



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, July 21, 2020

5:30 PM

Municipal Center

PUBLIC HEARING AT 5:25 P.M.

Mayor Harold Perrin asked if anyone in the audience wished to speak for or against the public hearing regarding abandoning and vacating of a 40' drainage and utility easement across property located at 2610 Nestle Way in the Craighead Technology Park in Jonesboro, Arkansas as requested by John Easley of Associated Engineering on behalf of Jonesboro City Water and Light. No one spoke in opposition.

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

3. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK DONNA JACKSON

Mayor Harold Perrin was in attendance.

Present 11 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent 1 - Chris Gibson

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

[COM-20:035](#)

PRESENTATION BY MAYOR HAROLD PERRIN FOR 40 YEARS OF SERVICE PIN TO BILL FINDLEY

Mayor Harold Perrin presented Bill Findley with a 40 year service pin for the Jonesboro Fire Department. Captain Finley has the longest tenure in the Jonesboro Fire Department's history and is retiring at the end of the month.

Read

[COM-20:036](#)

UPDATE PRESENTATION BY MR. JIM STARK OF VECTOR MOSQUITO CONTROL

Jim Stark gave an update on Mosquito Control by Vector. He said we are right in the middle of mosquito season in July and it is going to continue that way until probably the end of August or something like that. Hopefully, it will be over by then or shortly thereafter. They are also doing flyover spraying, but could not do one last week because the lights at the airport were not working. He said that will push aerial spraying into September. Our service requests over the last several weeks have really started to come in. However, since the mandate of the masks, they are not going door-to-door anymore during the daytime. However, at night, if they request us, we will go out with a spray truck. As long as we have to wear these and go door-to-door, I think it is just

asking for trouble. If you do have a problem, do not hesitate to call in and we will send a spray truck out there as soon as we possibly can. I know some parts of town are worse than others. I don't know why. Usually, if they are bad, they are bad everywhere. If you all hang in there, in another month or two, we should be through this. We are giving it all we can, 100%. At the end of this season, in Jonesboro, it will be 25 years. This is the longest contract in the company's history. Mayor Perrin asked, Jim, did you say when they fly, they normally don't do the routes or did I misunderstand you there? When they fly like tonight, are you still going to do the routes? Mr. Stark said, no, I will not have the trucks out. We usually don't, sometimes we do, but not tonight. If there is a special event going on, then yes, we do. But, if we fly, we keep the trucks in. Mayor Perrin said, we appreciate in your contract that we have had given with COVID-19, we have had some special events like the fireworks and we appreciate you going out and spraying that way before the time that the event happened. That will continue, but there just won't be any more people calling for a Barbeque to come fog their yard. I will have a truck go out there in that area. Mayor Perrin said, right, but not a special trip. Mr. Starks said, yeah, right. When the mask come off, we will go back the way it was. Mayor Perrin said, okay, good. Councilmember Chris Moore said, are the lights still off at the airport? Mr. Stark said, no, they got it fixed. Mayor Perrin said, I think the night that they were going to do that, they were doing construction and somebody cut the cable. Mr. Starks said, yes, but all of that is supposed to be fixed. Mayor Perrin said, thank you for your report. Mr. Starks said, you are very welcome. Mayor Perrin said, I didn't know it had been 25 years that we have had a relationship with Vector. You all have done a great job. Mr. Starks said, I appreciate that and all the confidence that you have in me and the company. Mayor Perrin said, thank you sir.

Read[COM-20:029](#)

MPO STEP Study Official Summary by MPO Director Cecelie Cochran

Attachments: [MPO STEP Study HWY 91 7.21.2020](#)
[STEP Study Official Summary-Hwy 91 Crossing](#)

Metropolitan Area Planning Organization Director Cecelie Cochran gave an update on the STEP Study for the crosswalk on Johnson Avenue.

MPO Director Cecelie Cochran said, we are here today to give an update on the STEP Pedestrian Safety Study on Highway 91. Everyone is pretty familiar with the temporary structure that was placed there a while back. STEP stands for Safe Transportation for Every Pedestrian. It is a federal innovation counter measure and it was part of two years ago, every other year they do a cycle, and the federal level decides which innovations would be important to roll out to different states and certain states will pilot it and that is how we ended up with STEP in our area. The City of Jonesboro, the MPO, and Little Rock, which is central Arkansas decided to spearhead this which is one of the ones that has less impact for studying counter-measures that can go in certain mid-block crossings. And, that is those long stretches of road between your marked intersections where you have traffic signals, but you see people crossing in between there. There is no crosswalk. There is no hawk signal. There are no buttons to push. So, that is how we have identified this area. In 2015, the City of Jonesboro did the Downtown Jonesboro Study which was on the downtown corridor. Some private consultants identified Highway 91 and State Street as a significant traffic area for pedestrians. When they did the counts at that time, it was upwards of 45 during peak hours of people crossing in between. It increased once it got closer to Arkansas State University especially during game days, school move-in days, school move-out days. So, we decided to use the federal money that we got for this grant to compile the temporary crossing that was there at that location. For the first part of the study, we

