



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

5:30 PM

Municipal Center

NOMINATING & RULES SPECIAL CALLED MEETING AT 4:30 P.M.

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

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

[play video](#)

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

[play video](#)

3. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK DONNA JACKSON

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Present 10 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner and David McClain

Absent 2 - Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

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Mayor Harold Perrin said there are no special presentations scheduled for tonight's agenda, but he would like to take this time to introduce two new members of the staff for the City of Jonesboro. Our first is Tiffny Calloway who will be our Director of Grants and Community Relations. Next is Bill Reznicek who will be our Chief Financial Officer. He will be working with the budget. We appreciate you all coming aboard.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

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Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Councilman Chris Moore, seconded by Councilman Bobby Long, to Approve the Consent Agenda. The motioned PASSED.

Aye: 10 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner and David McClain

Absent: 2 - Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

MIN-17:110

Minutes for the City Council meeting on September 19, 2017

[play video](#)

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

RES-17:145

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ACCEPT THE EXECUTION OF THE LEASE AND AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF JONESBORO AND COLSON CORPORATION FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE LEASED PREMISES

[play video](#)

Attachments: [Colson Lease.pdf](#)
[Colson Exhibit A.pdf](#)
[Colson Purchase Option Letter.pdf](#)
[Building Facilities Minutes September 13 2017](#)

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

RES-17:153

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS ESTABLISHING FEES FOR PRIVATE CLUB ALCOHOL PERMITS

[play video](#)

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

6. NEW BUSINESS

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ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

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ORD-17:077

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1, SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO RM-8, RESIDENTIAL MULTI-FAMILY FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1612 PATRICK STREET AS REQUESTED BY GARRY TATE

[play video](#)

Attachments: [Plat.pdf](#)
[Application.pdf](#)
[Staff Summary RZ 17-10 1612 Patrick Street -- COUNICI.pdf](#)
[1612 Patrick.pdf](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-17:077 by title only.

Held at one reading.

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

[play video](#)

RES-17:147

A RESOLUTION FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE LEARNING CENTER (TLC) FOR THE CDBG PUBLIC SERVICES PROGRAM.

[play video](#)

Attachments: [TLC Agreement](#)

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

Aye: 10 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner and David McClain

Absent: 2 - Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

RES-17:148

A RESOLUTION FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY SERVICES INC. (HCSI) FOR THE CDBG PUBLIC SERVICES PROGRAM.

[play video](#)

Attachments: [HCSI Agreement](#)

Councilmember Gene Vance said he needed to recuse himself due to having done construction work with the Hispanic Community Center. He said he doesn't want there to be any possibility of any problems. Mayor Harold Perrin said let the record so note.

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

Aye: 9 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Chris Gibson;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner and David McClain

Absent: 2 - Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Abstain: 1 - Gene Vance

RES-17:150

A RESOLUTION FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH FAMILIE TIEZ MENTORING AND OUTREACH COMPANY FOR

THE CDBG PUBLIC SERVICES PROGRAM.

[play video](#)**Attachments:** [FT Agreement](#)

Councilmember Chris Moore said he is familiar with the other three groups, but he is not with Familie Tiez. He said he has never heard of them. Mayor Harold Perrin said he would have to look back at that one. Kimberly Marshall went over that in depth at the last Finance meeting. Councilmember John Street said it is an afterschool program. They pick them up from school, take them to their center, and drop them back off at home. Councilmember Bobby Long said it he thought it was a mentoring program to raise GPA scores. Mayor Perrin said that it is an afterschool program. In your packet, the "Project Access" delivered by Familie Tiez consists in assisting LMI students of the after school program to improve the educational social outcomes by working on increasing their overall academic performance, including GPA. Students will have access to tutoring, computers, and other material to enable them to complete school assigned homework or projects.

Councilmember Moore asked if it was a company or an individual. He knows who the Learning Center, the Hispanic Community Center, and the West End Neighborhood Association are. Mayor Perrin said this is a 501-3C company if he is not mistaken. Councilmember Moore said that he has never seen them in the CDBG grant program before. Mayor Perrin said it also gives you the "Project Access" people they serve which is normally around 100 people. Key Personnel are Wakonda Cox who is the Executive Director and they have an open position for the Tutoring Coordinator at the time when this was submitted. Councilmember Moore said that he would take the Finance Committee's recommendation. He said he is not familiar with them. Mayor Perrin said that he would be glad to give him more information. Tiffany Calloway, Grants Director, will send you some information on it. Councilmember Moore said that he would take Mayor Perrin's word for it.

