



City of Jonesboro

Meeting Minutes

Public Safety Council Committee

900 West Monroe
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Tuesday, August 21, 2007

5:15 PM

Huntington Building

1. Call To Order

Mayor Formon and Mr. Tony Thomas from the Mayor's Office were also in attendance.

Present 4 - Chris Moore; Judy Furr; Tim McCall and Mitch Johnson

Absent 2 - Harold Perrin and Faye McCall

2. Approval of minutes

MIN-07:1668 Minutes for the July 17, 2007, Public Safety meeting.

Attachments: [071707](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Mitch Johnson, seconded by Councilperson Tim McCall, that these Minutes be Passed. The motion CARRIED by a Voice Vote.

Aye: 3 - Judy Furr; Tim McCall and Mitch Johnson

Absent: 2 - Harold Perrin and Faye McCall

3. New Business

Ordinances To Be Introduced

ORD-07:243 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 3600 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING FIVE PART TIME POLICE OFFICER POSITIONS IN THE 2007 BUDGET

Sponsors: Police Department

A motion was made by Councilperson Tim McCall, seconded by Councilperson Judy Furr, that this Ordinance be Recommended to Council. The motion CARRIED by a Voice Vote.

Aye: 3 - Judy Furr; Tim McCall and Mitch Johnson

Absent: 2 - Harold Perrin and Faye McCall

ORD-07:2770 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2007 ANNUAL BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO POLICE DEPARTMENT BY UPGRADING ONE FULL-TIME POSITION.

Sponsors: Police Department

A motion was made by Councilperson Tim McCall, seconded by Councilperson Judy Furr, that this Ordinance be Recommended to Council. The motion CARRIED by a Voice Vote.

Aye: 3 - Judy Furr; Tim McCall and Mitch Johnson

Absent: 2 - Harold Perrin and Faye McCall

4. Pending Items

August mosquito control report

Mr. Jim Stark from Vector Disease Control stated most of the residents in Jonesboro have already seen a decrease in the amount of mosquitoes, but there are still some hot spots. He explained they are spraying every night except for Sunday and the citizen phone calls have decreased in the past few weeks. He then discussed the West Nile Virus cases reported so far in Arkansas. Chairman Moore questioned whether a more drastic approach needs to be taken concerning the black bird situation in the fall. Mr. Stark explained if the weather is still warm when they migrate to the area in the fall, then they may need to think about doing something. Chairman Moore questioned whether there have been any confirmed cases of West Nile in Jonesboro. Mr. Stark stated there has not been any cases in Jonesboro.

5. Other Business

Fire Department to discuss Phase II

Fire Chief Aaron Keller explained they are getting ready to start Phase II. He further explained the land appraisal for Station 2 is being done. He added he hopes to have something at the next meeting for the committee to approve or disapprove. Mayor Formon noted the money from the state should be in sometime next week. Chief Keller stated Mr. George Krennerich indicated the 7% cost would be decreased since most of the plans have already been made. Discussion was held concerning whether a park would be near Station 2. Chairman Moore suggested they look into putting a skate park in that area. Councilman McCall stated they do not need to wait on moving forward with the plans.

Police Department to discuss Supplemental Pay Incentive Plan Ordinance

Police Chief Michael Yates explained the per capita expense for each police officer per year is about \$118 which is last compared to other surveyed cities. He further explained the \$118 is 27% lower than Conway and 23% lower than the average of the surveyed cities. He noted the call volume in Jonesboro is higher than Conway and Rogers combined and the violent crime rate is sixth among the surveyed cities. He discussed the information provided to the committee. He stated they would need either an across the board increase or a package increase based on each individual to stay competitive. He stated he is still working on the proposed ordinance and is hoping to present something at the next meeting. Chairman Moore questioned whether any other cities use a revenue stream that Jonesboro does not have. Chief Yates stated he did not look at the revenue side. He noted Conway performed the survey. Councilwoman Furr stated other cities receive help from other entities like the state police that Jonesboro does not get because of the lack of interstates in this area. Councilman Moore stated he would like to see more information at the next meeting regarding revenue streams other cities use to fund their departments. He also asked for information regarding why they offer police officers to the court system and what options the City has concerning the court officers. Chief Yates stated violent crime is significantly down. He added they will also be 100% staffed within the next few weeks, but some of the officers will not be independently deployable for 18 months. He explained they had a large number of applicants, which could be attributed to the reputation of the department, the take home vehicle program and the proposed

incentive program.

COM-07:029 Wannda Turner to discuss the dog confinement ordinance proposal

Attachments: [Dog Confinement Ordinance Proposal](#)
[DogConfinementAddInfo](#)

Ms. Turner discussed chained animals. She stated they are making 5 welfare calls per week because of animals being chained and not being taken care of. She added breed banning is not the answer since it will not change dog aggression. She explained she gave Sgt. Larry Rogers a copy of the proposed ordinance and briefly ran it by City Attorney Phillip Crego's office. Chairman Moore asked Ms. Turner to mail him a copy of the list she has of other cities that have anti-chaining laws. He also noted any change would require the City to take in a large number of animals so it might be better to change the ordinance after the new animal shelter has been built. Ms. Turner discussed dog's who travel in the back of vehicles and animals who are left in vehicles in areas such as Wal-Mart parking lots. Chief Yates stated they also need to take into consideration the manpower and resources need to enforce the proposed ordinance. He also noted that they cut kennel space out of the animal shelter to keep the shelter within the budget. He suggested possibly looking into adding those kennels back to the shelter. Councilwoman Furr also discussed addressing the state legislators concerning a neuter/spay program. Sgt. Rogers stated he has looked into other larger cities that have neuter/spay ordinances.

Mayor Formon added they will be holding a groundbreaking on the new animal shelter on Friday at 10 a.m.

This item was Read.

Willows Apartments emergency condemnation

Mayor Formon and Public Works Director Erick Woodruff discussed the situation with the emergency condemnation at the Willows. It was noted the owner of the apartments lives in Colorado. Code Enforcement Officer Ronnie Shaver stated the owner will have 30 days to buy a permit to make improvements to the apartments or he'll have 45 days to raze the apartments. He noted he has already issued a notice to the owner. Councilman McCall questioned where the residents are residing. Mayor Formon stated they were able to find housing for all of the families that were displaced. He noted they had problems finding places for the families to go due to ASU starting classes at the same time. Mr. Shaver stated they have a meeting set for September 4 with the owner. Mayor Formon expressed concern over the quality of the remaining apartments. Mr. Shaver stated if they do not hear from the owner after 30 days of meeting with him then they will continue with the asbestos inspection. Chairman Moore suggested getting the Fire Department to pump the water out of the pool so it won't pose a threat to small children. Mr. Woodruff expressed concern over having to perform another emergency condemnation and questioned where the residents would go. Mayor Formon noted there are up to 48 apartments are rented out in the other area of the apartment complex.

6. Public Comments

7. Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilperson Mitch Johnson, seconded by Councilperson Tim McCall, that this meeting be Adjourned. The motion CARRIED by a Voice Vote.

Aye: 3 - Judy Furr; Tim McCall and Mitch Johnson

Absent: 2 - Harold Perrin and Faye McCall