



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

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 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, council, before you, I just wanted to go ahead and recognize Tim. In our department on the third floor, we do a proclamation every year for Building Safety Month. That's 2026. The City of Jonesboro is committed to recognizing that our growth and strength depend on safety and the central role of our homes, buildings, and infrastructure play, both in everyday life, when disasters strike. Our confidence in the resilience of these buildings that make up our community is achieved through the devotion of guardians, building safety and fire prevention officials, architects, engineers, builders, tradespeople, design professionals, laborers, plumbers, and others in the construction industry who work hard year-round to ensure the safe construction of buildings in our community. Building Safety Month is sponsored by the International Co-Council to remind the public about a critical role that our communities largely are unknown protectors of public safety, and these are the people behind the scenes. They assure that our community is safe, sustainable, and have affordable buildings that are essential to our prosperity. Built to last, the theme for the Building Safety Month in 2026 encourages us all to get involved and raise awareness about building safety on a personal, local, and global scale. So, I, there now, for Harold Copenhaver, Mayor of the City of Jonesboro, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2026 as Building Safety Month in Jonesboro, Arkansas. Thank you Tim.

And then Council, if you would, I didn't have it on the agenda, but this is real quick, but it's very important. As you know, we have graduations that are going on throughout the community, and I'm always proud of our Mayor's Youth Council, and we've had several graduations this past weekend, but I do want to recognize three of the 22 graduating seniors in the Mayor's Youth Council. So, Charlie Stegall, will you please come forward, and Mary Hoffman, and Jansen Marsico. Charlie's a graduate of Jonesboro High School, Mary of Valley View High School, and Jansen from Nettleton High School, and they're representing their senior class, as you can tell. They've already got the Mayor's Youth Council honor cords. Many of them had, how many did you have, six or seven? You had seven, I think, Mary? Jansen said, I had seven. Mayor Copenhaver continued, you had seven. I had two, something like that. But, anyway, we're honored as a city to

always see our youth prosper, and I know you three, and I look forward to the future of what you're going to have for not only your future, but our community's future. So I'd like to give you city medallions on behalf of the Mayor of Jonesboro, Arkansas. Council, thank you for allowing me to do that honor this evening.

[COM-26:026](#)

Proclamation Recognizing Building Safety Month

Read

5. CONSENT AGENDA

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

[MIN-26:038](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON APRIL 21, 2026

Attachments: [CC Minutes 04212026.pdf](#)

THIS ITEM WAS APPROVED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA.

Aye: 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

[RES-26:047](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1603 S. MATTHEWS, PARCEL 01-144214-06900, OWNED BY TREVOR ANDERSON IN THE AMOUNT OF \$465

Attachments: [INVOICE REQUEST.pdf](#)
 [OFFICIAL INVOICE.pdf](#)
 [VIOLATION NOTICE.pdf](#)
 [1603 S MATTHEWS_COUNCIL_ANDERSON.pdf](#)

THIS ITEM WAS APPROVED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA.

Aye: 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Enactment No: R-EN-063-2026

RESOLUTIONS NOT ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

[RES-26:048](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ENTRY INTO AN AGREEMENT TO ISSUE BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASSISTING IN THE FINANCING OF INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES WITHIN THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO BE LEASED TO NICHIREI GLOBAL FOODS, LLC, A WHOLLY-OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF INNOVASIAN CUISINE ENTERPRISES, INC., OR THEIR AFFILIATE, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, INCLUDING PARTICULARLY AMENDMENT 65 TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION AND THE MUNICIPALITIES AND COUNTIES INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT REVENUE BOND LAW

Attachments: [Resolution Authorizing Agreement to Issue Bonds and PILOT Agreements \(lr Notice of Public Hearing - InnovAsian \(2026\).pdf](#)