used North Church. Last year, I came in and talked about Highway 141 between Parker Park Community Center and Lewellen Park. We discussed some issues and pedestrian conflicts that we had there. We utilized the same data in order to study Highway 91 and State Street. After we installed the temporary crossing, which the Engineering Department and the Street Department did a great job. It was up in like a day or two. We used that information along with some traffic crash data, did some pedestrian counts, and assessed the full area to get a good picture. The consultants came in and did some behavioral observations and they used the Federal MUTCD Codes, the Manual of Uniform Traffic Controls. They used that in order to determine what would be the best option to place here permanently for pedestrian crossing. I was out there pretty consistently before COVID-19 hit just talking to the citizens that lived in the adjacent apartments and neighborhoods to the north. They were very appreciative of the crossing being out there. I know Chief Elliott sent officers out there quite frequently to patrol. Pedestrians actually used the temporary crossing at the designated spot 85 percent of the time, whether or not they activated the lights, they utilized the crosswalk itself. The Engineering Department installed a camera out there that ran 24/7 around the clock collecting footage so that we could go back and review to see how effective it was. More often than not, the citizens used it. It was particularly during peak hours, especially when school was going in and people were headed to work or to drop off and then they would pick the students up. Around 7 a.m. and 3 p.m., that was your main foot traffic coming in. What we got from a lot of the citizens who were visiting the area, a lot of them were frequenting the convenience store right adjacent to the south which is the closest thing to a grocery store for people who do not have vehicles. They were getting snacks and milk. A lot of students were going in to get snacks after school. People don't understand the nearest grocery store is the Bill's CostPlus, which is further west, and it's about a mile away, so, on foot, it's going to take a while to get there and back. After doing surveillance out there and speaking with the consultant, talking a little bit with the city Engineering Department giving tidbits, especially based on the video footage, the consultants noticed a couple of critical issues that were in that area. The crosswalk was knocked down that first week. We had a lot of issues with a lot of the motorists themselves utilizing excessive speeds in the area. They were not yielding to pedestrians, even if the pedestrians were within the crosswalk, even if the lights were activated. When we did have crashes occur in that area and we would pull the footage, a lot of times what you would see were the vehicles trying to drive around citizens because they didn't want to stop. The consultants identified visibility issues, conflicts at the crossing site between motorists and pedestrians that caused for it to be an extreme hazard simply because as the years have gone on, the original 2015 count was upward of 40 people and now you are having almost 80 or more crossing there. And some days, depending on the time of the year, it would go up to over 100 people using the crossing. Their main recommendations were immediate speed reduction of vehicles in the area and they wanted to utilize all available means, so raised medians, landscaping, and speed-monitoring trailers, anything that you can find that can kind of get people to slow down because it appeared that the advanced warning signs that were placed up were just not effective enough even though we did have yield signs up to let people know that people were crossing, even though we had the push button where we had where the citizens could push, people still weren't slowing down. The video confirmed there are some built-in hazards, but the consultants noticed there was a lot of rear-end crashes that happened in that corridor and it's cars pulling out. If they are pulling out east to west to go onto Johnson Avenue or pulling out of the convenience store, they were basically running into the back of each other. In some instances, cars that stopped for pedestrians would be struck from behind by a driver who wasn't paying attention. Johnson/Hwy. 91 is a state highway with a high speed that is in a residential and commercial area where there is high foot traffic as well as vehicle traffic. We have

got the find the best way to merge both. Citizens are going to cross the road there. Chief Elliott was so key in this study. Streets and Engineering put everything up. The city was really on it. Chief Elliott would station officers out there when they were available as a traffic calming mechanism. Citizens commented that the police presence did help slow down the traffic in that area. They wish that someone could be there all of the time. The consultants thought if you have an officer out there, even if it is on random days at random times, with increased lighting, you might actually want to try those things first before spending a significant amount of money on a pedestrian hybrid beacon or a full traffic signal to see if that calms some of the behavior first before you decide on what is the best course of action. If you don't address the aggressive driver behavior, no matter what you put out there, you are going to have a problem. It is going to be a safety conflict. After we got the countermeasures, the consultants made the recommendations. We wanted to see what the people in general said. Due to COVID, we couldn't have our in-person meetings so we had to result to using a website. The consultants designed a website for us. We did a public input period. We had it go from May 30-June 22. We had 97 visitors and 291 page reviews. They got to see the options. Almost half, 47% preferred the Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon. The PHB or Hawk signal would flash red, but only when activated by a pedestrian. About 80% of the respondents thought it would be beneficial to put something out there. There were four key questions and I wanted you all to have that information before you all decided to make a decision. 1) Why don't the pedestrians cross at the Marion Berry intersection? From State Street to Marion Berry is a little over 1/4th of a mile. Weather impacts how far a citizen is going to walk. Going that way is a conflict of their direction of travel. You are not going to get a lot of citizens doing that. 2) Why not build a pedestrian walkover bridge? This is quite common. The cost to build and maintain one is exorbitant, \$1 million to \$5 million, and the costs increase every year. Federal codes dictate that it should be a last resort. 3) Do pedestrians have the right-of-way? Even without signals being there, a painted crosswalk is still a crosswalk. Even intersections that don't have painted crosswalks are considered crosswalks according to Arkansas Code. 4) Did anyone ever use the crosswalk? We were running footage 24/7 and there were always people using it. We deconstructed the crosswalk on July 8, 2020 simply because the study was up and it was becoming a hazard with motorists hitting it and knocking pieces of it onto the highway. We did not feel that it was safe to remain there. Since it was temporary, we thought it was best to leave it up to the city and ARDOT to find the best permanent solution. We are working with the city to find the best possible solution. We also received emails from two citizens who were just out there this past week at night. They were very concerned about almost hitting some citizens. They called first and then submitted emails. We pulled the footage and it is very frightening because you cannot see out there at night. Mayor Perrin said, if you have anything that we can submit to CWL to look at the lighting in that area, please catch one of us tomorrow. Ms. Cochran said, Chief Elliott had already asked that because he wanted to be part of that conversation. Mayor Perrin said, thank you Cecelie. Councilmember David McClain asked, did you say someone wrote a letter to you? Ms. Cochran said, I have two emails. Councilmember McClain said, would you mind reading those? Ms. Cochran said, I will read the one that is shortest. "Good Afternoon. On the evening of July 15, 2020, I was a passenger in a vehicle traveling at a low rate of speed on Johnson Avenue towards ASTATE at approximately 9:30 p.m. As we neared the crosswalk at Johnson Avenue and State Street, pedestrians were crossing the street. We could not see them until we were close enough to the crosswalk that the driver had to quickly apply her brakes. There were two adults that we saw at that moment, but as they crossed we could see a young child pushing a baby stroller that was not visible previously. The light from the convenience store is just enough to create a shadow that significantly decreases visibility. It was a very scary incident and I wanted to report what happened to increase

