



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

PUBLIC WORKS COUNCIL 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 (ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE) INITIATED AND CONFIRMED BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

Present 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Absent 1 - Ann Williams

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, good evening council and I don't have it on the agenda tonight, but I would like to go ahead and make a special proclamation this evening. And, this is building safety month and obviously one of our director's is standing beside me, Tim Renshaw. He and his team do a wonderful job in our community and I want to say thank you for that, but that also goes into our other director's as well that have a lot to do with this. So, this proclamation says: Jonesboro, Arkansas is committed to recognizing that our growth and strengths depends on the safety and essential role of homes, buildings, and infrastructure play both in everyday life and when disaster strikes, our confidence is in the resilience of these buildings that make up our community. That is achieved through the devotion of vigilant guardians - building safety, fire prevention officials, architects, engineers, builders, tradespeople, design professionals, laborer's, plumbers, and others in the construction industry who work year around to ensure the safe construction of our buildings in our community. They are guardians. They are dedicated members of the Internal Code Council, a non-profit that brings together local, state, territorial, tribal, and federal officials who are experts to build, develop, and create and implement the highest quality of codes to protect us in buildings where we live, learn, work, and play. These modern building codes include safe guards to protect the public from hazards such as hurricanes, snowstorms, tornados, wildfires, floods, and earthquakes. Mission possible, the theme for Building Safety Month 2024 encourages us all to raise awareness about building safety on a personal, local, and global scale whereas each year in observance of Building Safety Month, people from all over the world are asked to consider the commitment to improve building safety, resilience, and economic investment at home and in the community and to acknowledge the essential service provided to all of us by the local and state building departments, fire prevention bureaus, and federal agencies

in protecting lives and property. So, I now, therefore, Mayor Harold Copenhaver, Mayor of the City of Jonesboro do hereby proclaim the month of May 2024 Building Safety Month. Tim, thank you so much for your service. Mr. Renshaw said, thank you Mayor. It is an honor. Mayor Copenhaver said, I appreciate you. Mr. Renshaw said, thank you.

[COM-24:016](#)

MASTER PARKS PLAN PRESENTATION

Attachments: [Jonesboro Summary Report Draft Pages 3.21.24](#)
[Jonesboro SDOH Plan final](#)
[Operational Assessment - Master Parks Plan April 2023](#)
[Jonesboro Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2024](#)
[Parks Conditions Assesesment](#)
[Indoor Recreational Facility Assessment](#)
[Recreational Programming Assessment](#)
[Access-Based Assessment](#)
[Jonesboro CC 05.07.24](#)
[Presentation 05072024 MPP](#)

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, before we begin his presentation, I know there were quite a few council members present at the last meeting that this was first presented publicly to a council committee. But I want to go ahead and state that I do want to speak on it again. Early last year we began this process of hiring an outside firm to take a subjective, thorough and creative look at our city parks, the structure of our parks department, and areas that we are lacking in recreation in the city. For many months, Halff & Associates' team has been working intensely on this matter, holding public meetings, meeting with our staff and our council members. Their goal has been not only to build a plan that they think will be successful, but also one that is shaped around the wants and needs they gathered in the research. This process has yielded a couple very clear results to me. We are blessed with an amazing park system in Jonesboro. Two, we have great park staff which performs well above average and is extremely efficient. Three, one that is not a surprise, we must invest in all parts of our community and are lacking public spaces in East and Northeast Jonesboro. It's going to take a lot of resources, partnerships to accomplish a lot. Similar to Junior Auxiliary and their huge financial support of a park in planning for East Jonesboro. As mayor, I am committed to following this plan should Council approve it. I've said it before, and many of you share this statement, we have to invest in the future of our city today if we want to retain our brightest young talent for tomorrow. Many of these pieces presented tonight will be represented in an upcoming Capital Improvement Plan. I do want to address some comments regarding aquatics and the sports complex I mentioned a few weeks ago. To be clear, this project is in the final planning stages. The cost estimates that have been released were for walled building, parking and site preparation. We are still gathering cost information for outdoor aquatic portion. We are hoping that the final building cost estimates will allow for partial or full funding of the outdoor aquatic portion. But if not, we are already working on alternatives to pay for this critical piece that I know that is very important to our community. So I will go ahead and turn it over to you, Danny, and we look forward to the presentation.

Parks and Recreation Director Danny Kapales approached the podium and said, thank you, Mayor. Appreciate it. Council, thank you so much for allowing us to be here today. I am really excited to be here today, really excited about this presentation. This plan has been a long time coming, not just the process of getting this plan this year. But honestly it's been a long time coming for many, many years. It's a plan that the city has needed just to move forward. If you look at the City of Jonesboro, we have

outgrown our park system. The boundaries of Jonesboro has continued to grow, but our park system did not. So by developing this plan and looking at our city as a whole, it gives us that opportunity to see those deficits. We look at our assets, but then we look at our deficits and now we are trying to figure out how to fill those deficits and make sure that all parts of our community can enjoy a park space, can enjoy green space, can enjoy a connective trail, a community center; and basically have something within our city that is theirs, that is their little part of the community that they can walk to and just enjoy with their children and with their friends and have that social quality of life, quality of place, as the mayor says. It's just a great opportunity for us to continue and look at the next 10 years and truly have a plan and have those needs taken care of. Working with Christian has been really a great opportunity for over a year now. Really, him bringing his passions that he's had working with a lot of communities in Texas and really being able to see what a lot of his communities have done. And some of them are very similar to Jonesboro, and see what their successes were in being able to follow what they have done. So at this point, I would like to bring Christian up and let him follow through with the plan.

Christian Lentz with Halff & Associates approached the podium and said, thanks so much, Danny, Mayor Copenhaver. Members of the council, thank you for having me again, and thank you for your patience. While our firm has a lot of talented planners and engineers that work on transportation, I am not one of those people. So when I get stuck in traffic, I usually behave like the rest of us. I might lose my composure for a minute or two. I'll stick to parks and that is what we will talk about this evening. For the benefit of the full Council, well actually for the benefit of the members of the Public Services Committee that I spoke with last week, you're probably going to be seeing pretty much the same presentation that you saw then. I've made a few changes. I've also tried to reduce the length of it down a little bit; but a lot of this information is information that many of you up there will already be familiar with. Certainly though, we recognize the Council has had about a week now to start looking through some of these documents. You might be a little bit more familiar than you were a week ago and have some additional questions for me that I didn't have the other evening when I spoke to the committee.

One point that I want to make is to remind everybody on Council that we're not just talking about one plan. We're actually talking about two plans. The Council ultimately would be asked to consider adoption of a full City Parks and Recreation Master Plan. But in addition to that, after the master planning process was started, we were also approached by the city to assist it with the preparation of a companion document, what is called the Health Accelerator Plan, a plan funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. So this evening I will talk primarily about the Parks and Recreation Plan, but I will also speak to what is contained in the companion Health Accelerator Plan as well.

So ultimately, as we had talked to the committee last week and conveyed, there was a number of very practical reasons why a city like Jonesboro or any community indeed wants to plan for the future of its parks and recreation system, not just for the residents of today, but for the residents of tomorrow, particularly when you are talking about population growth and trying to anticipate the needs and preferences of your residents and your future residents. But really two of the main reasons that we conduct the master planning process is we try to work with you to identify what is going to be your parkland and facility levels of service. How much parkland are you going to provide? What types of recreational facilities are you going to provide? How much of it and how are you going to distribute that to make sure that everybody in your community has the opportunity to participate in the amenities and the activities that

you're providing as a public park service provider? But also, we go through the planning process because we want to know what members of your community prefer. What sort of recreation investments do the residents of Jonesboro want you to be making? And we all know through any planning process that those needs or those preferences that your residents convey today are different than what they might have conveyed five or ten years ago. For the last couple of years, we've always used the example of pickleball. Who could have possibly foreseen that that would be something that has such a great demand today that just five years ago we were barely even touching in Parks and Recreation Master Plans?