Mayor Copenhaver said, before you leave, would you like to introduce the guest in the room this evening, Mark? Sorry. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, and pronounce their company correctly, which I apologize for. Y'all should have coached me on that at the beginning. President & CEO of the Jonesboro Chamber of Commerce Mark Young said, you were great. Ms. Duncan said, thank you. Mr. Young continued, it's my pleasure to introduce Joe Kent, who's president of Innovasian. We've had the pleasure of working with Joe and his team for several years now, as they've made this important decision to come to Jonesboro. And so I'll ask him to come up. And also, Dan Peach is here as well. He's the CFO. And so, Joe, come on up and say hello. Please welcome Joe Kent. Mayor Copenhaver said, welcome, Joe. President and CEO of Innovasian, Joe Kent said, thank you. I have to ask my little brother to come up here. You'll notice by the last names, we are not related, but I do refer to him as my little brother. My name is Joe Kent. I'm the president and CEO of Innovasian Cuisine. So to the ladies and gentlemen of the council, Mr. Mayor, thank you for the opportunity. We are excited to be here. I had the opportunity to meet some of you last week. We have been trying to get here for three and a half years, so a long time coming. Glad to be here. Plan to build a frozen food manufacturing facility that will make chicken and rice. It's going to be roughly 175,000 square feet, roughly 200 jobs. We're excited to be here. I love your town. Finally got it. So thank you. Oh wait, Mr. Mayor, can I have the last medallion? Mayor Copenhaver said, yes, sir, you can. CFO Dan Peach said, I would echo everything Joe said. This is a very significant project for Innovasian, an extremely important project. Appreciate the city's support. Thank you very much. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you gentlemen.

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: 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Enactment No: R-EN-064-2026

[RES-26:049](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH VECTOR DISEASE CONTROL INTERNATIONAL, LLC (VDCI)

Attachments: [Disease Control Agreement - 2026 Proposed.pdf](#)

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;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and Ann Williams

Nay: 1 - LJ Bryant

Enactment No: R-EN-065-2026

6. NEW BUSINESS

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[ORD-26:013](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A SPORTS TOURISM COMMITTEE; PROVIDING FOR MEMBERSHIP, PURPOSE, AND DUTIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Attachments: [ORD-95-645 originally numbered 2607.pdf](#)

Councilmember Chris Gibson said, Mr. Mayor, if I may, I'd like to make a motion to amend and change the name to Sports Tourism Committee rather than Sports Advisory Committee, as we already have one of those in place. Councilmember Chris Moore seconded the motion. Mayor Copenhaver asked, sports tourism? Councilmember Gibson said, correct. Mayor Copenhaver said, correct. Councilmember Gibson said, yes. All voted aye in favor of the amendment.

Marilyn Copeland, 1602 Honeysuckle Lane, said, I'm just here as a long-time member of Jonesboro Parks and Rec. And I want to give you a little history about why I'm here. In 1999, I wrote the grant that started CityStars. Myself and with partners from Nettleton, Valley View, and Westside. And that grant was written after the Westside shootings. And, it was to write the grant to make sure that there was counseling in our schools. And there was an opportunity for every youth in our community to participate as a healthy student in activities after school. Sorry, I'm a little nervous. Mayor Copenhaver said, that's fine, take your time. Ms. Copeland continued, so, we started CityStars. I worked with Jason Wilkie at that time. And Jason and I bought jerseys, basketballs, soccer balls, soccer nets, and all sorts of bright-colored shirts that said CityStars and their names on the back. And did our best to integrate those in our community that could not afford to be in sports. That they had every opportunity that any other child had. And I just feel like through the years, we've gotten away from what CityStars was supposed to be. And I get a little concerned. I'll be honest. I do not understand this ordinance all the way. I'll be the first to say that. But we were told back in February when we met with the Public Service Committee, it was Public Service and Parks and Rec, that there was going to be a meeting between the two to come up with this ordinance. And at my meeting last week with Parks and Rec, none of us have ever had any input into this ordinance. It strictly came out of Public Service. And I'm not saying it's a bad ordinance. But the one thing that I don't see in it is when we had CityStars, it involved parents on that board and it involved local schools because they've got the communication with those kids. And if I read this, this is heavily weighted, and I can be corrected, but heavily weighted on government officials and not our community. And I'm just here to say that I would like to see it re-looked at before it's voted on and make sure that our community is involved in the ordinance. Thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you, Ms. Copeland.