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

Aye: 10 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner and David McClain

Absent: 2 - Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

RES-17:151

A RESOLUTION FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH WEST END NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION FOR THE CDBG PUBLIC SERVICES PROGRAM.

[play video](#)**Attachments:** [WENA Agreement](#)

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

Aye: 10 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner and David McClain

Absent: 2 - Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[play video](#)

ORD-17:070

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING RAISES FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS

[play video](#)

Councilmember Joe Hafner said he would like to make a few comments regarding this. Councilmember Chris Moore said as a point of order, it needs to be read first. City Attorney Carol Duncan asked for a point of clarification as to whether she reads Section II or whether we determined that it was properly voted on at the last meeting. I think there was a motion. City Clerk Donna Jackson said there was no second so it failed for a lack of second. Ms. Duncan said she would read it. Councilmember David McClain asked if that part was not amended. Ms. Jackson said that was correct. Mayor Harold Perrin said there was a motion made to take out the retroactive part, but there was no second on that. Ms. Jackson said there was discussion that you could have an amendment at the third reading. I think because of that, it didn't get seconded. I left it on the second reading because of that.

Councilmember Moore said to Councilmember McClain if he wanted to offer that amendment, he would second it and we will have the vote on it. Councilmember McClain motioned, seconded my Councilmember Moore, that ORD-17:070 be amended to remove the retroactive piece. All voted aye.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said he would like to make a few comments regarding the ordinance. As the Mayor stated, the 2018 budget is currently looking at about \$10 million of expenditures over revenues. I have had a chance to review the preliminary budget. In my opinion, it is a good budget with estimates in areas that are definitely needed while also investing in areas that will help Jonesboro attract people to town and have a return on investments made. At the last council meeting, the Mayor reiterated that our reserves are quickly being used up and soon we will be looking at cutting needed capital projects, hiring freezes, and potential headcount reductions. This is not a situation that we can take lightly. Jonesboro has a lot going for it. Jonesboro has a lot more to do to stay a vibrant and growing city and become more relevant as a place that people want to live in, visit, and work in. I feel that passing raises for elected officials while being aware of the facts that I just mentioned would be sending a message to our citizens that we don't want to or need to send. We will be sending a message that we are more concerned with our personal compensation than we are with Jonesboro's future. I feel that we need to develop a plan to place Jonesboro on a firm financial footing for years to come. This plan will have to be one that allows the city to make needed infrastructure investments in areas such as public safety and quality of life items that will help make Jonesboro safer, healthier, and more relevant when it comes to individuals, families, businesses, and industries deciding where they want to make their future. Also, to make sure that our departments are adequately staffed and supported to keep the city operating efficiently. Once this plan has been developed, we

can once again look at elected officials pay and come up with a good plan that addresses each position individually. Therefore, I would like to make a motion to indefinitely table ORD-17-070. Councilman McClain seconded the motion.

Councilmember Moore said before we have comments from the public, I believe we have a duty to vote up or down on this as opposed to tabling this indefinitely. I think we should have a roll call vote up or down on this item. Councilmember Charles Frierson said you don't do this at the second reading. Mayor Perrin said that this was the second reading, not the third. Councilmember Moore said Councilmember Hafner's proposal is to table it indefinitely. Councilmember Frierson said I understand that. I'm not saying we need to do this tonight though.

Councilmember Moore said no. What I'm saying is we need to read it three times and then we can vote it up or down. Councilman Hafner said he would agree with that. He wanted to make sure that his comments are on record. Mayor Perrin said he thinks Councilmember Hafner's comments tie back to the raises. If you would pull those motions, what Councilmember Moore is saying is that this will roll over to the next council meeting for a third reading. Councilmember Moore said that is correct.

Councilmember McClain said that he would withdraw his second. City Attorney Carol Duncan said we would need a vote on that motion. Councilmember Moore said his comments are not with prejudice to Councilmember Hafner's comments. I simply think we need an up or down vote and not to postpone it and kick it down the road. We need to make a decision one way or another and move on. Councilmember McClain asked if Councilmember Hafner needed to withdraw his motion. Mayor Perrin asked if Councilmember Hafner wanted to withdraw his motion. Councilmember Hafner said he would withdraw his motion. I don't withdraw my comments, but I withdraw my motion.