the awareness of the dangers there. Thank you for your time. Sincere, Sloane Kelly, NYIT." Mayor Perrin said, we will be glad to send those emails out to the councilmembers. We will get that out tomorrow. Councilmember Bobby Long said, I would agree. I drive that quite frequently and you can't see. There are no lights out there and at nighttime just driving the speed limit, you come upon it really quick. I also think the red lights instead of the yellow would be a tremendous help. Proper lighting and the red flashing lights would really help out. Mayor Perrin said, thank you very much.

Read

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Harold Perrin said, before we make a motion, I know that RES-20:083 has been paid so we would definitely want to pull that. It is my understanding that there may be another councilmember that wants to pull one or two other items. Councilmember Mitch Johnson said, Mayor, we also need to pull RES-20:100. Councilmember LJ Bryant said, Patti Lack had asked me to ask for us to pull RES-20:096, RES-20:097, and RES-20:098. Mayor Perrin said, okay. If I could get a motion to pull RES-20:083, RES-20:096, RES-20:097, RES-20:098, and RES-20:100. Councilmember Chris Moore motioned, seconded by Councilmember Bobby Long. All voted aye.

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

Aye: 11 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

[MIN-20:064](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON JULY 7, 2020

Attachments: [CC Minutes 07072020](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

[RES-20:079](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 409 NORTH FISHER, PARCEL 01-144181-10500, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY JOSHUA GAMBILL

Attachments: [409 N. Fisher](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-075-2020

[RES-20:080](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 317 NORTH SECOND STREET, PARCEL 01-144182-17500, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY MARSHALL MOONEY

Attachments: [317 N. Second](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-076-2020

[RES-20:081](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 309 SECOND STREET, PARCEL 01-144182-17700, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY JOHNNY MEADOWS

Attachments: [309 Second](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-077-2020

[RES-20:082](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 200 MULBERRY, PARCEL 01-144074-09600, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY LEON JONES

Attachments: [200 Mulberry](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-078-2020

[RES-20:084](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2507 BROOKE MCQUEEN, PARCEL 01-144333-08800, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72404, OWNED BY KYLE D. HALL

Attachments: [2507 Brooke McQueen](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-079-2020

[RES-20:085](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 719 W. MONROE, PARCEL 01-143134-18400, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY DALTON MASHBURN

Attachments: [719 W. Monroe](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-080-2020

[RES-20:086](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 617 W. HUNTINGTON, PARCEL 01-144183-20300, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY HALAL GLOBAL ENTERPRISE LLC

Attachments: [617 W. Huntington](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-081-2020

[RES-20:087](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 500 ALLEN, PARCEL 01-144181-30100, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY KENNY COLEMAN

Attachments: [500 Allen](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-082-2020

[RES-20:088](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 202 LAMESA, PARCEL 01-143103-02600, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY STEPHEN GILLIAM

Attachments: [202 Lamesa](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-083-2020

[RES-20:091](#)

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AGENCY SAFETY PLAN SUBMITTED FOR THE JETS SYSTEM

Attachments: [JETS 2021 Public Transit Agency Safety Plan](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-084-2020

[RES-20:099](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND ACCEPT THE 2020 COPS HIRING GRANT

Attachments: [Budget and funding-COPSH](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-085-2020

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

[RES-20:083](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3602 SCHOOL STREET, PARCEL 01-144272-01700, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY TOM WALESZONIA

Attachments: [3602 School](#)

Mayor Harold Perrin said, RES-20:083 has been paid on the lien.

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

Aye: 11 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

[RES-20:096](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO AMEND THE 2020 STREET CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET FOR THE STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (STIP) JONESBORO AREA PARTNERING PROJECTS

Attachments: [2020 Budget Res \(003\)](#)

Patti Lack, 4108 Forrest Hill Road, said, I am not opposing the three that I asked to be pulled. But, what I got from a lot of people on my Facebook page is that they were unclear about exactly what this was and how much it was and whether it was budgeted already. When I pulled up the attachment, I got really confused because at the bottom of it, it says that it was passed and approved the 17th day of December 2019. I was wondering if someone could explain this a little bit. Is the \$1.4 million, is that 20% of what the city owes. People need a little bit more of an explanation. I think Carol gave a little bit more, but if it could be a little bit more clear.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said, this \$1.4 million was part of the \$7.8 million that the council approved back in 2016 in order to get the \$90 million from the state. Mayor Perrin said, that is correct. Councilmember Hafner said, it wasn't part of the budget, but it had already been earmarked, the money sitting in a fund. All this does is say it is now time to spend this money so we have to put it in the budget so the money is appropriated so we can spend it. After this project, the only other project I believe that has not started that is part of the STIP and this is our share of the project, the \$1.4 million I believe. Mayor Perrin said, that is correct. Ms. Lack asked, so is that 20%? Councilmember Hafner said, yes. Mayor Perrin said, yes. It will be a lot more than that by the time it is all done. Councilmember Hafner said, the only other project that will not have been appropriated yet would be the \$1.4 million for the Airport Road overpass. Ms. Lack said, okay. I think that helps out on that one.