Jay Clevenger, 4842 Leesburg Drive, said, good evening. I'm a member of the Parks and Recreation Planning Advisory Committee as well. First thing I'd like to say are my comments are mine only. It does not reflect everybody that is involved with the Parks and Recreation Planning Advisory Committee. I don't know how everyone else stands. I'm not against sports tourism. I think it's very, very necessary to promote Jonesboro and to accelerate getting the RAC paid for by heads in the bed and people eating at our restaurants. But I feel like the proposed ordinance is not a solution for many reasons. First, there's been a committee meeting, the second council meeting, and no one up here has asked one question in regards to how does this conflict with the

original, with Ordinance 95:645 that established the Planning Advisory Committee. Fortunately, back in 1995, I was named to that when it went from a commission to a committee. That committee has worked hard to do a lot of great things in Jonesboro. A few of them are the development and planning and the organizing of Joe Mack Campbell Park, Parker Park and Parker Community Center, Allen Park and Allen Community Center. That's just to name only a few. Back in the 90s and early 2000s, there were short and long-range plans developed by this committee that have come to fruition today. And let's not forget the recently passed long-range parks plan that the city approved, I believe it was last year. This committee has worked hard to keep all citizens of Jonesboro in mind, all citizens. As Marilyn was saying, the specially called meeting on February the 3rd was a joint meeting between the Public Services Committee and the Planning Advisory Committee. At the end of that meeting, we were told, and the Planning Advisory Committee had a meeting on April 22nd, the day after this ordinance was proposed. Everyone that was at both meetings were under the understanding we would come back together and discuss this proposed ordinance. Now I will say, I personally reached out to the Chairman, Mr. Gibson, and we had a private conversation, one-on-one conversation. I feel like that I communicated what my concerns were in regards to moving forward with this. That never happened. We did not have a second meeting where we came back together and discussed this. Additionally, the ordinance in front of you says the sponsor is the Parks and Recreation Department. That seems like an endorsement from the Parks and Recreation Department. When I asked Director Stearns, when he found out about this proposed ordinance, he said it was April the 17th. I asked him, did he have any input, and I was told, no. So, at best, the sponsorship or endorsement by the Parks and Recreation Department is misleading. When you lay down the two ordinances, this proposed ordinance and the ordinance that established the Planning Advisory Committee, there's conflicts in it. The original, the first ordinance says to establish priorities for community recreation needs. To one that could read that, if they could surmise, this includes youth sports, which is all through the ordinance in front of you, that this committee would be making the decisions on that. Much like the debate on the mosquito control a couple of weeks ago, this could create finger-pointing, right? If you had two committees, who's the council going to listen to? Because they both say to advise the city council. So, there's conflicts in the two ordinances. I feel like the composition of the committee should be questioned. Basically, there's going to be two members from the public facility board, one that's on the board, one that's recommended, and two from the A&P, a member of the A&P Commission and one recommended from A&P. That's one half of the voting members. Anyone that watched a council meeting earlier this year can see why it's composed this way. This ordinance appoints the Director of Parks as an ex officio non-voting member. Why not give the person who knows most a say? During the February meeting, it was stated, this is not a hostile takeover. This ordinance looks like a hostile takeover. It is my concern that this ordinance could, and not saying will, could end up with sports clubs having control over our local youth sports and facilities. Priority should be given to every young person living in Jonesboro when it comes to recreational opportunities in sports. If it happens here, it'd be a slippery slope. I encourage you to go out and watch on YouTube Brian Gumbel's Real Sports, August 27, 2017 documentary entitled Youth Sports, Inc. It will provide you an example of what can happen if sports clubs take over youth recreational programs. So the question to me, is this ordinance about sports tourism or is it about control of programs and facilities? If it's truly about sports tourism, logic dictates responsibility placed with the organization that stays. We promote tourism in the city and produce a positive economic impact on businesses. That is the A&P Commission. I believe a resolution can be very simple. Change the existing park and planning, charge the existing Parks and Recreation Planning and Advisory Committee with Section 30 of this proposed ordinance. Let's strip out and exclude any references