Councilmember McClain said we have more pressing issues than to look at this. We don't need these raises right now. One reason I say that is that we have one of our public servants who was serving us and had a health issue arise and from that has a ton of medical expenses. In my opinion, I think we would say we are going to help you with this. Maybe we take this money and use it for that. To have medical bills and one of our public servants has to go out and have a gofundme page makes me sick when we could do something about it. I believe we should do something. I believe we should take the money we are proposing and use that maybe to help one of our guys out.

Councilmember Bobby Long said there are multiple ways that people can give to individual people other than using city funds to do that. If I wanted to do that on my own, then I think I would give to a fund that is setup for that person, but I don't know that I would use city funds that are taxpayer dollars to do something like that. Councilmember McClain asked what else should we use it for. Councilmember Chris Gibson said he questions the legality of it. Councilmember McClain said he was fine with that, but we should do something to help him out. Councilmember Frierson said that it would not be legal to spend it just for one employee. We could have a change in our ordinances which makes it applicable to all that come into a certain category, but not just for one.

Councilmember Moore stated as a point of order that is not the question before us. Councilmember McClain said he gets that. Councilmember Moore said we need to stick with the question before us. Councilmember Long said he hasn't got to his comments on the raises yet. Going back to the raises, I think it is my point of view that I am all for people being paid what they are worth. I am all for people making a good wage. I am for people making a fair wage that is appropriate to the size and

scope of their responsibility. I am opposed to sitting in here and voting for myself a raise. I would just feel like I walked out of here doing something underhanded. Councilmember Frierson said we have already taken care of that. We took that out. City Attorney Carol Duncan said no we didn't. Councilmember Long said he understands. My point is this, if we feel a raise is in order then we ought to put it on a ballot and let the people vote whether or not they feel that we earned a raise.

Councilmember Gene Vance said that is really not the way that it has ever been done or should ever be done. That is what we are elected for, to make those decisions. Now if you have a problem with the Council, let's look at separating the Council or maybe separating all four and then do it on a one at a time basis. We have to pay for leadership in this city and if we don't, we will lose leadership. This city has come so far in the past ten years for us to look at going backwards is entirely wrong. Councilmember Long said, Sir, sometimes leadership means backing off and letting other people do that. Sometimes integrity says back off and let other people make the decision. Other people other than me. I'm not going to sit here and vote for that knowing that I am voting myself a raise. Now, if we want to back that off and say you know what, we want to address the Mayor's and other elected officials salaries and look at those and how they are scoped then that's fine. Sometimes leadership doesn't mean just making decisions. Leadership sometimes means backing off when your integrity is at stake. I feel that my integrity was at stake. You might not feel that way and that's fine. I do. It's my point. I don't care if we have never done it before or if we ever do it that way again or if that is not how we have ever done it. Those words are terrible to say that we have never done it that way before.

Councilmember Vance said that Councilmember Long didn't hear what he said. I said separate it. Let's vote on ours totally separate from the others. As far as leadership, I didn't say leadership as far as us taking the rung and making the vote. That is not the leadership that I was talking about. I was talking about the leadership that is sitting down here in these three seats. If we don't take care of them, the next election cycle, we may be sorry for what happens. Councilmember Long said I think that is what I said we would look at those, we look at the scope, responsibility, and how they match up with other cities and go at it appropriately.

Councilmember Mitch Johnson said as a city alderman, it is your duty to do the financial responsibilities of the city. Councilmember Vance said right, exactly. Councilmember Johnson said you should either vote it up or down. There is no gray area. We are charged with handling the finances of this city. Councilmember Vance said what Councilmember Long just said about looking at other cities to keep this from being a controversy, and Councilmember Hafner has the information, we could put three, five, seven, whatever number of cities that you want and take the average of that and say our elected officials will never be more than 5% above or 5% below that average. We could do it on the budget when we do the other employees. That way, this situation won't come up again. We should take the time to do this right and not mess with politics of well, I'm voting a raise for myself. \$58 is a big difference for me. I don't care whether I get that or not.

Councilmember Frierson said to Mayor Perrin, the motion is to postpone and we need to vote on that. I call for a vote. Mayor Perrin said they withdrew their motion and second. Where you are right now is to leave it on the second reading and the third reading will be the next time. Councilmember Hafner said he wanted to make something clear. I want to be clear that I am not saying I don't feel raises are warranted. I feel we have bigger issues that we need to make sure we take care of first because from what I have looked at, I feel that our elected officials are reasonably

paid compared to other cities. You can always argue the issue that they be paid more or less based on performance, but I am not saying they should never get a raise. I am just saying let's develop a plan to take care of the more pressing issues first and then come back to this.