A motion was made by Councilperson Charles Frierson, seconded by Councilperson Gene Vance, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED with the following vote:

Aye: 11 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

Enactment No: R-EN-086-2020

[RES-20:097](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO AMEND THE 2020 ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE STREET DEPARTMENT TO PURCHASE A REMOTE CONTROL MOWER

Attachments: [Bid 2020-22 Remote Control Mower Tabulation](#)

Patti Lack, 4108 Forrest Hill Road, said, there were a couple of questions on this. I know that I heard it at the Finance meeting, but I also heard that we had an old mower that didn't work and we returned it. Did we get credit for that mower and what happened to that money? Mayor Perrin said, I can answer that. Last year, we bought the same type of mower and it would not work at all. It kept breaking on us. We got a hold of the company and we sent it back and got all of our money back which was a little over \$40,000 on that unit. Basically, we are replacing what we had in there that we bought last year. And, so we have been down. With the construction going on now on I-555 and also the shooting range and some other things, this thing really needs to be purchased as soon as possible. Ms. Lack said, so with the refund that we got from the other mower, the \$40,000, does that get applied to this? Mayor Perrin said, it came back in which was added back into the Street fund. Ms. Lack said, so it comes back in and goes back out. Mayor Perrin said, that is right.

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

Aye: 11 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

Enactment No: R-EN-087-2020

[RES-20:098](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO AMEND THE CITY 2020 BUDGET TO ADD A SENIOR PLANNER POSITION

Patti Lack, 4108 Forrest Hill Road, said, I did not realize that Jonathan doesn't work here anymore. I don't know whether he worked for the Planner or the Land Bank. Mayor Perrin said, it was a separate deal in the Land Bank. After he left, based upon the volume of what we were trying to do to get the Land Bank started, we felt like we could take that and move it over into the Planning Department until we get the Land Bank going. The Land Bank still meets. It still has a commission. The city can still receive land donations as well as we can purchase. So, it is still sitting there as a Land Bank. As far as having a director, these items can be used and moved over to the Planning Department. That is why you are seeing this right here. We took the monies we had in the salaries and benefits of that and moved it over to here. I believe that this could be a budget neutral item. Am I correct on that Mike? Because I know we did some. Chief of Staff Mike Downing said, we come out on the good of about \$5,000. Mayor Perrin said, okay, it was net \$5,000 to the good. As the city grows and we get more donations, like Little Rock, it took them awhile to get a Director and then an Assistant Director as big as they are. Then, we may obviously go back at some point in time and the council decides to have a Director for the Land Bank. Right now, really there is just not enough. We didn't want to waste those funds. Right now, with all of the Planning that is going on and with the tornado and all of the permits coming through the Planning Department, we felt like we could take that job and put it over here and bring this position we are talking about here and put that work here on that person. Ms. Lack asked, so Jonathan was the Director of the Land Bank and maybe eventually that will be, but this is going back to the Planning Department. Mayor Perrin said, right. Net effect in cash wise is \$5,000 better off than we were before had Jonathan stayed. Ms. Lack said, okay, I appreciate it. Thank you. Mayor Perrin said, you are quite welcome.

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

Aye: 11 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

Enactment No: R-EN-088-2020

[RES-20:100](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF JONESBORO ARKANSAS REGARDING THE USE OF MASKS IN RELATION TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

Attachments: [Jonesboro Mask Resolution Final Draft](#)

Councilmember Mitch Johnson said, Mayor, with the Governor's Statewide Mask mandate in effect now, I would move that we postpone indefinitely RES-20:100.

A motion was made by Councilperson Mitch Johnson, seconded by Councilperson Bobby Long, that this matter be Postponed Indefinitely . The motion PASSED with the following vote:

Aye: 11 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

6. NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL NOT ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

Held at one reading

[RES-20:093](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO GRANT EASEMENTS - UTILITY AND INGRESS/EGRESS TO CITY WATER AND LIGHT PLANT OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

Attachments: [Solar Project Easement Across City RR Spur-ADDED 5-11](#)

Councilmember John Street abstained from discussion and voting on RES-20:093 due to the fact that he serves on the Board for City, Water and Light. Councilmember Charles Frierson abstained from discussion and voting on RES-20:093 due to the fact that he is the attorney for City, Water and Light.

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

Aye: 9 - Ann Williams;Chris Moore;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

Abstain: 2 - Charles Frierson and John Street

Enactment No: R-EN-089-2020

[RES-20:095](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS AND TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT

WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) FOR THE EXECUTION OF THE 2020 ACTION PLAN

Attachments: [Grant Agreement CDBG](#)
 [Grant Agreement CDBG-CV](#)
 [Rehab RROF](#)
 [Request for Release of Funds](#)
 [VV Outreach Center RROF](#)
 [Demo RROF](#)

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: 11 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

Enactment No: R-EN-090-2020

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-20:025](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE AND ABANDON A 40' DRAINAGE AND UTILITY EASEMENT LOCATED ACROSS PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2610 NESTLE WAY IN THE CRAIGHEAD TECHNOLOGY PARK IN JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AS REQUESTED BY JOHN EASLEY OF ASSOCIATED ENGINEERING ON BEHALF OF JONESBORO CITY WATER AND LIGHT

Attachments: [Abandonment concurrence - 2610 Nestle Way](#)
 [Notice](#)
 [Petition](#)
 [Plat](#)
 [utility letters](#)

Councilmember John Street abstained from discussion and voting on ORD-20:025 due to the fact that he serves on the Board for City, Water and Light. Councilmember Charles Frierson abstained from discussion and voting on ORD-20:025 due to the fact that he is the attorney for City, Water and Light.