to sports tourism. Place sports tourism with the A&P Commission and charge the commission on coming up with a plan to work with Parks Director to increase sports tourism. This is a sports tourism initiative I am in favor of. Council, I respectfully request this ordinance be tabled to allow another joint meeting of the two committees as promised to hash this out and allow time for you, yourselves, to compare the languages between the two ordinances. If not, I encourage you to vote against it at the next council meeting because of the conflicting languages between the two ordinances, the potential damage it may cause our community youth who wants to participate in sports just to have fun, the misleading sponsorship, and fulfilling the promises to the advisory committee. Thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you for your comments.

Councilmember Ann Williams said, I totally agree with what the speakers just said and this has been a concern of mine for some time because my interests and responsibilities are not mutually exclusive from the A&P and I do agree with some of their objectives but I was not elected to promote sports tourism. I was elected to represent people and families and children in this community and it's not my goal to get heads in beds. That's not what I ran on. So I think we need to get it back to where our first responsibility is to serve the families in this city and the children in this city and if we have people come in to the city and spend money and all, that's good. That's not our number one objective and I think if that is the objective, it's like the tail wagging the dog as far as what I feel. And so I think we need to realize that we, like I said, our goals are not exactly the same as the A&P and shouldn't be and so we have to focus on what we're supposed to be sitting up here doing. So that's all. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you, Councilman.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, Mayor, some of the language I think needs to be changed on that document and so I'm going to make a motion that we have another meeting to change the language. Councilmember Chris Moore asked, is your motion to postpone for how long Dr. Coleman? Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman replied, at a given time, I guess. So we can do this. Councilmember Chris Gibson said, just a point, and this may be irrelevant, but from a time perspective, I will be out of town for the next two weeks and as Chairman of Public Services, I would like that to be taken into consideration so we can coordinate that meeting between the two entities, but I have no issue with postponing this. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, okay, I appreciate that. If we can do that in the next month. Would that give you time, Mr. Gibson? Councilmember Gibson replied, yes. Councilmember John Street said, I'll second Dr. Coleman's motion. Councilmember Moore said, well, before we get too far into this, as a point of order if we are going to postpone temporary, we need a date. Councilmember Street asked, the next Public Services, when is the next scheduled Public Services committee meeting? City Clerk April Leggett replied, it is June 16th. Public Services is June 16th. Councilmember Gibson said, I'm fine having both of those meetings on June 16th. We can coordinate that. City Attorney Carol Duncan asked, do you want to have them both on the same day? Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman asked, April, is that okay, June 16th? Ms. Duncan said, or do you want to try to have time to meet about it? Councilmember Gibson replied, why don't we try to do the joint meeting on the 9th? Ms. Duncan said, okay. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman asked, what day is that? Councilmember Gibson asked, is that not going to work Jay? Mr. Clevenger said, it won't work for me. Ms. Duncan asked, on the 9th? The 9th or the 16th? Mr. Clevenger said, the 9th. Ms. Leggett said, the 9th is a Finance meeting and then MAPC. Mayor Copenhaver replied, and then it might be the 16th. Are we good on the 16th? Ms. Duncan said, my only concern is procedurally. Councilmember Moore said, Carol, why don't we make a motion to postpone for 60 days and that way if the date doesn't work out and you have to... Councilmember Dr.

Charles Coleman said, I agree with that because I'll be out of town on June the 16th and 17th. Councilmember Street said, I'll amend my second to reflect 60 days. Mayor Copenhaver repeated, 60 days. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, so I amend my motion to postpone for 60 days. Ms. Leggett said, that's going to probably be July the 7th. Mayor Copenhaver said, we can decide a date in between that time to have a meeting. Councilmember Gibson said, I'll get with Chairman Daniel this week while I'm out of town and see if I can't nail down a date between the two. Mayor Copenhaver said, so we do have a motion on the floor. Temporary postponement for the next 60 days. A decision will be made within those 60 days and bring it back in front of council. All voted aye.