So, the master planning process to Danny's point has taken a little bit over a year going through four phases beginning in the spring of 2023. The schedule of the plan itself was extended just a little bit because by the time we were finishing up the Parks and Recreation Master Plan at the end of this past year, that is actually when we were asked to when we were starting to prepare the Health Accelerator Plan. And while the vast majority of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan was complete, we did not want to complete the recommended work program, all the strategies and actions that were in that plan until we were also able to complete that companion Health Accelerator Plan, so that we made sure that the work programs and both documents aligned with each other. That Health Accelerator Plan purpose, as I indicated, it was funded by a grant from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and the intent of that type of grant that funds it and the intent of the plan is to community by community address one or more of the five social determinants of health, how you as a local government can make different types of investments, different changes to policies of the way you provide public services to improve the health outcomes of individuals in your community. When the city made application for this grant, the main objective of that grant application was to increase the accessibility of parks and recreational facilities specifically for people with disabilities. But in doing so, because we are talking about accessibility, because we are talking about improving the built environment in your community, improving social conditions in your community, we also recognize that the types of improvements that could be made to improve the accessibility to your parks and recreational facilities to those with disabilities, that those benefits could also extend to a lot of other individuals within your community, a lot of other populations within your community that might not historically have had the same level of access to parkland and recreational services as other members of your community.

So when it comes to your master plan, I think Danny had provided everybody with that big stack of documents over the last week; and so just to clarify, the plan itself, the final plan document, we try to make as lean as possible. We really try to make it a summary plan so that you can easily go in there, understand what is the overall vision of the community for Parks and Recreation and where is that work program. What are the recommended actions and steps that you as a community are going to take to improve recreational service delivery to your residents, and also what sort of investments are you going to prioritize when determining park improvements that you want to make, parkland acquisition, or the provision of additional recreational facilities? The plan itself cross references, as I had suggested, the Health Accelerator Plan. So the summary plan includes a work program that includes actions and strategies that you would also find where applicable in the Health Accelerator Plan. But in addition to that summary plan document, there is a whole stack of technical memoranda on conditions, on recreational facilities, on operations and other topics that provide a lot of other background information, more detailed information that is fed into the overall summary plan.

When it comes to public outreach for the plan, we worked under the oversight of a city

selected advisory committee throughout the planning process. We worked with focus groups. We had public information booths. We had access to an online community survey and to an interactive map. During the planning process, we had over 1,200 respondents to the community survey. You can see on the slide over 60 comments received back on the interactive map that was provided to the general public, and then over 135 participants at different public information booths, some of which were facilitated both by staff and house staff, but also other information booths that were subsequently hosted simply by Parks and Recreation staff. A total of six public information opportunities in total. All of that led to the creation of an overarching vision statement, and I never like to just read through an entire vision statement to a group during a presentation. So it all comes down to this. Providing a recreation system that is accessible to your residents includes quality services, includes quality facilities, includes a diverse set of recreational opportunities that are going to address the different types of interests that the residents in Jonesboro have. And also that results in what we call activated park spaces. And what we mean by activated is, when you go to a park, it's one of those parks where from sunrise to sunset, at any point in the day, you're going to see somebody that is utilizing, because there is something in that park that is catering to a different user group, a different age group, different population in your community.

We'll jump into some of the key recommendations and the work program of the plan. When we looked at the amount of parkland that the City of Jonesboro provides its residents per 1,000 residents, the City of Jonesboro actually provides a pretty good amount of parkland acreage. But when we look a little bit closer, and we look at really the three primary types of parks that are in a parks system. And let me clarify, parks that we have listed on the screen are not the only park types that are in a park system, but these are the three types of parks that form the backbone of any municipal park system. What we found is that the city of Jonesboro offers 8.9 acres per 1,000 residents of regional parks, and all of that is acreage that is in Craighead Forest Park and Joe Mack Sports Park. So although it's a lot of acreage, it's more regional park acreage than a lot of other communities around the country. Once again, it's acreage that is contained in two specific locations in Jonesboro. When we looked at community parks at 1.4 acres of community parks per 1,000 residents and neighborhood parks at 0.1 acres per 1,000 residents, we find that when we look at national medians, and the median outcomes of communities of similar size to Jonesboro, that actually the city provides less community parkland and less neighborhood parkland than other communities across the country. And when you provide fewer neighborhood parks, or even pocket parks, basically what is happening is you're providing as a community, people have less access to park system because you don't have smaller parks that are widely distributed throughout your community.

This plan recommends a target level of service for parkland in the future of eight acres per 1,000 residents, moving up to two acres per 1,000 residents of community parks and then one acre of neighborhood parks per 1,000 residents. And when we look at your population or projected population in 2040, you can see that in all three categories this plan suggests that there is additional parkland acreage that the city would need to acquire over time. One point I made to the Public Services Committee a couple of times in my presentation last week, and I will make it one more time here again for everybody on Council, and that is anywhere in this plan where we talk about target levels of service, we're always saying that those targets are advisory and they are aspirational. Or you can say they are aspirational and advisory. I am really making that statement more for the audience who is here in the room or listening on air, and that is, these types of plans, we are not saying that if you don't actually provide everything that this plan sets as a target that it is a failure. Actually, from our perspective, it's a

success if you have actually worked toward meeting those overall targets. If, in five years from now, ten years from now, your deficits in parkland acreage compared to the targets that are set have been reduced, that is success. When it comes to parkland though, we also consider not just the amount of acreage that is provided, but we also consider the idea of accessibility of your parkland acreage. And where is it? The proximity of your parkland compared to the residential areas of your community. And what we find when we look at a ten minute walkshed between your existing parks and residential areas of the community, that over 88% of your residential areas are outside of a ten minute walkshed of a park. And by being outside of a ten minute walkshed, we are essentially saying people are more inclined to get in a car to get to that park. Nonetheless, what we find is, because of that, there are some significant areas in Jonesboro where there is not that convenient access to a park, where it's really not possible to get on a bike and ride to that park. It's not possible to walk to that park space.

But when we look at those service area gaps though, we also consider other metrics like vulnerable populations or areas that have a higher population density or projected to have a higher growth rate. When we consider a variety of different metrics, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan recommends or prioritizes certain areas of the city where we say, you know, if you're going to acquire land for a new park, these are the areas you probably need to do so first. And that's not to say that these other service area gaps should be ignored; but we know if you've got a number of service area gaps in your community that it is not possible tomorrow to all of a sudden have in your budget the funds to purchase acres and acres of property for 12 new parks in your community.

Likewise, the plan talks about trails and your level of service for trails. Right now, you have just under 15 miles of multi-use trail in your city. About 26% of your residential areas are within a half-mile radius or a convenient bike shed of those trails. What this plan recommends is to continue to implement the plan that was adopted, I believe in 2018 that established or proposed the city-wide trails network of 79 total miles. When we went through the Parks and Recreation Master Planning process, we looked back at this plan and felt that there was no need to contradict that goal. The recommended trail network that is in that original plan is also being promoted in your Parks and Recreation Master Plan as your trailway goal in the City of Jonesboro.

In addition, and we won't jump into this too much, but ultimately, just like with parkland, your Parks and Recreation Master Plan also recommends targets for different types of common recreational amenities that you find in your community. So the plan provides the minimum numbers of things like playscapes, tennis courts, basketball courts, athletic fields, things of that nature that you should attempt to provide your community between now and 2040. The plan also included a conditions assessment of all of the parks in the Jonesboro Parks and Recreation system provided a system score generally saying that your overall park system conditions are above average, but also provided a series of park by park recommended improvements or maintenance projects as well. So Danny and others on staff have those specific lists of recommended baseline maintenance projects for each one of the parks in the city. The work program itself contains about 58 total recommended strategies or actions, and we will just jump into just a handful of those. One of the strategies and actions is to consider the adoption of a parkland dedication ordinance. We know that it's always much easier to acquire parkland as a required component of the land development process rather than retroactively going back and trying to purchase parkland as a municipal entity. We work with a number of communities throughout the area that have helped with the business to prepare parkland dedication

ordinances. It is a very, very common tool for growing communities to assure that some of their parkland target goals are able to be accommodated through the land development process just like you would require sidewalks and streets and other types of public infrastructure and facilities.

