Chris Gibson;LJ Bryant and Kevin Miller

[ORD-25:039](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO ADD SECTION 2-289 TO THE JONESBORO CODE OF ORDINANCES TITLED FIREFIGHTER BILL OF RIGHTS

Sponsors: Fire Department

Attachments: [Firefighter Bill of Rights.pdf](#)

Councilmember LJ Bryant said, Chairman, could somebody kind of fill us in on this? I emailed with the city attorney some today and I'm a little smarter, but I still don't know that I fully grasp it. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I did my best. Councilmember LJ Bryant said, I think you did great, you had to deal with me. Fire Department Chief Marty Hamrick approached the podium and said, so what this does for us is just provide those protections. It gives us a guideline to follow pre-discipline. So, we'd have to bring the employee in, say here's what you're being charged with, here's the process, the

investigation phase, all that takes place before the disciplines actually issued. So, it gives them those rights, gives them right to counsel and those things. We follow our civil service guidelines. They apply to hiring, promotions, and it appeals process after discipline. The discipline this refers to is anything that will affect a pay status, so a suspension, demotion or termination. All other discipline issues is not governed by this policy. Does that explain it for you? Councilmember LJ Bryant said, yeah that's good. Thanks Chief.

Councilmember David McClain said, what's the difference in the process now? Chief Marty Hamrick said, we just don't have a formal pre-discipline process. We have been doing what this recommends already as part of our regular routine practice. This just makes it where it is official that we have to go by it. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, and this just came out of the last legislative session. It gave the cities the option to adopt it if they wanted to. But it came out at the last legislative session. The Firefighter Bill of Rights. Chief Marty Hamrick said, it's very similar to what the Police Department already has in place. In their Law Enforcement Bill of Rights.

A motion was made by Chris Moore, seconded by Chris Gibson, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 6 - David McClain;Chris Moore;Janice Porter;Chris Gibson;LJ Bryant and Kevin Miller

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

RES-25:137

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 233 S. Fisher St. Jonesboro, AR 72401: Parcel # 01-144073-17500

Sponsors: Code Enforcement

Attachments: [233 S Fisher Inspection Report.pdf](#)
[233 S Fisher Pre-Condemnation Notice Affidavit.pdf](#)
[233 S Fisher Pre-Condemnation Notice Returned Cert Letter.pdf](#)
[233 S Fisher.png](#)

A motion was made by Chris Gibson, seconded by Chris Moore, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 6 - David McClain;Chris Moore;Janice Porter;Chris Gibson;LJ Bryant and Kevin Miller

RES-25:138

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 505 W Woodrow St. Jonesboro, AR 72401: Parcel # 01-144073-17500

Sponsors: Code Enforcement

Attachments: [505 W Woodrow Board and Secure Affidavit.pdf](#)
[505 W Woodrow Board and Secure Returned Cert Letter.pdf](#)
[505 W Woodrow Inspection Report.pdf](#)
[505 W Woodrow Pre-condemnation Notice Affidavit.pdf](#)
[505 W Woodrow Pre-condemnation Notice Returned Cert Letter.pdf](#)
[505 W Woodrow.png](#)

A motion was made by Chris Gibson, seconded by Chris Moore, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 6 - David McClain;Chris Moore;Janice Porter;Chris Gibson;LJ Bryant and Kevin Miller

5. PENDING ITEMS

6. OTHER BUSINESS

[COM-25:044](#) VECTOR MOSQUITO CONTROL REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2025

Attachments: [Jonesboro EOY 2025.pdf](#)

Filed

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 6 - David McClain;Chris Moore;Janice Porter;Chris Gibson;LJ Bryant and Kevin Miller