Gary Tate, 2300 Manchester, said he was a former councilmember. He served from 1994 to 2002. I would like to say that it is your duty to take charge of this, whether it is for you or any other elected official. I can tell you from my standpoint, when I was elected in 1994, I was self employed. I have been self employed all my life. My gross sales in 1993 were \$1.7 million. I was elected to the Council and started in January 1994. The first two years I kept a log. A lot of people thought I just went to a Council meeting and drew a check. That is incorrect. I had over 284 meetings the first year alone, that is meeting with people who had drainage issue problems, people that had other problems with different parts of the city, the Council meetings, the Committee meetings, and all of that. My gross sales that first year alone dropped from \$1.7 million to \$1.2 million. By the time I completed my eighth year on the City Council, my gross sales in my personal business dropped to under \$400,000. I was spending more time on city business than I was taking care of mine. For the people who have jobs and get their check every week, that is fine and dandy. But to the person who is self-employed that steps up to the plate and serves the citizens of Jonesboro, they are certainly not paid enough. I'm not just pointing Chris Moore out, but if you paid him for his time at what he gets to be a plumber, you would be paying him a whole lot more money than what you are paying him right now. As far as the other elected officials, I don't think those three people right there are paid enough when you compare it to other cities and for the quality of people that we have. Of course I read the editors opinion and I hardly ever agree with him and I didn't agree with him the other day and he probably doesn't agree with me. He said a sitting councilmember should not vote their own self a raise. First of all, it takes seven of you to pass anything. Even if the six that were up for reelection voted for it, one of the others would have to. But, your job as a City Council member is to direct the finances and the operations of the City of Jonesboro for the betterment of the citizens of Jonesboro. That is my opinion. I've got one just like the editor does.

Councilmember Moore said thank you and that is why he said regardless of how you feel, it deserves an up or down vote because it is our job regardless of whether we are for it or not. Mr. Tate said as far as putting it to a vote before the people, it would cost more money to have an election to find out if you are going to get a \$300 raise than it would be to pay the raise. That would be absolutely senseless to put it before the people if you are going to be good stewards of the money, to spend \$10,000-\$12,000 for an election to determine a \$3,000 difference doesn't make any sense. That is my opinion and I appreciate your time.

A motion was made by Councilman David McClain, seconded by Councilman Chris Moore, that this matter be Amended . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 10 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner and David McClain

Absent: 2 - Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

[ORD-17:071](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ALCOHOL ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO AND ADD SECTION 6-30 TO ARTICLE II PERMITS

[play video](#)

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

Councilmember John Street asked that we hold it there and said he thought they decided to hold this at three readings on it. Mayor Harold Perrin said we did.

Held at second reading

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

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ORD-17:074

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO AMEND THE 2017 BUDGET TO ADD THE SUB-GRANT BUDGET FOR THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES FOR THE FY 2017-2018 EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT

[play video](#)

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

Aye: 10 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner and David McClain

Absent: 2 - Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

ORD-17:076

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-2 TO C-3 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 800 SOUTHWEST DRIVE AS REQUESTED BY FIRST NATIONAL BANK

[play video](#)

Attachments: [Survey for First National Bank of Paragould](#)
[Certified Receipts](#)
[Council Staff Summary](#)
[Deed](#)
[Neighborhood Letter and Meeting Minutes](#)
[600 ft buffer around 800 Southwest Drive](#)
[Aerial View of Location](#)
[Affidavit of Compliance](#)
[Application](#)

Councilmember David McClain said he needs to abstain from the vote. Mayor Harold Perrin asked Councilmember McClain to state the reason for his abstention. Councilmember McClain said he is abstaining due to professional reasons. He has a professional relationship with the bank. Mayor Perrin said let the record reflect that Councilmember McClain will abstain.

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

- Aye:** 9 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Bobby Long and Joe Hafner
- Absent:** 2 - Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant
- Abstain:** 1 - David McClain

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

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Mayor Harold Perrin said he had a few items to cover. One of them being on the ice house. There was an injunction filed with the judge to stop demolition on that. The court case is on November 6, 2017. We are going to wait on that. We do have a cost of doing the demolition and asbestos on the ice house. We will not be tearing down the ice house until we go to court on November 6, 2017.