The plan also recommends that the City Council consider moving forward conceptual park plans. Conceptual park plans for future parks, but also over time conceptual park plans for some of your existing parks, so you have the opportunity to reimagine or reorganize how different types of amenities are arranged in those park spaces. These conceptual park plans are very important because it offers an opportunity for people that live in very close proximity to those park spaces the opportunity to actively say how they would like to see those parks specifically reimaged or the types of facilities that they would like to see added to those parks. But also by going through that process on a park by park basis, that offers you the opportunity to also anticipate the long-term maintenance and its operation costs of the specific improvements that you make in every single one of your parks moving forward.

The plan also recommends that you consider department restructuring. We found throughout the planning process that particularly when it comes to administrative staff, the City of Jonesboro's administrative staffing is much smaller than what you would find in a number of other communities. And the plan recommends possible reorganization including the appointment of two assistant directors and a couple other special positions that are cited, including an inclusive recreation coordinator and a volunteer coordinator as well.

And then finally we recommend, and of course, as you know, these are just a handful of the recommendations in the plan. But we recommend that the city consider an asset management plan. When I talked about the conditions assessment we conducted, that conditions assessment is kind of a reactive assessment. It goes out to your parks and it's a point in time evaluation of the conditions of those parks. But what a conditions assessment doesn't do is it doesn't provide you a full inventory of every asset you have in that park. And it also doesn't tell you, well, how long do you think that park bench can actually last? How long will that garbage can be in good condition? Can you anticipate when you put in that new playscape, what is the lifespan or the life cycle of that playscape? What an asset management plan enables you to do is to digitize every single one of those assets to be able to have a schedule on the expected lifespan of every single one of those assets. And then to proactively anticipate when replacement or renovation of those facilities needs to happen before they have gotten to a point where they have deteriorated to a condition where everybody's just telling you about it. So it enables you to anticipate that operations and maintenance budget in advance of things becoming dilapidated or in a dangerous condition.

Just a couple of other things that I wanted to touch on because these issues did come up last week when I spoke to the Public Services Committee. There are a number of priorities that are listed on page 56 of the work program. So while there are 58 overall strategies and actions, page 56 in the plan says, hey, these topics really should be considered priority topics. And a couple things to touch on that I hadn't already touched on. One is aquatic facilities. A gentleman brought up or was concerned that aquatics was not addressed. Well, this plan does recommend investment in aquatic facilities and aquatic programming as a priority and does include two strategies to that effect. Another gentlemen brought up the issue of, hey, you know, it's all well and good to build parks in neighborhoods so people are close to them, but that doesn't guarantee that people are going to be able to get there, that there is actually a safe

pathway to get from their home to that park. Well, to that end, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan recommends four strategies to talk about or recommend priority investments within the ten minute park walksheds and also make recommendations about building out your trail network. Likewise, the plan also includes a number of strategies about how you would add to or modify a recreational programming, and then with your Health Accelerator Plan includes six strategies on building an inclusive and adaptive recreation facilities, sort of like what you already have in the Miracle League Park, but doing that strategically throughout your park system.

One last thing about the plan I also wanted to address because we did have conversations about this last week and that is while you recommend that new parks should be built in specific service areas, but what are the specific recommendations there? Are you recommending specific locations or specific facilities? And the quick answer to that is no. This plan is a systems plan. And as a systems plan, we are just saying, look, these are areas where you are going to need to over time make investment. And so, when it comes to where these things should go, or what should be placed in future parks, the guidance can probably be just directed through to for specific actions. First off, I go back and say what the plan does is it says as a community here is how much parkland and here are the types of recreational facilities that we are recommending that the city tried to achieve between now and 2040. So that is first and foremost. There are parkland and recreational facility targets that are recommended. Then when it comes to the service area gaps, we've identified and prioritized where the service area gaps are, but when it comes to park acquisition, we know that the city is not going to have the money tomorrow to just start buying up property to build new parks. And because we know that is going to happen over time, we know that parkland acquisition in the location of where that is going to be is really going to be based on opportunities that we can't necessarily be aware of today. We also know that when it comes to where you might locate future parks, we would just recommend through the recommendations of the plan that it's done in a way to where you're trying to maximize the amount of residential properties that are within that ten minute walkshed. And when it comes to specific facilities that might be located within these future parks, we go back to the idea of conceptual site plans. And that is ultimately because we know that the hypothetical future park might not happen for another two years or another five years. At that time, go through the conceptual site planning process; and at that time, go back and ask the residents that are going to live directly adjacent to where that park is going to be located what specific amenities or facilities they want in that particular space. Because although this plan did include a process where we ask people throughout the city in general what do you want in your park system, that doesn't mean that people in a specific neighborhood want the same things that people in another neighborhood want within their park.

So that's the level and type of guidance that the Parks and Recreation Master Plan provides when it comes to where you build the parks and what you provide in them. There are simply other steps that you as a community would have to take when you're at that point where you're ready to actually purchase property or that you're actually ready to program a park space. Really quick, we'll just take a few minutes and talk about that companion Health Accelerator Plan. And that Health Accelerator Plan, remember. The focus of the plan was to increase accessibility to your park spaces and to recreational facilities primarily for persons with disabilities. So that particular planning process, in addition to the conditions assessment that was conducted as part of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, this planning process included an additional assessment on the types of pedestrian and bicycle facilities that are within or needed within each walkshed. It did a park by park assessment on ADA accessibility and

adjustments that might need to be made to improve ADA accessibility throughout your parks. And then in part, through tours that we took with members of city staff and Council to different communities in Central Texas and the Dallas/Fort Worth area, it included an evaluation of best practices in providing inclusive and adaptive recreation amenities and facilities. Ultimately the plan itself includes a series of recommended park investments. And it also includes two locations that are called, that we are referring to as accelerator parks. These are essentially two parks that have been identified where the plan is making recommendations that you essentially do kind of what you've done in Miracle League Park. You really have those park service hubs of future adapted and inclusive recreation, but you design them, you build them in a way to where you're adapted facilities are integrated with the same facilities that you might have for any able-bodied individuals. So you're creating this space of inclusivity where everybody belongs. Some people don't feel cast aside or told, hey, you've just got a specific place that you need to be.

The project types that are included in the Health Accelerator Plan include a range of walkshed enhancements, on-site improvements for ADA accessibility, and then system wide there are a series of adaptive recreation amenities that we recommend as core amenities that you as a community should consider over time incorporating into different park spaces throughout your system. The projects are divided between shovel ready projects, those that are up to \$10,000 that can actually be implemented in the very near term based on the budget that you have today. We've got much larger capital projects. We have projects that are pretty much park specific and then system wide projects as well. So you can see through this example spread that for every single one of these parks, we recommend a list of priority walkshed and accessibility improvements to those parks to improve that accessibility to inclusive recreation for individuals with disabilities. When it comes to the accelerator parks, the two parks that were focused on and chosen were Northside Park and also Allen / Landsbrook Park as well in an attempt to try to make sure that those amenities over time are spread out in different geographic areas of the city.