Councilmember Mitch Johnson motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-20:025 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

[ORD-20:026](#)

AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY OF JONESBORO ARKANSAS REGARDING THE USE OF MASKS IN RELATION TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

Attachments: [Jonesboro Mask Ordinance Final Draft](#)
 [Jonesboro Mask Ordinance Final Draft-Amended](#)

Mayor Perrin said, I would ask the same way that Councilmember Johnson did that we get a motion to table this indefinitely because of the order of the Governor of Arkansas.

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

Aye: 11 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-20:021](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 117.35 REGARDING THE REFUND OF REZONING SIGN DEPOSITS

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

Aye: 11 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Abstain: 1 - Chris Gibson

Enactment No: O-EN-027-2020

[ORD-20:022](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO PLACE VARIOUS TRAFFIC SIGNS AT DESIGNATED LOCATIONS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE TRAFFIC CONTROL COMMITTEE

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

Aye: 11 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

Enactment No: O-EN-028-2020

[ORD-20:024](#)

AN ORDINANCE ABANDONING AND VACATING UTILITY EASEMENTS AS REQUESTED BY GEORGE HAMMAN OF CIVILOGIC ON BEHALF OF THE HERBERT H. AND SHARON F. STALLINGS LIVING TRUST

Attachments: [signed petition](#)
[abandonment plat](#)
[Stallings Abandonment - Hamman](#)
[Abandonment Concurrence ATT](#)
[Abandonment Concurrence CenterPoint](#)
[Abandonment Concurrence CWL](#)
[Abandonment Concurrence Ritter](#)
[Abandonment Concurrence Suddenlink Altice](#)

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

Aye: 11 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

Enactment No: O-EN-029-2020

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Perrin reported on the following items:

We got a good report from the Street Department and they have already striped 58 miles as of last week all over Jonesboro. The striping is very, very important, particularly the ones on the side of the roads. Hats off to the Street Department.

Our Financial Statement was discussed in depth at the Finance Committee. You all received a copy of that. I want to say that so far through June, we are at about \$1.425 million in the black. Actually, the report you got show about right at \$2.8 million we projected on a deficit. However, we had an actual surplus of \$1.4 million. Then we also received the \$4.2 million in the first six months. However, to take away from that \$4.2 million, we received the \$1.2 million on the building that was destroyed by the tornado which the Municipal League has already paid for. In addition to that, they have also paid out around \$230,000 in miscellaneous stuff. So that still left us at net net on the \$1.4 million. I just want to keep our prayers there that we keep going well on our financials through this year.

Next, on small cell sites, I wanted to give and update on that and the reason is and I will say something in just a minute. If you all remember, we passed an ordinance on small cell sites to be located throughout the city. We had very strong deals on those ordinances. However, I wanted to give you an update. Right now, AT&T has had 20 permits approved and also 19 has been submitted. Verizon has only submitted seven. There has been no sites completed at this time. Now, in that regard, Councilmember Bobby Long had called about maybe having some discussion later on and we had so much of this other stuff going on on the mask deal, we had to put it off. But, I will be getting with him and scheduling something to have some people talk about the safety if you will of the small cell sites. Mr. Long went along with me on that with so much that we had on the agenda. I would have thought by now that we would have had more permits, but we have not received them.

Next, on the 911, if you all remember last year during the session the governor changed that to create a 911 Board which sets back some of the sales tax we get off of our cell phone fees. They increased that and then put that in and now they are still putting it into a trust fund. But, also, the amount of money that went up, we have, I will just give an example. At the end of the second quarter, revenues exceeded our expenses by \$140,000 for our 911 Center. Now, that is great. Right now, we have a net surplus of about \$201,000 in the 911 Center. Now, to refresh your memory, we budgeted about \$600,000 for the 911 distribution for the 911 Board in Little Rock and that is for a year. We have already received \$762,684. So, what that is saying is basically at the end of the year if this continues that the increase in legislature changed on the increase in the phone sales that it is going to take a tremendous

pressure off of our general fund in order to help fund the 911 Center. And, so, that is good. I will keep you all updated. I got a copy of that just a few days ago and I thought, you know, I would like to share that with you all.

The other one that goes back to the financial statement, if you all will remember, you all passed an ordinance to allow that the city collect e-commerce or internet sales. In Craighead County from last year through June, they are up \$294,000 more money because that ordinance was passed. The City of Jonesboro is up \$225,992 or you might say \$226,000 more than last year because of the passage of that. So, I thought you might want to take a look at that as well.

Also, we have new playground equipment at Parker Park. I think it has been in the paper and in the media. So, go by and look at that and enjoy that. It is a real good park. All of that has been taken out and replaced.

Our Veteran's Village groundbreaking is scheduled for July 29, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. If you will go by and look now, some of that site work is already done. Some of the slab is down, I think and they are moving on fairly quickly on that one.

The JETS CARES Act funding plan is still underway. We will be working on that and bringing that back to the council and to the citizens fairly soon.

Also, we are working with the Chamber of Commerce, Jonesboro Unlimited on a mask promotion/education. We have met with the Chamber as of last Friday. They are going to help us fund a campaign for that.