Mayor Perrin said he wanted to brag on something that has been going on for two or three years. In my second or third year, we tore down the apartment complex on Nettleton which was a crack house right across the street from Annie Camp Junior High School. That was owned at that time and mortgaged by Bank of America. They did give us some money, but only a third of that. After that, the property was sold at the courthouse steps. Becky Sharp and Tosha Moss worked with the courthouse and City Attorney Carol Duncan did an excellent job of getting the liens. Ms. Duncan said that the court had filed them in restricted access to them so when the person bought the property and tried to search the liens and did a title search, they could not see them for whatever reason or that's what they said. Mayor Perrin said the new owner of the property came in and we showed them. The title company called and we did have a discussion back and forth. The liens were perfected. The new owners of the property did come in last Friday and gave us a check for over \$15,000. So, that will clear that up totally and we got all of our money back on that.

Mayor Perrin said the city has been very busy on striping and has done over 154 miles already through the end of last month.

Mayor Perrin stated that last week Chief Elliott represented us with some of our other police officers at the Arkansas Chief of Police Association. They won a \$15,000 fingerprint scanner. That is a portable unit that we can use now. We appreciate that.

Mayor Perrin said on our permits last month, on building permits, commercial was \$4.5 million and residential was \$6.7 million for a total of \$11.2 million. If you remember the month before, it was around \$18 million. The split is still 40-60 with 40 on commercial and 60 on residential.

Mayor Perrin said our MPO in the City of Jonesboro at the state meeting won the Arkansas Chapter of the American Planning Association's Achievement of Planned Implementation Award. Hats off to MPO Director Erica Tait and the MPO staff. I guess that is the first time Jonesboro has ever won an award for MPO. Ms. Tait said yes. We appreciate that very much.

Mayor Perrin said he would be calling a Special City Council meeting for the land bank discussion on Wednesday, October 11, 2017 at 12:00 p.m. We will have lunch provided. Mr. Todd will be here to go over how the land bank works, the bylaws and etc. City Attorney Carol Duncan has put in a tremendous amount of time on this to get it ready. Be sure to put that on your calendar. We will be giving out a notice.

Mayor Perrin said that we had our ward meetings. The ward meetings went extremely well in my opinion. If you all remember, we used to have the six, each individual ward. This year we combined them into three with having two wards at each one. Every ward meeting was full. That was great. We had a lot of discussion and lot of dialogue from that. Ed Tanner, our Operations Director, took excellent notes on that. He will be working and sending that out to Department Heads in discussing the next steps that will be taken on all of the things that were mentioned. The primary areas that were discussed were bicycle lanes, bicycle pedestrian trails, sidewalks, and mowing of ditches. We will be glad to give a report to the media.

Mayor Perrin said that he met with the auditors today, the Legislative Auditors. I can tell you that when you get your packet from Legislative Audit, you are going to be pleased because it was a very, very good audit. After I got through with them, under the law, I cannot be in the room with them and the Chairperson of the Finance Committee. Our Chairperson of the Finance Committee was there, Councilmember Joe Hafner. He met with them as well. That speaks highly of this administration in the fact over the last nine years or so, your city and the budget of \$60-\$70 million, you get a clean budget with no findings or no exceptions, that is unreal. I am going to be honest with you. There are a lot of purchase orders. There are a lot of things that go on that move here in the Accounting Department on a day to day basis. If you add all that up, it is several thousand. To come in and have a clean audit so I just want to say hats off to Finance, all of the department heads. When they order something, they put a purchase order with the right number and what it is charged to and all of that.

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

[play video](#)

Councilmember John Street said that earlier at our Public Works Committee meeting, we had two items of business that were asked to be forwarded to the Council tonight. I move that we suspend the rules and place ORD-17:078 onto tonight's agenda and I also move that we suspend the rules and place RES-17:154 onto tonight's agenda. Both are in regards to the Shooting Sports Complex with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and for the acquisition of the land. Councilmember Mitch Johnson seconded the motion. All voted aye.