One last thing to talk about and that is plan implementation. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan recommends annual progress reports from Danny, so that you know exactly what progress is being made toward implementing the plan, that there is a five-year update where the entire work program is re-evaluated and adjustments are made accordingly, and that there are also different metrics that are recommended specifically that are included in the Health Accelerator Plan that can help Danny and others on staff when they are preparing their annual progress reports. There also was a leadership team of providers, individuals that provide for individuals with mental, social or physical disabilities that participated in the Health Accelerator Plan. That plan recommends their continued involvement in implementing the investment and policy recommendations in that plan. So with that, I would certainly be happy to take any questions you have.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I guess I was looking, I mean, the plan is conceptual, but I was also looking at direct phases that will be minted in like one phase, two phase. Is that not what you were a part of, or was that a financial thing that the Council has to address? Mr. Lentz said, are you talking specifically about the concepts for Northside Park and for Allen Park? Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, yes. Mr. Lentz said, yes, there are with those concepts, I don't have the numbers with me this evening, but there are accompanying overall cost estimates for both of those parks and recommended phases. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, and so that would be part of the recommended phases? Mr. Lentz said, yes, I mean the cost estimates are broken down by facility, by amenity, and likewise the different

amenities and facilities are broken down by phases.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, the transportation, you know, we talk a lot about walking; but because it seems like everything is so spread out now, was there inclusion for how we could program or reprogram our bus system? Mr. Lentz said, the bus system was definitely included in the walkshed assessments as part of the Health Accelerator Plan, and there are some recommended enhancements to the bus shelters and the bus access points to the parks. But, that plan did not necessarily address the actual bus routes themselves and how those might be adjusted.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I think that was basically what I meant. I guess the last question, you talked about the directorship and added personnel. I guess that would still be left up to the Council to approve something different; so are we adequate at this point, or not adequate? Mr. Lentz said, adequate is an extremely difficult question to answer. What I can say is that, compared to other communities, your staff has to maintain a significant amount more of park acreage per staff member than most communities. So if we use that metric as an example, that suggests that Jonesboro could benefit by more staff. One of the other metrics that I mentioned was when it came to the administrative staff. Other communities that we measure Jonesboro against have a larger administrative staff structure; and particularly that administrative staff structure is for the delivery of programs and things of that nature. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I asked that question because our staff, and I've addressed this personally, it's not to me a culturally integrated staff, and I think we need more to blend in with the city's structure, you know. And so I guess that's what I was wondering, were you addressing that to a point? Mr. Lentz said, I do want to clarify that the organizational chart that we show in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, one of our themes is to make sure that this plan is flexible for you the decision makers in the city. So we were very careful to say, look, the organizational chart that we have in there is an example. This is one way that could be structured.

Mayor Copenhaver said, and if I can add to that too, Councilman, just to kind of reiterate a little bit. In our travels, as we went to Texas and Round Rock and other communities, I'm just going to say matter of fact, our facilities are maintained in a much higher level than what I saw even though they might have had additional facilities in place. But the other side of that is they have a lot more programming available. They have a lot more individuals doing programming and that's what we need to do more of for the city. And so by learning what these other communities are doing, this is what we will be bringing to you off of what we learned from Halff & Associates in these tours. I would like to say, due to the detail of the nature of this, this is a very detailed product that we are seeing. So you know over the next several weeks if any council members would like to sit down and visit with Danny and myself and the Halff team, we would be more than willing to do that. And we will be bringing this back. We don't want to vote on it this evening. We will be bringing it back in a couple of weeks. We want this to be thought out very thoroughly so you can ask questions as Council.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, I have a question. Mayor Copenhaver said, go ahead. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, so with the Health Accelerator Plan, you mentioned the CDC grant opportunity. So was this grant, did you do the research to know when the RFPs are going out? Time frame and range and amounts and so on and so forth? Mr. Lentz said, this was a grant that we did not participate in securing. This grant was secured by city staff, and we were only asked after a period of time to assist city staff in implementing the requirements of that grant or fulfilling the requirements of that grant. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, so when you say city staff, we are talking about Jonesboro city, so we've already applied and we've already received that grant? Mr. Lentz said, yes. The Health Accelerator Grant

was a planning grant. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, how much was that? I don't remember. I'm sorry.

Chief Administrative Officer Brian Richardson approached the podium and said, I believe it was \$170,000. Does that sound about right? \$130,000 or \$170,000? We can double check that real quick. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, is that the CDC Social Detriments of Health Grant? Award amount was \$125,000, zero local match. This purpose is planning and scoping the Parks and Recreation accessibility. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, so follow up question, off the top of your head, Christian, based on your plan, do you remember what the cost estimate was to fulfill that Health Accelerator Plan? Mr. Lentz said, yes, again, I don't have the cost specifically for the two accelerator parks. But when it came to walkshed projects, we had a total of \$2.7 million worth of potential walkshed projects; and an additional \$3.9 million of potential access projects within all the park spaces.

Councilmember David McClain said, I have a quick question. One, will you provide this in Cliff's Notes to us? I would like to see this presentation that you made tonight, just comb through it a little more. I'm a Cliff's Notes kind of guy. But a couple of things I had questions about, and I think as we work through this, again, I would like to look through it. What would you say, and I guess you may answer like you answered Dr. Coleman, I don't know. But I will answer for you, Dr. Coleman. No, we don't have enough staff in the parks. But do we have, would you say our priorities should be walkshed and access? Mr. Lentz said, that is among the priorities. In fact, the Parks plan itself lists that. When I talked about page 56 that listed priority topics, that walkshed and access issue is among those priority topics that is recommended. Councilmember McClain said, what would you put at the top? And the reason I am asking is, I am a 'let's pick two things out that we can prioritize and let's get those done.' Mr. Lentz said, well, I will say the walkshed projects in the Health Accelerator Plan are listed according to priority. So there are already a number of projects in that plan that say, here's where you should start and go to the next. Councilmember McClain said, thank you.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I do have one other question. That walkshed, is that including Fire Departments, Police Departments, more personnel for the increase? Mr. Lentz said, no, sir. The walkshed simply is the proximity of the park space to our residential areas along a street sidewalk or other pathway. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, and I kind of understand that, but I guess in my head, when you're dealing with walkshed and the spread of all these facilities, that we're going to need to add to our Police Department and maybe Fire, areas of fire plugs or whatever you want to call it, you know, these type things. So that does add more to the cost from, I guess, an overall agenda of trying to deal with this whole plan, because we're going to have to protect people, you know? And I'm not sure how close facility-wise that some of these places will be as far as the landscape of homes and these type of things. Mr. Lentz said, well, a lot of those other topics would be typically addressed through a system plan for those topics specifically or as part of the city's comprehensive plan.

Councilmember Chris Gibson said, I've just got one quick question. You mentioned during the course of your presentation analytics regarding the maintenance and replacement of equipment. Danny and I have talked for several months now about a rolling renovation process for our park system. What does that generally look like in communities? Is it a five year rolling renovation? Is it a three year rolling renovation? Does it vary? Mr. Lentz said, it's going to vary. But ultimately, it's a GIS based asset management program, but once it is set up, whether you say it's going to be a rolling

five or three year basis, every year it resets. Every asset you add is going to be added into the network and that is added into the lifespan, the life cycle. Councilmember Gibson said, one other just real quick comment that kind of brings me back to an old topic. Talking about this walkshed and access, we've been talking about these impact fees for quite some time. We have that committee in place now, and some of that funding can be used for this. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you very much. We appreciate it. We will have some more questions for you. Travel safe, please.