A motion was made by Councilperson Charles Coleman, seconded by Councilperson John Street, that this matter be Postponed Temporarily . The motion PASSED with the following vote:

Aye: 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

[ORD-26:014](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM I-1 TO C-3, LUO FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5925 EAST JOHNSON AVENUE

Attachments: [H26-014 - Rezoning Plat-5925 E. Johnson.pdf](#)
[Staff Report - 5925 E. Johnson.pdf](#)
[horizon.pdf](#)
[MAPC Minutes 03.24.26.docx](#)

Held at second reading

[ORD-26:015](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM RM-8 TO RS-5 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1601 GRANGER DRIVE AS REQUESTED BY CRAFTON TULL

Attachments: [Application](#)
[Plat](#)
[Notification](#)
[Staff Summary RZ 26-07](#)
[MAPC Minutes 04.14.26](#)
[Receipt](#)

Held at second reading

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-26:008](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 93:741 TO REINSTATE THE MULTI-WAY (FOUR-WAY STOP SIGNS) AT RAINS AND WILKINS INTERSECTIONS

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

Aye: 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Enactment No: O-EN-016-2026

[ORD-26:009](#)

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

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

Aye: 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Enactment No: O-EN-017-2026

[ORD-26:010](#)

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

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

Aye: 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Enactment No: O-EN-018-2026

[ORD-26:012](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 TO C-3 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 6904 E. HIGHLAND DRIVE

Attachments: [Application](#)
 [Plat](#)
 [Deed](#)
 [Certified Mail Receipts](#)
 [Staff Summary RZ_26-06](#)
 [MAPC Minutes 03.24.26](#)
 [Publication Receipt](#)

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

Aye: 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Enactment No: O-EN-019-2026

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported on the following:

We do have a March financial statements for you, but I also want to comment we do have the monthly reports in front of Brian. Since Tony is here, he's been able to move his daughter back closer to our community. Tony, you want to let him know where she's going to be playing next year? That would be Memphis University. I'll let him know. So the next meeting, Tony is so gracious he's going to be able to go through some of these monthly reports for us and read them to us since he missed last city council meeting.

I want to say, and you all saw the Mayor's Youth Council earlier this evening, graduation is here in our community, and it's time we reflect, and as our kids grow quickly throughout our community, it's wonderful that we support them. They're closing out a part of their life through hard work and accomplishment, but graduates, you know, Jonesboro's always moving, and we want you moving and continuing your future here, and we're proud of you in the City of Jonesboro.

I'm also proud to announce that the City's Employee of the Month was Brenda Hall from the Grants Department. She's been here over 18 years in the city, and Brenda's experience and expertise has been as a Community Service Manager, is a financial wizard in the Grants Department. Really, she's the secret behind it all. Congratulations, and thank you for going above and beyond, and thank you to First Security Bank for sponsoring the Salute to City Awards, allowing us to recognize employees.

The May Neighborhood Cleanup, hosted by the Sanitation and Code Enforcement Departments, supported by the Keep Jonesboro Beautiful Commission, had a great success this past Saturday, with over 10 tons of trash and 102 tires collected at the Annie Camp Junior High School location. We continue efforts to clean our city, keep it green and make it beautiful. Remember, keeping tires out of the neighborhoods helps fight against mosquitoes.

The tornado siren season is here. We also want to remind everyone of the tornado siren testing every Thursday at noon. Reminder, tornado sirens are intended for outdoor warnings and initiated by the National Weather Service. And I also heard this past week that Batesville just now had their tornado sirens active. So, sometimes we take for granted what we do in our community for our residents. Batesville had no tornado warning system whatsoever for a long period of time. As long as we're here, just a silver polygon within the City of Jonesboro, the sirens will be reactivated again by the National Weather Service should anything occur this evening. As always, please tune in to the local weather service. And if you have a storm shelter at home, please consider registering it with our E911 registries.