ORD-17:078

AN ORDINANCE TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO AMEND THE 2017 BUDGET AND PURCHASE PROPERTY LOCATED ON MOORE ROAD

Attachments: [boundary plat](#)
[Addendum Easton Agriculture](#)
[Gen Addendum Easton Agriculture](#)
[General Addendum Easton Agriculture](#)
[REC 110 acres, Easton Agriculture](#)
[Addendum Kings Ranch](#)
[Gen Addendum Kings Ranch](#)
[General Addendum Kings Ranch](#)
[REC Kings Ranch \(2\)](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Mitch Johnson, to suspend the rules and walk on ORD-17:078. All voted aye. Councilmember John Street, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore, offered by title only. All vote aye except Councilmember Chris Gibson.

Held at one reading.

[RES-17:154](#)

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT AND SUBGRANT AGREEMENT WITH ARKANSAS STATE GAME AND FISH COMMISSION FOR THE JONESBORO SHOOTING SPORTS COMPLEX

Attachments: [boundary plat](#)
[Jonesboro Range - Memorandum of Agreement - 09-21-17 - W..](#)
[Jonesboro Range - Subgrant Agreement 09-21-17 - With Jo..](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Mitch Johnson, to suspend the rules and walk on RES-17:154. All voted aye.

Councilmember David McClain asked if this was an agreement for them to go ahead and start with this project. Mayor Harold Perrin said yes. If we pass this tonight, City Clerk Donna Jackson and I will execute this and send it to Game and Fish which their board has already approved unanimously. Then they can start getting the grant itself. Tonight, you just passed ORD-17:078 on one reading to purchase the property which will be on the agenda for the next time. We need to get this going so we can go ahead and get this grant approved for the \$2 million that they have committed to us.

Councilmember McClain asked what we just agreed to and held is where it is going to go. Mayor Perrin said yes. Once you approve this, we will send this down for the MOA and the sub-grant for them to go ahead and start their process. Councilmember McClain said ok.

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

Aye: 10 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner and David McClain

Absent: 2 - Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Councilmember John Street said what Mayor Perrin said about the ward meetings was correct. They were good for our particular group. There was an item brought up about three LCI Licensed Certified Instructors in the city. Bill Smith is one of them, but he is too busy to do it. Brent Walker is the one that could be placed on the Transportation and Planning committee for that. I think that is what they had asked for in the ward meetings that someone with LCI be on it. There is another lady too that came and talked to the Council. I don't know if she would be interested or not. Both of them would be an invaluable resource in that. Mayor Perrin said that is what we are going through now on every line item that was said and quoted in those meetings. I appreciate you bringing that up.

Councilmember Street said that Councilmember Chris Gibson and I attended the Municipal League Advisory Council meeting for large, first-class cities today. There was quite a bit of stuff that was on the agenda. In fact, it was a fairly long meeting. They are in process of looking at legislation or items that cities deem important to be considered by the Municipal League to advance legislation. If anyone has anything that is a concern, by all means, get that to myself or Chris Gibson or the Mayor who also

chairs the Economic Development. I know that will be placed on next year's agenda, but they do consider everything that is turned in and put it before the entire Municipal League Board for consideration. As far as the sales tax fairness, they told us they are still pushing for the governor to be involved in that, but he thought that the Supreme Court will hear that case in June and will more than likely overturn that. That will probably be the best effort for cities. It is a problem nationwide.

Mayor Harold Perrin said that it was a great fair. Thanks to you Councilmember Mitch Johnson. I think it went real well and they had a huge attendance on Friday and Saturday nights. Councilmember Johnson said we had some good days and a few slow days.

Councilmember Bobby Long said he would like to apologize to Councilmember Gene Vance. I in no way meant to draw into question any Councilmember's integrity or intentions. Alderman Vance and the gentleman that spoke earlier are absolutely correct in the duties that aldermen are supposed to execute. I will execute my duties and my vote the way that I feel the citizens of Jonesboro would have us vote. Nor is my opposition a reflection of the quality or expertise of the elected officials that are sitting up here. I spoke with Mayor Perrin today and told him I think he is the hardest working Mayor I have ever come into contact with. We will look at the data and will vote appropriately.

RES-17:156

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TO THE METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING COMMISSION (MAPC)

Councilmember Chris Gibson stated that the Nominating & Rules Committee met earlier tonight. Councilmember Chris Gibson motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore, to suspend the rules and walk on RES-17:156. All voted aye.