Filed

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

Aye: 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

[MIN-24:037](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON APRIL 16, 2024

Attachments: [CC Minutes 4162024](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-24:038](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH CRAIGHEAD COUNTY TO LEASE SPACE IN THE JUSTICE COMPLEX BUILDING

Attachments: [Justice Complex Lease - Craighead County Addendum](#)
[Justice Complex Lease Agreement 2024 - 2027](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-034-2024

RESOLUTIONS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

[RES-24:013](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 501 Puryear St. Jonesboro, AR 72401; Parcel # 01-143133-20100

Attachments: [501 Puryear Boarding and Securing Affidavit](#)
[501 Puryear Boarding and Securing Returned Cert Letter](#)
[501 Puryear Boarding and Securing Returned Reg Letter](#)
[501 Puryear Inspection Report](#)
[501 Puryear Map](#)
[501 Puryear Pre-condemnation Notice Affidavit](#)
[501 Puryear Pre-condemnation Returned Cert Letter](#)
[WIN 20231117 11 02 48 Pro](#)
[WIN 20231117 11 03 39 Pro](#)
[WIN 20231117 11 03 45 Pro](#)
[WIN 20231117 11 04 30 Pro](#)
[WIN 20231117 11 06 12 Pro](#)
[WIN 20231117 11 06 15 Pro](#)

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: 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

[RES-24:037](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS REQUESTING CITY WATER AND LIGHT (CWL) TO PROVIDE A CONTRIBUTION TOWARD THE PURCHASE OF A NEW FIRE TRUCK FOR THE JONESBORO FIRE DEPARTMENT

Councilmember John Street asked to be recused from RES-24:037 due to his position on the CWL Board.

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

Aye: 10 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

Recused: 1 - John Street

Enactment No: R-EN-035-2024

6. NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

[RES-24:032](#)

A RESOLUTION SCHEDULING A HEARING ON THE APPROVAL OF A REZONING REQUEST FOR 5415 SOUTHWEST DRIVE, JONESBORO, AR

Attachments: [Appeal Letter](#)
[Zoning Application](#)
[Zoning Mail Receipts](#)
[Zoning Plat](#)
[Staff Summary 1](#)
[MAPC Meeting Minutes](#)

Councilmember Chris Moore asked to be recused from all matters involving RES-24:032 because Jeremy Moore is his brother.

Councilmember David McClain said, I have a question about this one Mayor. And, Carol, maybe you can clear it up for me. I just wanted to get some clarity. So, setting a hearing for them to come to us and ask us to overturn or review. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, basically, this is an appeal of the denial. Councilmember McClain said, okay. I guess I don't know if I should ask this question later or not, but was there something that they felt..? I don't know if Derrel can speak to it or who wants to speak to it. Was there something that you felt or, I don't know, that wasn't presented that maybe we should even look at? Ms. Duncan said, I am presuming that they presented a packet of information as to why they felt the decision was incorrect that would be on your agenda for next time. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, that would be part of the hearing. Ms. Duncan said, that would be part of the hearing agenda. Councilmember McClain said, I was trying to get some understanding around it. I don't recall us having one of these in a long time. Ms. Duncan said, it has been a minute. Councilmember McClain said, yeah, it's been a really long time. So, I wanted to understand exactly what they felt was missing or..? Ms. Duncan said, I don't know. I have not read their packet, but I think that will be provided. It may already be on there. City Clerk April Leggett said, it is on the agenda, their appeal letter. Councilmember McClain said, alright. Councilmember Hafner said, I remember from the past, it's about, we needed to decide if MAPC erred in their application of the code. Ms. Duncan said, of the code essentially, correct. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman asked, will that hearing be on the 21st? Ms. Duncan said, yes, at 4:30 p.m. Councilmember LJ Bryant said, Mayor, is that the same day we have Public Services, Chairman Gibson? Councilmember Chris Gibson said, it is. However, I'm not going to be available unless there is anything added to the agenda that I am unaware of, we are probably going to postpone that meeting.

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

Aye: 10 - Brian Emison;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

Recused: 1 - Chris Moore

Enactment No: R-EN-036-2024

[RES-24:041](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO ACQUIRE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 507 WEST WOODROW STREET FROM THE PROPERTY OWNER, GWB RENTALS, LLC

Attachments: [507 W. Woodrow - Appraisal](#)
[507 Woodrow Donation Application](#)
[Plat - 4E](#)

Councilmember Joe Hafner asked, I have a question Mayor. My main question is can someone from the Land Bank or Planning office just let us know what about this property, what about acquiring this property is beneficial for the city? Mayor Copenhagen said, Monica, can you please come forward. Ms. Percy said, absolutely. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you. Senior Planner Monica Percy said, so this property came across our desk in the form of a donation and we have previously accepted, I believe, three other properties along this same street. This lot is currently vacant so it could be a potential use for a park. There are several houses in that area so that could be a potential use. Councilmember Hafner said, thank you. I just think it is important to have that in the record. Councilmember David McClain asked, while she is there, I'm sorry. So, you have said we have acquired a few other ones. Are they all touching it in a row right there? Ms. Percy said, they are not. They are farther to the east of this property. Councilmember McClain asked, you said, we have three of them? Ms. Percy said, we do. Councilmember McClain said, okay. Are we looking to trade to try to create a park of some sort or what are we...? Ms. Percy said, we are not into the planning process yet. I know we have discussed it with the Land Bank. It is still an ongoing discussion. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman asked, help me if you would, thank you Mayor. So, the appraisal, I see one thing that says \$10,000 and the other one says \$15,000. What is the consensus on that? And, is that what we are purchasing it for potentially? Ms. Percy said, so it is a donation. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, so it is a donation. I didn't see that on there. Ms. Percy said, part of the requirement is to get an appraisal and it did come back at \$10,000, but again, it is a straight across donation. Councilmember Hafner said, they have to have it valued for taxes. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, I understand that, but it doesn't say. Okay, I didn't see that part. Ms. Percy said, I have a copy here if you would like the appraisal. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, I have it.

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

Aye: 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

Enactment No: R-EN-037-2024

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-24:011](#)

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

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-24:011 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

[ORD-24:014](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 TO C-3, LUO FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4002 MT. CARMEL ROAD AS REQUESTED BY

HORIZON LAND SURVEYING ON BEHALF OF RICK WHITE

Attachments: [Application](#)
 [Rezoning Plat](#)
 [Cert Mail Receipts](#)
 [Adjoining Property Owner Notification](#)
 [Signs](#)
 [Staff Summary](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Mitch Johnson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-24:014 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS*ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING*

[ORD-24:012](#) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM I-1 & I-1 LUO TO C-3 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2800 INDUSTRIAL DRIVE.

Attachments: [Cover Letter](#)
 [Rezone Application](#)
 [ALTA SURVEY](#)
 [Vicinity Map](#)
 [Vesting Deeds](#)
 [Mail Receipts](#)
 [Signs](#)
 [Staff Summary-CC](#)

Held at second reading

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-24:006](#) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 6-30 CLARIFYING REQUIREMENTS TO GET A NEW OR CHANGING ALCOHOL PERMIT ON THE COUNCIL AGENDA

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

Aye: 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

Enactment No: O-EN-014-2024

[ORD-24:010](#) AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF JONESBORO AND CRAIGHEAD COUNTY, ARKANSAS FOR THE

PURPOSE OF CONTINUING THE SHARED EXPENSES OF CRAIGHEAD COUNTY JONESBORO PUBLIC LIBRARY OF ARKANSAS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Attachments: [County Interlocal Library 2024](#)
 [Craighead Cty Judge_20240401_151423](#)

Councilmember Chris Gibson motioned, seconded by Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman, to amend ORD-24:010. The amendment is as follows: "The City and County Administration are requested to meet and discuss the matter further and return to the Council with a more specific agreement for consideration that sets out the duties and responsibilities of all parties including appointment of library board members. This agreement should be presented back to Council as soon as possible, but in no case should it be any later than May of 2025." A voice vote was requested: AYE - Janice Porter, Brian Emison, Dr. Charles Coleman, Chris Gibson, John Street, Mitch Johnson, Joe Hafner; NAY - Chris Moore, LJ Bryant, Dr. Anthony Coleman, David McClain. Ann Williams was absent. The tallied vote was 7 AYE and 4 NAY. The amendment passed.

Mayor Copenhaver said, council, I will just bring you up to date and we have had discussions on this and I know the floor is open on that this evening. Judge Day, Carol, and I have met and we have also discussed some options available. But, we are here tonight to kind of hear what you all would like to do. I think Councilman Gibson is well aware too. And, we have several options. We have an option to vote on it this evening or make a motion to amend that for a later date. So, I am going to open the floor up to council.