On July 13, 2020, the Reserve at NEA had their groundbreaking. I know that is past, but that is a big plus for this city because the groundbreaking was the first phase which is going to add 12,000 sq. ft. on clinical space for pediatrics and dermatology. Also, 11 acres of what they call lifestyle focused medical which again, is going to be bike trails, walking trails, and etc. When they are totally complete on that, you are looking at 20-30 acres of a major addition to our city on the hospital that they have done there.

I also wrote a letter and sent it off yesterday to ARDOT to look again at Old Bridger Road and 49 for a stop light. We did that back a few months ago. It was turned down. However, with all of this major expansion here and I sent them the site plan, the date of completion on all of the additions that are going to happen to this hospital and also we could connect that road all the way over into Sage Meadows which it would almost be a straight shot into Sage Meadows. I think that we need to look to the future and I have asked Lorie Tudor, the Director of ARDOT, to please refer and look at that again in her planning division. So, I will keep you all updated on that.

I also want to remind you and you just heard a few minutes ago about the Grants Department. We were able in our HUD and COVID-19 and it is in the paper that we are accepting grants for profit and non-profit companies that can receive between \$1,000 to \$10,000. It can also be for payroll. It can be for PPE. It can be for rent. It can be for utilities as long as you have anywhere as low as 3 people up to 21. I encourage everyone to please look at that particularly even in the non-profit area. There are non-profits here I know that probably could use these monies. We definitely need to have these applications come in to the Grants Division so we can look at them and get that money out. It is no good sitting in our bank account. We would love to be able to get those out and get those grants approved. Councilmember Bobby Long asked, Mayor, where is the application? Is it online that they can pull off? Mayor Perrin said, yes it is. It is on the Grants page of our city website. I encourage and I told Regina that I certainly would get that word out again tonight. Please, please go back and look

if you have had some loss in some of these things based on COVID-19, please do that because this is a wide open type of grant where you can place this on salaries, rent, utilities. There were a lot of those that were restricted only for salaries or certain things.

I just noticed one thing on here and Mike Downing and I talked about it. It is kindly watching unemployment if you will. In May, Craighead County was at 8.5% and Fayetteville was at 7.1% and the state's average of unemployment based on COVID is 9.6%. You can see what it has done to our state. So, your city is still fairing better than the state and pretty close to Fayetteville. So, that is good, but we would certainly like to have it back to that 3% range that we had before COVID, the tornado, and a lot of these things that hit our city that we could not control. So, I wanted to share that with you.

[COM-20:030](#)

JONESBORO AIRPORT COMMISSION FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ENDING JUNE 30, 2020

Attachments: [JAC Jonesboro Airport Financials 06_20](#)

Filed

[COM-20:034](#)

June 2020 Financial Reports

Attachments: [Deposit Collateralization Report June 2020](#)
[Expenditure Report June 2020](#)
[Financial Overview June 2020](#)
[Observations Regarding June 2020 Financial Statements](#)
[Revenue Report June 2020](#)
[Sales Tax Report \(Combined\) June 2020](#)
[State Turnback Report \(Combined\) June 2020](#)
[Statement of Changes in FB, Required Reserve and STIP Balances Report J](#)

Filed

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember John Street said, I would like to commend MPO Director Cecelie Cochran for her fantastic job working with those crosswalks. Mayor, I know you are going to talk to Lorie Tudor and I would ask that you talk to her about this as well. I think at least one of those red light crossings is warranted there. It is a pretty serious situation as you know. Being a reserve officer, I work on Johnson quite a bit, especially after ASU football games and I have almost been hit five or six times and that is wearing a safety vest and standing there with blue lights. So, anything we can do to get that done would be a big help. I would also like to update you on the records destruction. Steve Kent and I, this has been the fourth week that we have been there and the truck has been steadily chewing that stuff up. We had quite a bit accumulated. We have got one, maybe two more weeks of the truck coming back by. It comes by once a week and then we will have the records totally destroyed.

Councilmember Mitch Johnson said, I meant to ask during your comments and maybe it is not a possibility, but have we inquired what the Highway Department to even reduce the speed out there in the interim before we even get any traffic signal. Mayor Perrin said, we did and they came back. The answer to your question is yes. MPO Director Cecelie Cochran said, Engineering Director Craig Light, checked on that three

times. Currently, right now, ARDOT's position is no, they will not lower the speed limit in that area. Councilmember Johnson asked, we are talking about the same area right at Old Bridger? Mayor Perrin said, the same area. Yes, because it slows down to 45, but averages to around 60 probably. Councilmember Johnson said, well, it is 60 coming over the hill which probably more like 65 or 70. Mayor Perrin said, right. To answer your question is yes and that is why we have re-asked for that stoplight.