Councilmember David McClain said he had a question. I'm struggling with this because it seems like we continue to appoint people that are not diverse by occupation, background, whatever it may be. It also doesn't seem like we have equal representation by wards. I would like for us to look at where we have equal ward representation as well as a background that looks like our city. Councilmember Chris Moore said that was duly noted. Mayor Perrin stated he prepared a statement he would like to read because he thinks it will clear up a lot of things. I think it is really about not knowing how the system works and how everything goes through there. When I prepared to replace Ron Kelton on MAPC, I knew I needed someone with credentials strong enough to fill a sizeable void because of Ron's experience. Ron had his own real estate company and even taught continuing education classes for real estate agents throughout the city and northeast Arkansas.

Obviously, I needed someone who has experience in the building process. I received three applicants, and two of those were qualified candidates.

Please understand that these committees such as MAPC require specific experience in the field they represent. They are not created, like council positions, to represent a wide swath of the community and or neighborhoods. We couldn't accomplish that even if we wanted to, simply because of the fact that I am not the only official who appoints members. The county judge makes three MAPC appointments, so the MAPC body isn't even composed entirely of Jonesboro residents.

That said, my nominee, Jeb Spencer, lives in Ward 1. Currently, on MAPC members, there is no MAPC member that lives in either Ward 1 or 2.

But, what is important is his resume. He is a contractor with 45 years experience in construction and restoration. He has attended many council meetings and advocated for preservation and beautification of the city. You've read his editorials in the newspaper supporting preservation of historic architecture. In his letter to me, he said he would use the lessons of traditional neighborhood building as we plan and build for the future. He said he would advocate for citizens directly impacted by MAPC decisions. And if he was asked to approve multi-family housing, would want evidence that its design and execution would enhance and help maintain existing nearby property values.

As it is my job to screen applicants and submit to you the one that is best, I am submitting to you the name of Jeb Spencer for our open position on the MAPC committee. There is some discussion on how you can do it by wards and stuff and you cannot do that at all. The MAPC now is comprised of representing every ward with the exception of 1 and 2. I believe this gentleman will be in ward 1. These committees are not set up like we are where you can't separate that through that deal. But, again, these are just things we have to go by through our bylaws and rules and state statutes.

Councilmember McClain said he understood the three county judge appointments, but he feels like on our end we could make a change and do something a little different next time. Mayor Perrin said if you have six wards and you have nine people and he puts on three, even if you said one on each ward, if you did it that way. If you do it by ward, you are going to have to look at what the individual is and the background and I think you made a point on that. And, I totally concur with that part. Even if you did it that way, you are still going to have one ward that could have two or even possibly three based on the county judge's appointments is what I am saying. It has been brought up and I haven't looked in depth in here, but the question is all the way back from the very beginning of the MAPC and I have to look at the way it was established. I am not for sure and I don't know why and maybe City Attorney Carol Duncan can answer that of why. I know the county judge appoints some of those because in the old law, you could go out five miles on your planning and rezoning and things of that nature. Things that are built in the county, certainly would not go by our codes, would not pass our codes. When you annex that, we, the city, the taxpayers of Jonesboro, will have a burden to bring all of that stuff up to standardization for that. I don't know if we can change that or not. I haven't had a chance to talk to her about that. I think it should be where the citizens of Jonesboro appoint the MAPC instead of outside in the county and that is just my opinion.

Councilmember Vance asked if the five mile boundary in the county had changed. We have never enforced that to my knowledge. Councilmember Street stated that the legislature changed it and it is two miles now. City Attorney Carol Duncan said it is two miles. Councilmember Vance said it is still outside of the city. I don't think we have the authority to reorganize without the county being a part of it. Mayor Perrin said that is why he is referring it to legal because he doesn't know. Ms. Duncan said the agreement for the joint planning cooperation was done based upon Act 26 of 1955. It established it pursuant to state law which had the membership made up of nine members from the city and three members from the county. As far as what state law requires, I would have to go back and look at that to see if there is a way to alter that. It was done by an agreement signed off on in 1966. Mayor Perrin said with your permission I would like for her to look at that and just see. I'm not saying we are going to change it. Councilmember Vance said there should be some additional enabling legislation that we could reorganize the planning commission to be a city planning commission and not a metropolitan area planning commission. Mayor Perrin said he

would have to yield to the lawyers on that. Anytime you have questions on that, feel free to call me or anybody in administration. We will get on that and I promise you we will get an answer. It may not be that day, but we will work as hard as we can to get it to you. That is what we are here for is to give you information and to tell you how everything works. We will be happy to do that.