Councilmember Janice Porter said, Mr. Mayor, I would like to make some points please. First of all, Jonesboro residents pay the same 1 mill property tax to support the library as do those who live outside the Jonesboro city limits. There is no direct funding for the library coming from Jonesboro's general fund. Secondly, Craighead County government provides rent free the building which houses the Jonesboro library. Three, Jonesboro residents benefit disproportionately because the flagship library is located within the Jonesboro city limits. Four, Jonesboro citizens vote for the County Judge and members of the Quorum Court. Five, the current split of four directors appointed by the County Judge and three appointed by the Mayor of Jonesboro is not unfair to the citizens of Jonesboro. Six, I believe that this controversy is motivated by desire to punish the County Judge for appointing directors who are willing to make reasonable accommodations to assist parents in protecting the innocence of their children. There is also a desire to punish the rural voters for exercising their right to vote in a way that displeases those spearheading this effort. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you for your comments.

Councilmember Chris Moore commented, I would just say that my comments and not to argue with Ms. Porter, my comments are that the majority of the people in the county live here in the city. The majority of the property tax that funds the library comes from here in the city and I would think that we ought to have an agreement that outlines how many positions on the board. This agreement doesn't outline who has what positions. I would just ask that be clarified and I would ask that with the majority of the people living in the city and funding it, that we should have the majority of the seats on that board.

Councilmember John Street asked, Carol, what did you say the last time about the time? Is it going to be reconsidered in five years? City Attorney Carol Duncan said, so, I mean the agreement is only for five years. So, what we determined is that an interlocal agreement was passed between the city and the county in like the 40's.

Back then, there was no rule on how long an interlocal agreement could last. So, that trucked along until sometime in the 70's. All that was passed was a resolution or ordinance that basically just said that we want to keep doing what we did in 1948. It did not have a new interlocal agreement attached to it. There is some confusion about whether there could have been another one after that, but the library, the city, nor the county has a copy of it. So, the discussion was that with the new passage of the law that says interlocal agreements have to be reaffirmed every five years, that we needed to get something on the books just to keep the status quo. That was the initial discussion with the county. In order to not have any concerns about the Collector's Office and paying out that millage without a legal interlocal agreement in place, that was the initial concern. In our meeting, I think we all agreed that we need to readdress this interlocal agreement. There was a discussion of adding some language to this ordinance that says that you all are requesting that we come back in a period of time that would still pass it today, but that was the discussion in our meeting, that would pass it today, but just that you are asking us to meet again, come back. There are a lot of things that are not in that interlocal agreement that I believe should be there. Of course, the makeup of the board. I think that the county's smaller cities that have branch libraries are donating space and electricity and things like that to host those libraries, that is not written anywhere as that's an agreement. I think they should potentially be parties to this interlocal agreement because those cities are expending funds towards the library by donating space and donating electricity, whatever they are donating. But, see, that is not written down in any agreements. So, I think there are a lot of different issues that may require bringing other mayor's to the table to have a conversation about how it should look. I do think that there are some legal, I will say that myself and the county attorney maybe disagree a little bit on what the laws says about who appoints the board, but that is another thing we need to hammer out and discuss. But, I think there is some legal authority that gives the mayor the authority to appoint the board, but I think, you know, what that is going to look like and where those appointees are going to come from and whether small town mayor's might have the authority if they have a branch library that they are donating space for to participate in some way the appointing of the board. We just don't know what that is going to look like. And, we decided it was pretty complicated and it was going to take a little bit to get all of those people to the table. So, that is where we left it.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman asked, if there are appointments, will the city council vote for those appointments or will somebody be appointed without the city council knowing? Ms. Duncan said, I believe that it is just like any other board that the Mayor appoints, that he nominates and you all approve the appointment. I think that is the way that we have always done it. So, ultimately, council approves the appointment, is the way that we have always done it.

Councilmember LJ Bryant asked, Mayor, a question for Carol, what the deadline here that the county is under, under state law to get this thing approved? Ms. Duncan said, well, I mean the deadline passed a long time ago because the deadline was whenever that law passed and I don't remember what the date was on that that said interlocal agreements have to be re-upped every five years. Like, I think this has brought that to the attention and there are a lot of interlocal agreements we need to look at and make sure that they are up to speed. One that popped in my mind is I think JPD and the Sheriff's Department has an agreement that if something bad happens in the city or something bad happens in the county, they will work together on that. We probably need to make sure that agreement has been signed within the last five years. We have one of those with Greene County and Paragould. Like, we have those interlocal agreements out there. This law is just relatively new. It's not brand new. It just kind of slipped under the radar and then all of a sudden we started realizing we need to look at

all of these interlocal agreements. And, so, we are just pulling them in one by one and going through them and trying to make sure they are within the last five years. That's kind of where it started.

Councilmember Moore said, and, that is my point. My point is if we have got to bite the bullet and having an agreement, let's have an agreement and we will, instead of punting it down the road five years with no responsibilities outlined. I mean, I don't care what the final number we come to, I just want the duties and our responsibilities outlined. And, it will be the same argument that I will eventually make on the jail agreement. I just want to know what our responsibilities are going to be and I want a written contract. That's all that I am asking.

Councilmember McClain asked, Mr. Moore are you done? I'm sorry, I didn't mean to cut you off. Chris, I didn't know if you were finished, I didn't mean to cut you off. Councilmember Moore said, oh, no. Councilmember McClain said, okay. Carol, as our attorney, what do you suggest? Should we wait, get this right the first time instead of trying to redo it the second time, the third time, I mean I know things change, but at the same time, should we go ahead and get it cleaned up and lined out now versus...I would rather wait, get everything lined out, know where we are, know what the duties are, know how many numbers we have, instead of well, we will come back in six months. Ms. Duncan said, I mean, I think it's whatever the desire of the council is. However, I do think that it is going to take some time to work out all of those details and the risks that it runs is does someone challenge the ability of the Collector to pay that millage to keep the library running if we don't have a legally valid interlocal agreement. And, if they make that challenge, would the collector be forced to not pay that money and I can't answer those questions. I don't know what a court would say about that because right now, based upon that law, our interlocal agreement is old. Councilmember McClain asked, so how do we, how can we guarantee if we pass this tonight that we would get the agreement written out like it should be? Councilmember Chris Gibson said, I think that the amendment that I am going to propose tonight will take care of that. Councilmember McClain said, okay gotcha. Councilmember Gibson said, but I want to hear all of the discussion before I put it on the table.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, I've got a comment Mayor. I am kind of in agreement with Councilman Moore and hearing McClain, I think we ought to just wait. It's just too much on the table that we should consider before just signing something. Because from my understanding, you can correct me Carol, that the agreement now that we are supposed to be voting on is very similar to the old one anyway. Ms. Duncan said, it maintains the status quo. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, right, so, I would say we hope that they are able to share that there those monies and release them. But, I'm with Mr. Moore. I think we ought to wait.

Councilmember Gibson said, I just want to say that I have met with city and county administration and I would like to put this amendment on the table for consideration. I would like to move that we add the following paragraph: "The city and county administration are requested a meeting and discussed the matter further. And, return to the council with more specific agreement for consideration that sets out the duties and responsibilities of all parties including appointment of library board members. That this agreement should be presented back to council as soon as possible, but in no case should it be any later than May of 2025. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman asked, is that a motion? Councilmember Gibson said, yes. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I second.

Councilmember Moore asked, what was the timeframe Mr. Gibson? Councilmember

Gibson said, May 2025. That gives them one year. Councilmember Moore said, okay. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman asked, and you are saying one year for a lot of those questions that we had and comments that were made, but does that still according to this amendment, push this agreement forward? Is that what I am hearing? Mayor Copenhaver and Ms. Duncan shake their heads in agreement and say yes. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, okay, I just want to get clarity.