So, many good things are happening around the city. My staff and I were able to attend a tour in progress of the RAC recently, and progress is impressive. Seeing the walls up, pools in, and equipment in the ground. It's really a strong start and it's taking shape. Drive by and take a look for yourself. It won't be long before teams are in town to compete in our city filled with guests on tournaments.

Streets Department's been busy on upkeep on grass mowing and street overlays. The 2026 list of street overlays is in process, with Union, Monroe, and South Madison overlays now complete, with Washington in process and milling for more. Airport Road overpass is now open, Main Street, One Lane, six-month pilots in full swing, and the Plan Jonesboro Survey remains open again for public input.

Numerous ribbon cuttings have been celebrated with the Chamber, including a grand opening of the Family Crisis Center Sexual Abuse Support Service Center on Monroe. If you haven't seen it, you need to stop by Council. It really brings you down to earth and provides services that those nonprofit organizations do.

The Central Air Service, for those, also are greatly in need in our community, and we're able to provide that through wonderful nonprofits and organizations. I was also pleased this past week to go down and receive a check along with Jonesboro Unlimited that Governor Sanders had \$25 million appropriated for economic development, and the City of Jonesboro, as far as I am aware, received the second-largest donation of that \$25 million. That's really good work by the City of Jonesboro and Jonesboro Unlimited in their efforts.

The spring season begins with many festivals. Dare Color Run, Touch the Truck, hosted by Nettleton East, Oasis Arts Festival, Foundation of Arts and Children Festival was also going on this past weekend. Get on out there. Get involved. Stop by an event and get to know the people around you.

Mark your calendars for the upcoming event, like Dr. Coleman's Fisher Street Fish Fry on May 16th. Be sure to stop by early so you don't miss out on the fish, Brian. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, especially to the Mayor and the Assistants. Mayor Copenhaver continued, that works, that works. It's some of the best, truly, it really is.

The Skirmish Travel Festival takes place downtown Jonesboro May 28th through May 31st with a free family bike ride and festival activities included. The events aren't only for race participants, so go out and cheer them on. This is what Jonesboro is all about, folks, working together to provide residents and visitors with the best place to live, work, and play. Let's continue. Jonesboro, we're always moving.

[COM-26:025](#)

MARCH 2026 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Attachments: [March 2026 Financials.pdf](#)

Filed

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember John Street said, Culberhouse was an overlaid mayor and it is really is nice. Craig tells me there's another two inches going on, but it's getting used a lot, so it needed it. It's great. Everybody going to the forest will have a lot better ride. Mayor Coopenhaver said, awesome.

Councilmember L.J. Bryant said, yeah, I talked to Mark Young some this week. The Conway Chamber really released some crazy data that I'm still trying to get my head around. I'm looking at it. It listed the top 10 counties, and it listed net migration. We're lucky. People are still... We're very lucky in the sense that people are still having babies here. Nationally, you know, fertility is down to 2.1, so we still have more births than deaths here, which is very good. Saline County doesn't. But then, like, White County has 80,000 people, and they had 1,000 people move in net migration. More people move in than out. And for Craighead County, our net migration was only 103. So Mark Young and I are trying to, like, dive into it a little bit to get our head around it. I mean, Destination 100K, I think we all know we're headed that direction, but I'm just a little concerned. We want smart growth. Don't get me wrong. Mark and I have talked

about that, but I'm just a little concerned about that number and trying to get my head around that number. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, thank you, Mayor, for mentioning the fish fry once again. Some people can be on time. I appreciate it very much. The other thing is that we need to keep Ronnie Shaver in our prayers. He's in the hospital. I want to make sure I mention that. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, thank you, Dr. Coleman, for mentioning Mr. Shaver. I think many of us know him very well and so they would appreciate those prayers right now.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Moore, seconded by Councilperson Brian Emison, that this meeting be Passed. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

_____ **Date:** _____

Harold Copenhaver, Mayor

Attest:

_____ **Date:** _____

April Leggett, City Clerk