



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Finance & Administration Council Committee

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

4:00 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

1. Call To Order

2. Roll Call by City Clerk

Mayor Harold Copenhaver in attendance

Present 5 - Ann Williams; John Street; LJ Bryant; Joe Hafner and Brian Emison

Absent 2 - Charles Coleman and David McClain

3. Approval of minutes

[MIN-21:017](#)

Minutes for the Finance Committee meeting on February 23, 2021

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

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: 4 - Ann Williams; John Street; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent: 2 - Charles Coleman and David McClain

4. New Business

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

[RES-21:041](#)

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 JONESBORO FIRE DEPARTMENT LADDER TRUCK

Councilmember John Street said to City Clerk April Leggett, I ask that I be recused from discussion or vote on this due to the conflict of my position on the CWL Board.

Chairman Joe Hafner said, I believe this is already in the budget. Is that correct Steve? Finance Director Steve Purtee said, yes.

Patti Lack, 4108 Forrest Hill Road, said, I didn't know what the amount of this was but I wanted to say thank you to CWL, but the only concern I think that a lot of people

have is that this is really generous of CWL to do. I know they give a lot to our city. I don't know if there is a time that we just say hey thank you this time but we'll pass. You know sometimes when we take and take from someone, I mean if they are willing to give that's one thing, but sometimes it's nice to say thank you very much for this offer and we can do it. I hope one of these days we can do that when we have enough money. Chairman Hafner said, thank you.

Chairman Hafner said, and obviously, this will not be on the consent agenda for Council.

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

Aye: 3 - Ann Williams;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent: 2 - Charles Coleman and David McClain

Recused: 1 - John Street

[RES-21:042](#)

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: [03.09.2021Justice Complex Lease Agreement 2021](#)
[03.09.2021 Justice Complex Lease Addendum](#)

Chairman Joe Hafner said, this is a renewal of a current agreement. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, it is the same agreement as last year well last time, it's just time for it to renew.

Patti Lack, 4108 Forrest Hill Road said, so this is a renewal that we have? So, we have been renting this space for how many years now? Ms. Duncan said, I have been in that building 20 years. So, we have been renting it to them for more than 20 years. I don't know how long, but more then 20 years. Chairman Hafner said, this is for the space where court is held. Ms. Duncan said, this is the space where court is held for traffic tickets. Ms. Lack asked, so the city pays for that space? Chairman Hafner said, no, the county rents it from the city. Ms. Lack asked, so, the city owns the building? Chairman Hafner and Ms. Duncan said, yes. Ms. Lack asked, so, if the city owns the building why are we leasing this space? Ms. Duncan said, because there is a courtroom there that they need to use for District Court. For more than 20 years, it has been that way. City Clerk April Leggett said, I know I worked there back in 1997, so it's even longer than that. Ms. Lack asked, ok, so the city owns the building and we are going to rent the courtroom space from the county? Ms. Duncan said, the city leases the space to the county. Ms. Lack asked, to the county and we have done that for how many years now? Ms. Duncan said, it has been since before 1997. So, 27 years and city court is held in that courtroom, all city traffic tickets, city theft cases, and all of those things that we prosecute for are held in that courtroom. Ms. Lack said, ok, I guess my question is or my concern is, I have never seen this. I know it's been 4 years and I have never seen this renewal. So, it's coming up every 3 years? So, this is a contract that we do every 3 years? Ms. Duncan said, yes. Ms. Lack asked, and has that price gone up? Ms. Duncan responded, it didn't go up this time, it went up last time. Three years ago it went up, but this time it is staying the same. Ms. Lack said, ok, thank you.

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, Ms. Lack, I just wanted to add, it states all of that in

the lease agreement. It is on the back of that. So, that will give you the definitions of the lessees, lease, and everything else that goes along with that, ok. Ms. Lack said, thank you.