Councilmember LJ Bryant said, I just want to congratulate Mayor Perrin and his staff on the good financial management. I know that we were all very fearful with what that situation might look like. I know we may still be fearful in the months ahead, but I know we can be pleased with where we are currently. I know we are coming off of a really big discussion about masks with lots of emails and I would just congratulate everyone on the council. I think we all worked together well despite our opinions and I thought the community, out of the thousand emails we got, I bet 985 of the people were very nice regardless of their position. So, I think that speaks well of the council and the community. Mayor Perrin said, right and I concur with that. Thank you very much.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said, to echo LJ's comments about how we should be really pleased about how our finances are going. I know Steve Purtee, our city's Finance Director, he and his staff are meeting with our department heads currently doing a mid-year review on where they stand on their budgets. So, it will be interesting to see what comes out of those meetings. I am scheduled to meet with the Legislative Audit on Thursday at 10:30 a.m. to go through the audit. Obviously, the audit will not be final until it is approved down in Little Rock, but, hopefully, we can have another clean audit like we have had in the last several years and I am not expecting anything less than that. We mentioned this at the finance meeting this last week, but I believe at next week's finance meeting, Mike Burroughs, who has a long history of being a legislative auditor is going to make a report to us based on his finding where he went through and basically audited our checking account transactions in light of what was going on in and happened at the county. I think we have a lot better controls because of the way that we are set up than the way the county is set up. It will be good to get that report from Mike and see if there is anything that we need to address. Just to remind people the monthly financials are put on the finance page. Budgets for the last several years are on there. We did that to try to be more transparent and there is also a listing of the monthly checks on there. If you are ever interested in what the financials are for the month, go to the Finance page of the City's website and click either the budgets or the financials or anything like that. That's all I've got. Thank you. Mayor Perrin said, thank you. Just to remind everyone, all checks, all vendors, every individual, anybody who gets a check is on that website. I know Conway first started that and got software, but we were able to, thanks to our IT Director Jason Ratliff, we were able to come up with our own and not have to pay for one. Councilmember Hafner said, I know two to three years ago that was one thing I first started asking about when I was doing research and saw Conway's is something like openbook or checkbook or something like that, but it was several hundreds of thousands of dollars. We are doing ours in a more cost effective measure, but I think it is still effective in increasing transparency. So, thanks with your help with that.

Councilmember Bobby Long said, on the Grants page, thank you for updating that because I had that on my list. I wanted to see just how active that has been. Hopefully, we will be able to increase those applications and get that money out to our businesses. I want to congratulate our local businesses in adapting and thinking outside of the box and keeping afloat during this time and doing some things they have not had to do in the past. I'm glad that they are doing it because we have some

unbelievable small businesses in this city. I want them to be here. I want to also encourage everyone in Jonesboro to shop local. When you can, shop local. They are going through tough times and they are trying to do what they can to stay afloat and I think we owe it to them and we deserve our patronage during this time. So, please, when you shop, shop local. I would like to get an update on the shooting range. I had a couple of people actually talk about that and ask me questions. I had one guy email me the other day and asked when is it going to be open and what portions of it are going to open first. Mayor Perrin asked, Chief would you like to make a comment? Police Chief Rick Elliott said, I will take the next hour and talk about the shooting range. I was out there today and Ransom has moved along very nicely. The pistol and rifle side, the rifle side is pretty much complete. The baffels are up, the overhead where the shooters stand, all of that is up on both sides. They are finishing up the baffels on the pistol side. That portion of the range is near completion. On the other side of the complex, where the trap and skeet fields are, the skeet houses, the concrete block houses are up. The roofs are on. Everything is in place. We are still waiting on the precast bunkers for the trap machines to be set in. As of today, they are trenching and running conduit for the electrical work out there at the site. The shot curtain will be the next biggest thing going in out there. After that, we will be ready to open up these two portions of the range to the public. I am hoping by sometime in September, we can start opening this facility up for public usage. So, progress is doing quite well. Councilmember Long said, that was there hope. They wanted it up. Mayor Perrin said, hunting season is not far off. Chief Elliott said, hunting season is not far off. You are correct. We have heard a lot of interest, not only locally, but across the country. The gentleman that runs the world champion shooting sports complex in Sparta, IL came down and visited with me a few weekends ago. This is a 1,600 acre facility. It is the biggest in the world. They have 235 trap ranges in a row, so close to three miles that this gentleman manages. He said what we have here in Jonesboro is a gem. He said there is nothing like it in this part of the country and we have underestimated the potential for this facility. He is excited along with other people across the country. I am starting to get some letters in from support from State Representatives, not only from here, but across the state. I have gotten letters out of Marion, out of Memphis, Tennessee. I forwarded some of them to the Mayor but we are starting to collect that information. I hope before long that we can come to the council. We have a private investment group that has expressed interest in taking this project and finishing out and financing it back to the city. So, I think the paper had mentioned something about this a while back. But, I think, hopefully, we can get the company P-3 before you all to listen to what they have to say. The way that we can get this thing completely funded out and the whole operation up and running so we can get a bigger revenue stream coming back in. And, it would be a more affordable way to finance the project and get it up and running. So, I won't go into a lot of detail about that company, but again, that is a presentation that we hope to get before you all here in the very near future. So, we can see what they have got to say and see if the council wants to proceed before this project. But, with the excitement that we have got, not only locally, but it has now drawn regional and nationwide attention, I think we have got something that we are really going to be proud of and it will be a big, economic boom for Jonesboro. I think the economic impact will be very big for us. We have had a lot of interest and I would encourage you if you haven't driven out to the range, drive out there or if you want to come by my office one afternoon and I'll drive you out there and show you what we have got. I will be more than happy to because I am really proud of what we have got and how it is shaping up. It is really going to be a fantastic facility. Councilmember Long said, as you are talking to these people, and they are looking at what we have got, there are even some local groups that are interested in being a part of this. Chief Elliott said, absolutely, we have got our shooting commission, in spite of the COVID, our shooting board has managed to meet a couple of times at the

Embassy. We are getting numbers together for selling off naming rights to each of the trap fields and stuff like that. So, a lot of this, we are waiting on some costs. So, we know what to ask for on naming rights for that field. So, we are about to that point. We have some potential donors already lined up that are already interested. So, I think on the money aspect, once we get to that point, we will flow pretty quickly.