Councilmember Porter asked, a question whether will we still be vulnerable if challenged in court? Ms. Duncan said, this would pass the interlocal agreement as it sits right now that is pending, just with the amendment to our ordinance asking that everybody go to the table and come back by May at the latest with a more specific agreement. Councilmember Porter said, thank you. City Clerk April Leggett asked, does the amendment make the ordinance go back to a different reading? Ms. Duncan said, so we had a discussion about that. The amendment does not change the interlocal agreement that is being asked to be passed, so I don't think so. It is just setting a timeframe on coming back to the table with something else. My understanding is everyone is, I don't have a reason to believe everyone is not acting in good faith on this. I mean, it seemed to be, everyone wants to hammer this out. It's just the concern about the funding of the library in the meantime. But, it is ultimately the council's decision.

Councilmember McClain stated, so you said you feel everybody is acting in good faith. They will come back and have a conversation. If something changes, then what? Ms. Duncan asked, what do you mean? Councilmember McClain said, because if the county decides well, we are not going to come back and have the conversation, then our amendment is what? We can't force them. Ms. Duncan said, I think, maybe, right because I think that there are some statues that when I said that the county attorney and I disagree on a few things in the law, I think I have an argument that gives the Mayor more power of appointing the board based on statute. Councilmember McClain said, okay. Ms. Duncan continued, but she seems to believe it doesn't. So, that's where we need to have a conversation. But, I think that that could push the interlocal agreement back if they are not acting in good faith. But, I believe they are.

Councilmember Moore said, I felt like you Mr. McClain. I thought there was nothing that would push this forward. I thought that we will simply be here in five years. I don't, I mean, the amendment, I understand the amendment, but I don't see a clause in there that requires them to propose something we will agree to as opposed to if we make the agreement now without ratifying the eventual agreement that will bring it to a head. I mean, if we work out the details on the front end, we're going and approve the agreement, then you have to wait to see what's inside then there we will be.

Councilmember McClain said, I am along the lines of I think we wait. I know, Chris, you just made an amendment motion. However, I would like to see us spell this out before we, again, get it right the first time. Because there are other agreements we need to spell out and clean up and this is really going to set the precedent for the rest of those. Ms. Duncan said, well, I don't, most of those are not with the County Judge. There are a couple. But, I mean, I am talking about agreements with a variety of different people. So, when I say there are other agreements we need to work on, it's not like a package deal that we will be sitting down with the county. It is a variety of different people that we need to do interlocal agreements with.

Councilmember Moore said, so option B would be to postpone temporary for a fixed amount of time and then let them work on the agreement and then come back and take our chances that if somebody might challenge the funding mechanism, but I

would think that even if you did that, in court, I would think we could have the agreement worked out in less time. Ms. Duncan said, well, and I am going to make a point of order on we are discussing the amendment right now, the motion to amend the ordinance, not whether to pass the interlocal agreement. Councilmember McClain asked, on the amendment? Ms. Duncan said, on Chris's amendment is what we are discussing right now, not the overall interlocal agreement. It is two different votes. Councilmember McClain said, okay.

Councilmember Joe Hafner asked, Chris, Mr. Gibson, do you feel like in your conversations with the Mayor and Judge Day, do you feel like they had a genuine commitment to sit down and get something worked out? Councilmember Gibson said, I do, from both parties. And, I really feel that they are going to work on this, but I don't think it is going to be a quick fix. I think it is going to take six or eight months for them to get everything ironed out. Councilmember Hafner said, thank you. Ms. Duncan said, and the reason doesn't say shall on this amendment is because we can't order the county. You all can order the Mayor and myself to go and look at it and we are committed to do that. Councilmember Hafner said, you have a gentleman's agreement. Ms. Duncan said, yes, but you can't order the County Judge. Mayor Copenhaver asked, can we sever an interlocal contract at any time? Ms. Duncan asked, at any time? Maybe? I mean, I would need to look at it. I think there would have to be terms and reasons for it. But, again, I point back to, I think there are some statutes that might give us some authority there.

Mayor Copenhaver asked, Chris, would you like to restate your amendment since there was discussion. Councilmember Gibson said, sure. The City and County Administration are requested to meet and discuss this matter further and return to the Council with a more specific agreement for consideration that sets out all duties and responsibilities of all parties including appointment of library board members. That this agreement should be presented back to Council as soon as possible, but in no case should it be any later than May of 2025. A voice vote was requested: AYE - Janice Porter, Brian Emison, Dr. Charles Coleman, Chris Gibson, John Street, Mitch Johnson, Joe Hafner; NAY - Chris Moore, LJ Bryant, Dr. Anthony Coleman, David McClain. Ann Williams was absent. The tallied vote was 7 AYE and 4 NAY. The amendment passed.

Mayor Copenhaver stated, so that amendment does carry. So, next we will move onto the ordinance itself. Any discussion by Council? I see none. Anyone in Council Chambers. I see none as well. Would you please cast your ballot? City Clerk April Leggett questioned whether anyone had made the motion to adopt the ordinance, not the amendment. Councilmember Hafner said, I think when she originally read it. I think Mr. Street did and maybe Mitch. Ms. Duncan said, that is a good question. I don't remember. (Checking through the video and audio, no motion was made before this point to adopt this ordinance.) Councilmember Chris Moore said, if not, I will make a motion to adopt so we can vote. Ms. Duncan said, I honestly don't remember. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, second. Mayor Copenhaver said, we do have a motion to adopt the amendment. Councilmember McClain and Ms. Duncan said, it is the ordinance. Mayor Copenhaver asked, if you would please cast your ballot. The ballot was cast electronically with the following votes: AYE - Janice Porter, Brian Emison, Dr. Charles Coleman, Chris Gibson, John Street, Mitch Johnson, Joe Hafner; NAY - Chris Moore, LJ Bryant, Dr. Anthony Coleman, David McClain. Ann Williams was absent. The tallied vote was 7 AYE and 4 NAY. The ordinance passed.

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Moore, seconded by Councilperson Joe Hafner, that this matter be Passed as Amended. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 7 - Brian Emison;Chris Gibson;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Janice Porter;John Street and Charles Coleman

Nay: 4 - Chris Moore;David McClain;Anthony Coleman and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

Enactment No: O-EN-015-2024

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported on the following:

As I closed the last City Council meeting with a teaser, the city's new Communications Director, this week I want to begin our meeting by introducing Ms. Donna Malone. I think everybody has met her now. We had a wonderful meet and greet by the media last week and I must say it was very impressive with the turnout. We had more than several dozen from the community show up for that. And, so, I think that gives her what she brings to the table and we are looking forward to her and her team. So, we are thrilled to have her back in Jonesboro. Also, with the Communications Department, Community Engagement and Marketing Coordinator Lynette Hirsch was named the City Employee of the Month for May. It was with great surprise. She typically coordinates this, but we surprised her with the award today. So, I want to say thank you to First Security Bank for hosting this salute to the city award and gifts to help our city employees feel appreciated in their hard work.

After the last City Council meeting, myself and other members of the staff joined Mark Young and other representatives from the City of Jonesboro from various local industries in our annual D.C. fly-in trip. I want to say that I appreciate Senators John Boozman and Tom Cotton and Congressman Rick Crawford for taking time to meet with the group and of course with us individually. You know we keep them updated with hot topics that are going on not only in Jonesboro, but it is important as well we know what is going on there. We continue to share our priorities and projects that we have focused on for several years. And, so, I want you to understand that projects that we discussed in 2023, some became a reality in 2024 and hopefully even more so in 2025. It's those continued partnerships though that they see us every year. We also reached out to a good friend of mine, Congressman Bruce Westerman, also in asking him and bringing him up to date things that we are doing in our city as well in Jonesboro. So, working with our state and federal delegates is key to bringing dollars back to Jonesboro. I know sometimes grants and appropriations seem like they take a long time to develop, but they are a key tool for our representatives to support our region and we want as much back here as we can get. I know both federal and state delegations will continue to do everything in their power to support initiatives discussed during our meetings and will continue to bring new industry to Jonesboro, increase our focus on public safety, and invest quality of place right here.