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

Aye: 4 - Ann Williams; John Street; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent: 2 - Charles Coleman and David McClain

[RES-21:043](#)

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, CERTIFYING LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENDORSEMENT OF BUSINESS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TAX BACK PROGRAM (AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 15-4-2706(d) OF THE CONSOLIDATED INCENTIVE ACT OF 2003).

Chairman Joe Hafner said, I guess this is just like the final step in the process that was started last year, right? I mean that is when Camfil came in front of the Council and we authorized their participation. Is that correct Steve Purtee? Finance Director Steve Purtee said, that is correct.

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

Aye: 4 - Ann Williams; John Street; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent: 2 - Charles Coleman and David McClain

[RES-21:044](#)

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE 2021 BUDGET TO INCLUDE GRANT FUNDING FROM THE DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY TO EXPAND RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE

Chairman Joe Hafner said, I believe this is related to the next one when Senator Crawford came down and we had the big thing at the Rotary Centennial Plaza.

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

Aye: 4 - Ann Williams; John Street; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent: 2 - Charles Coleman and David McClain

[RES-21:045](#)

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE 2021 BUDGET TO INCLUDE GRANT FUNDING FROM THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE TO EXPAND RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE

Councilmember John Street said, I'll just say, based on all of these, we are very blessed to get this. It is a big plus to our economic development and the development of the Industrial Park. Chairman Joe Hafner said, I know that Regina put in a lot of hours into this. Councilmember Street said, It's been a very corporative effort from state and local officials, federal officials. And, our grant writers are awesome.

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, I would just like to add to what Councilmember Street said. As I continue to have conversations with our industry leaders, they are very aware of what we are doing for them and the cooperation and what that does is that leads two-fold. Then they come back and redevelop into our community as well so this is very important. You know they're giving back to the community as well. So, it's

critical what this infrastructure is doing. There is no match so that says a lot for the hard work of what the Grants Department has done.

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

Aye: 4 - Ann Williams; John Street; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent: 2 - Charles Coleman and David McClain

[RES-21:046](#)

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE 2021 BUDGET TO INCLUDE GRANT FUNDING FROM THE FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION TO EXPAND RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Aye: 4 - Ann Williams; John Street; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent: 2 - Charles Coleman and David McClain

[RES-21:047](#)

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE 2021 BUDGET TO INCLUDE GRANT FUNDING FROM THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR MODIFICATION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO RAIL CROSSING

Councilmember John Street said, the stars aligned on us for all the money we have been able to get on that project. That's really, I can't say enough, been a blessing. Chairman Joe Hafner said, this is actually for the Eastern Bypass. Councilmember Street said, yes, but I mean everything connected out there. I mean everything just seemed to line up. I think it exceeded anything we had every hoped for when we started that.

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

Aye: 4 - Ann Williams; John Street; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent: 2 - Charles Coleman and David McClain

[RES-21:048](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXECUTION AND MAINTENANCE OF A LETTER OF CREDIT TO BE ISSUED TO THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT, DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (DEQ)

Attachments: [DEQ Letter of Credit Expiring 4-7-2021](#)

Councilmember John Street said, this is just an annual document we do every year. It's just one of those things, it's just kind of housekeeping, but thank God that old landfill is closed. Maybe one of these days we will be totally out of it. Chairman Joe Hafner said, basically when you have a landfill; obviously you don't just close it and you're done with it. You have to have money set aside to annually maintain things like gas, monitoring and stuff like that. That is why it is called closure and post-closure, to make sure it's closed and maintained properly after you close it. A letter of credit is better than having a bunch of money just sitting in an account not touched. Would you say that Councilmember Emison? Councilmember Brian Emison said, I do concur, yes sir. It's always better especially earning interest out there.

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

Aye: 4 - Ann Williams;John Street;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent: 2 - Charles Coleman and David McClain

5. Pending Items

6. Other Business

7. Public Comments

8. Adjournment

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

Aye: 4 - Ann Williams;John Street;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent: 2 - Charles Coleman and David McClain