Councilmember Bobby Long said, are the conceptual drawings that were put out there at the beginning, is that still the direction that we are going or is there any chance that those conceptual drawings may change in order to accommodate larger events and larger shooting events. Chief Elliott said, the gentleman from Sparta said his only negative comment was you don't have enough parking. He said you do not realize what you have here in Jonesboro and the amount of people that will come to this facility to shoot at your complex and you at 427 parking places, you don't have enough.

Councilmember Long asked, what was his suggestion? Chief Elliott said, to try to find a way to add more parking. Mayor Perrin said, we have enough land. Chief Elliott said, there is some land on the other side of the ditch that is currently up for sale. With that kind of projection, I think, maybe, that is something that we will want to retain an option on, maybe looking at more land. You may not want to develop it yet, but you may want to get it and put it for future development for once we get the whole complex up and running. So, that is another good thing with going with this investment company. I think this is something that we can try to add in and finance out. But, again, I will save all of those details for them to present to you all. Councilmember Long said, thank you. Mayor Perrin said, I think you will see a lot of school buses up there too. Chief Elliott said, we have. I have actually talked to several trap coaches. Manila has 49 kids that shoot trap and so the coach said we will bus over at least once a week just for practice. Councilmember Long asked, would there be archery. Chief Elliott said, absolutely. There is archery. We know all of the schools that are shooting archery. We had to make a modification early on in the dirt phase and push one of the berms out to 70 yards because ASU stepped up and said hey, on the collegiate level, we shoot up to 70. So, we made a modification to add a 70 yard berm with the hopes that we could possibly end up with a collegiate, a national collegiate tournament here in Jonesboro. So, all shooting disciplines are covered out here in the complex besides trap and skeet. There's western action and other disciplines in the shooting sports that will bring people to town for competition. And, so, we get a couple of tournaments going on at the same time out there, parking is definitely going to be a problem. It will be bigger than some of the events that we have at our softball and baseball complexes. Mayor Perrin said, no doubt. Councilmember Bobby Long said, no doubt, it's going to be. Chief Elliott said, it is a good problem to have. But, again, first we need to get the facility up and running. We also want to strategically plan ahead for the future. I have been told by several people that are in the industry say that we have underestimated what we have got. So, it is exciting news that Jonesboro be put on the map for this complex once we get it up and running. Thank you. Councilmember Long said, thank you chief.

Councilmember Ann Williams said, I would like to echo what Councilmember Street said about Cecelie Cochran and what a great job she has done. I know how hard she has worked on that project on Johnson and State Street. I know that we have had difficulty as far as the state lowering the speed limit there, but I wonder if we could look at maybe penalizing people for not complying with the flashing light with a ticket amount significant enough to start to get people's attention about that if they are not stopping or if they are going around pedestrians that are in the crosswalk she described. You know that is pretty horrifying. So, I was wondering if we could look at maybe increasing the penalties and also for speeding through there the way the tickets are increased in construction zones because of the risk to life, if that is a possibility. If there is any constraint by the state as far as us doing that action to have some hefty

finer for violating safety of pedestrians through there. Mayor Perrin said, I think the chief can take that, the traffic control division, I mean the committee and discuss that. Good point. Councilmember Williams said, I think there would be valid points for doing that for the same reason the speeding tickets are increased for speeding through certain areas when it is jeopardizing people's lives. But, also for violating the lights at the pedestrian crossing there whether not yielding or not complying and stopping when the lights are flashing.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, I would just like to thank Bill Findley for his 40 years of service. I thought that was quite impressive. The city is blessed with having employees that seem to stay for long periods of time. Thank you Mr. Mayor.

Councilmember Gene Vance said, I want us to recognize the fact that the debate we had in the Public Safety Committee on the masks actually got our governor get off the stool and pass a mandate. I guess our governor got our president today to encourage masks.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Patti Lack, 4108 Forrest Hill Road, said, I have a friend and she works for the Census Bureau and she has a real concern because the numbers are down and she wanted me to get the word out a little bit that we need help from the people of Jonesboro. When I started reading some of the information that she gave me and she was saying that the census was every ten years. She said ten years ago when they took the count for Arkansas, they only counted 69% of the population here. There is actually \$675 billion that is available when we have a good census count. I know what we mentioned this before. I think we really need to start pushing it for city especially. I don't know whether to use the local tv station, the city website, different Facebook pages to get the word out to have people fill out the census form. Because what happened and I started reading the information that she gave me is that Arkansas is number 37 on the list about doing the self-responses. We dropped down to 41 this week. So, we are not getting those census counts down. I don't think we can afford to undercount the population because when you have a good census count, looking at the programs whether it is federal or it is local, you look at your disaster funds, you look at the feeding programs that we have for our schools and for people everywhere. I think they actually extended the deadline for filling out the self-response for the census. The deadline now is October 31, 2020 so we have a little bit more time. But, I think we need to get the word out. When you realize that money goes for ten years and there are a lot of things that can happen over ten years. I hope the people of Jonesboro take the time and go to Census.gov and fill out some questions. It is so simple. We need to get that word out. Thank you.

Mayor Perrin said, I see Craig Pomrenke that is the manager of the Embassy Suites. I just wanted to say on behalf of the city, thank you for allowing us to use your convention center because we have had the shooting range, the beautification committee, the governor, and many things here and you allowed us to do that at no cost. I just want to say to you, thank you very much for doing that. I appreciate that very much.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 11 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

_____ **Date:** _____

Harold Perrin, Mayor

Attest:

_____ **Date:** _____

Donna Jackson, City Clerk