Speaking of quality of place, the St. Bernards Healthcare Surgical Department expansion cut the ribbon, allowing for 18 surgical rooms with 12 different surgical specialties to take place right here in our city.

The city officially opened the 13+ miles of soft surface trails at Craighead Forest Park. With the First Gentleman Brian Sanders in attendance. He was among one of the first to ride. Sanders commented, this is his quotes: "I travel all over the State of Arkansas and there are few communities in this state that have as much going on for it as the City of Jonesboro does. Northeast Arkansas is on fire right now and Jonesboro is

getting all of the big things right.”

National Public Safety Telecommunications Week celebrated April 14th through the 20th, reminds of us of the hard work and dedication of our 911 dispatchers. Thank you to Ronnie Sturch, the 911 Director, and the entire department for your service to our city. We honor the public safety telecommunicators for their commitment to service and sacrifice.

Our Citizens Fire Academy completed their very first nine week session for residents to learn about fire fighting and participate in behind the scenes firefighter experiences this past week. Thank you to the eleven who participated and to our outstanding Fire Department for producing a new program for our residents. We even have our first graduate in this room I believe is Ms. April Leggett. So, she completed the fire wall, fire training, and certified name on her back coat. So, that is awesome April. Thank you. We also celebrated two of our own firefighters who retired from the Fire Department last month, Captain Pipkin and Frankie Cox, honoring their service and sacrifice to our city.

Folks, once again, we collected thousands of used eclipse glasses at City Hall in an effort to reuse and recycle, lessening the amount of glasses being thrown away and giving the opportunity to give back, something that the Jonesboro community is known for. Partnering with our local schools, we collected eclipse glasses that were sent to Eclipse Glasses USA to provide a safe viewing experience for Latin America in October.

The city participated in the Touch-a-Truck with 25+ city vehicles and many city employees who spent the day engaging with the community during the family friendly event. And, I must say, as I have come to know many of the city employees, they spend their dollars. They buy candy with their own money. They take their own time and dedication to be out there for our community and they love every bit of it. I am very proud of our employees.

On the same day, the Earth Day Extravaganza hosted at the Craighead County Library to keep Jonesboro Beautiful and the Mayor's Youth Advancement Council handed out free trial leaf bags and other activities to celebrate Earth Day.

The May Monthly Neighborhood Cleanup located behind Annie Camp Junior High School in Scenic Hills was another huge success with over five roll-offs and two knucklebooms filled. The efforts of our Code Enforcement and Sanitation Departments as well as Keep Jonesboro Beautiful are always appreciated. Thank you to the residents for participating in making this collection a success. Mark your calendars for the next cleanup that will happen June 1st at the Fisher United Methodist Church.

There will be a low-cost pet vaccination clinic from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on May 18th. Be sure to register by noon May 15th to secure your pet vaccinations for only \$10. This program serves the community so well. We are thankful for a partnership with NAFA Rescue as well as time and care from Dr. Laura Dacus who puts into this monthly effort.

May is full of celebrating the many accomplishments of youth in our community. The Mayor's Youth Advancement Council celebrated with a picnic to send off the graduating seniors as well as welcoming the new upcoming members. We are now at 81 members strong in the MYAC.

The Youth Fishing Derby at Craighead Forest sponsored by the Optimist and Elks Club was an amazing example of partnerships. They gave away fishing gear, tackle boxes, fishing poles to any youth that was interested.

Today I was able to celebrate with our seniors graduating from Ridgefield Christian School, presenting them with city coins and their Arkansas Scholarship Certificates. And, youth from Nettleton also visited the office this afternoon to thank us for our partnership with our community events. All examples of how important it is for us to engage our youth in the community.

As we close, please remember and keep Representative Jack Ladyman's wife Linda in your prayers as she has had a medical emergency. We want them to know that they have our love and support during this time.

We are looking at Thursday, May 16th at noon for our first Impact Fee Committee meeting. I will get out official invitations out tomorrow. So, members of that, please look forward to that coming your way.

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, it's Mental Health Awareness Month and so I want to thank all of our mental health workers and staff and all that do a great job in our city and communities. But, I also wanted to say "Happy Mother's Day" to all of the mothers, this coming Sunday. So, I know we won't be in session next week, but "Happy Mother's Day" to all the moms. Brownie points.

Councilmember David McClain said, ditto on the "Mother's Day."

Councilmember Chris Gibson said, I'll be really brief. I was at the city pool the other night and there was a group of youth between the pool and Southwest Church of Christ and there was quite a commotion over there and some of the parents were asking me if they were fighting. So, I walked over to see what was going on and there was a group of youth that were engaged in fighting and filming and I just want to thank the PD for their quick response to that call. I think it saved some kids from getting really hurt. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Councilman.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, Brian, you are invited on May 18th to the Fish Fry. We will have the Community Fish Fry from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Mayor has already talked about June 1st cleanup. I also want to thank all of those who contacted me during my sister's death. I particularly want to thank the Chief of Police for helping protect my house while I was gone. So, I am back in town, thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you.

Councilmember Janice Porter said, just on a personal note, I would like to say that I have six grandchildren who live here. And, just in the last couple of weeks, there has been touch-a-truck which my grandchildren absolutely loved and were sad when it was over. The Delta Symphony Orchestra had a Star Wars themed concert which my older grandchildren really enjoyed. It was a great experience. And, the Forum regularly presents family friendly entertainment. And, we are just blessed to have all of that here. Thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you for your comments.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Marilyn Copeland, 1602 Honeysuckle, said, and I didn't come prepared tonight to talk to you, but after the presentation, I just wanted to say I've lived here since I was 16 and I am not going to tell you how many years that was, but I have been a lifetime resident just about of Jonesboro and very proud of that. My background is education, but right now, I am teaching mental health first aid. So, I am very busy this month with that. But, what I just want to say, I really believe our parks is so important. I have grandchildren here too like Janice and being an educator I see that we've got a lot of kids going home after school that don't have a place to go to. And, if we can present programs that they can go to after school, you know there are a lot of families that everybody is working or they are not there during the day. I am fortunate that my children stayed here in Jonesboro and they are part of the community and I have my grandchildren here. But, there are five of my friends, we all graduated together and none of my friends children stayed here. And, I can tell you one of them has a lawyer, the other one has a physical therapist, the other one has a surgeon, a professor, a banker-investments, and journalism. And, all of their children have gone somewhere else and they don't have their grandchildren here like I do. So, I am just saying I think the parks gives us an opportunity to keep young families here and professionals here as we grow and I think it is so important and I love the idea of the plan. I have been on Parks and Recreation board for 15 years. I have been under three different park directors. We have had more progress in the last four years and I am not taking it away from the other directors. There were things that tied their hands. But, I want to see that ball keep growing. And, I just wanted to thank you for your consideration. And, I would also say this is my second time hearing the presentation, that it is very flexible and so you know we don't have to say this has to be done. Also funding, I wouldn't have ever had a job if there weren't for grants. I've been in grants through the school district and through ARISA Health. And, I think also that grants will be very important in this plan. So, thank you for your time. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you for your comments.

City Clerk April Leggett, 2506 Cottonwood Street, said, I would like to make a comment if you don't mind. I just want to say thank you to the City and to the Fire Department. I thoroughly enjoyed getting to go through the Citizens Fire Academy. I learned a lot. There was a lot that I didn't know. And, I would encourage anyone to get involved, to learn more about your city. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you, well said.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Abstain: 1 - Ann Williams

_____ Date: _____
Harold Copenhaver, Mayor

Attest:

_____ Date: _____
April Leggett, City Clerk