Councilmember Long asked how many members of the MAPC are residents of Jonesboro. There are nine members of the MAPC. Mayor Perrin said six are appointed by the city and three are appointed by the county. Councilmember Long asked of those, how many have their residence in the city of Jonesboro. Mayor Perrin said the six that are appointed by the city have to live in the city. The three that the county judge appoints can live in the county. In fact, one of them lives in Bono. Some of those listed their business address so you don't know where they live. I have asked Mr. Campbell to check on this. We are going to correct that and get their exact location. It is something that we need to look at in 2017 and not 1966.

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

Aye: 10 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner and David McClain

Absent: 2 - Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Councilmember Chris Gibson stated that as a member of the Advertising & Promotions Commission, I want to thank everyone from the city and all of the volunteers that took part in the Downtown Barbeque Festival again this year. It was another very successful event and I commend you guys for all of your hard work. Mayor Perrin said thank you very much. I appreciate that very much. We had a great crowd. It was real quiet and it wasn't too loud.

Councilmember Chris Moore said on a positive note something to think about, we hired the Hyatt-Palmer group to do a study on Aggie Road on how we could develop that into more of a corridor more along the line of Dixson and Fayetteville. ASU anchors one end of that and the City of Jonesboro anchors the other end of that with the Wolverine property. I would like to suggest and maybe the Mayor and the Council will consider it. Let's have developers make proposals of what might go on that and let's consider giving that to a developer who will build something on that in line with the Hyatt-Palmer study. Mayor Perrin asked if Councilmember Moore was referring to the Wolverine property. Councilmember Moore said yes. I see no downside. We received that property for free. We cleaned it up with the Brownfield grant. We are the largest property owner on one end of Aggie and ASU is on the other. If we take the initiative to develop that property in line with the Hyatt-Palmer study, the middle will infill. We have no downside to putting it out to developers. Let them come to the Council and make a proposal and if there is one of them that looks like something the city would like to do, then let's give it to them. We are mowing it and taking care of it. Councilmember Street said that kind of goes along with the Land Bank that we are looking at. Councilmember Moore said I would wait until the Land Bank is developed, but this is a property that has special consideration. I would think that whatever happens to that property is going to set the tone for the entire Aggie Road.

Mayor Perrin said he wanted to give a quick update on that. He agrees with

Councilmember Moore. I am meeting with Chancellor Damphousse every month. Also, we were looking at the Pepsi place. They decided not to move their facility. On the other end, the University purchased some of that property on the corner and cleaned that up. We went and overlaid all of Aggie Road this year. I have no problem with that.

Councilmember Moore said that doesn't mean we have to take the proposal, but let's consider advertising statewide. Let developers come in and make a proposal on that property and we will take it up for consideration. Mayor Perrin said that is one of our connectivity's going through there. Councilmember Moore said I am just saying that if we develop one end and ASU develops the other then the middle will take care of itself.

Councilmember Vance stated to Councilmember Long that an apology is not needed. This is debate. This is what this is all about and healthy debate is good. Say anything that you would like.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

[play video](#)

Bob Hester, 7096 CR 333 Jonesboro, came to the podium to speak about the alcohol ordinance. Councilmember Chris Moore stated as a point of order, if you intend to talk about the alcohol ordinance that was discussed earlier, the rules do not allow you to bring that back up under Public Comment. Your opportunity to discuss that was when it was considered earlier on the agenda. Mr. Hester said nothing was said about public comments. Mayor Perrin said that you will have another time because it was only on the second reading. It will come back up in two weeks. Mr. Hester asked how he would have known. Councilmember Moore said when the Mayor said does anyone in the audience wish to comment on this. Mr. Hester said he didn't. Councilmember Frierson said yes he did. Councilmember Moore said he wouldn't argue that point, but at the next meeting, the Mayor will ask that question and you will have an opportunity and time for that for whatever comments you would like to make. Mr. Hester said that was fine and he didn't hear it. Mayor Perrin said he always makes a comment of any comments, any questions and that would refer to here as well as the audience. I will make it very clear and I will let you know.

11. ADJOURNMENT

[play video](#)

A motion was made by Councilmember Mitch Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore, that this meeting be Adjourned . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 10 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner and David McClain

Absent: 2 - Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

_____ Date: _____

Harold Perrin, Mayor

Attest:

_____ Date: _____

Donna Jackson, City Clerk