



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

SPECIAL CALLED PUBLIC SERVICES COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING AT 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC SAFETY COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING AT 5:00 P.M.

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

3. ROLL CALL (ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE) INITIATED AND CONFIRMED BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

Present 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, we do have members present, all members present so I would like to make this, she doesn't know I'm going to do it, but April Leggett. She's dedicated a decade of service to the City of Jonesboro. Please come on down. You play a vital role in ensuring transparency, accuracy and accessibility to local government. She began her tenure at the City Clerk's office in April 2016 advancing to Deputy Clerk and ultimately being elected as City Clerk in 2020. Throughout her service, Leggett has been responsible for maintaining city records, supporting City Council operations, and serving as a key link between the citizens and their local government. Duties that are in high standard with integrity and I appreciate that April. April also has contributed to the professional beyond Jonesboro. She is in leadership involvement with the Arkansas City Clerks, Records and Treasurer's Association, AML, and our own Citizens Fire Academy. So her 10 years of service reflect a continued commitment of excellence, accountability and public service for the residents of Jonesboro. So I want to thank you for your service. Ms. Leggett said, thank you.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Moore, seconded by Councilperson Chris Gibson, 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

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

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

[MIN-26:031](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON APRIL 7, 2026

Attachments: [CC Minutes 04072026.pdf](#)

THIS ITEM WAS APPROVED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA.

[RES-26:038](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ACCEPT THE LOW BID AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ATLAS ASPHALT INC. FOR THE 2026 ASPHALT MILLING AND OVERLAYS SELECTED CITY STREETS PROJECT - JOB NO. 2026:03

Attachments: [Bid Tab Asphalt.pdf](#)
[Contract 2026 03.pdf](#)

THIS ITEM WAS APPROVED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA.

Enactment No: R-EN-057-2026

[RES-26:039](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ACCEPT THE LOW BID AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH CRABTREE & SON CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR THE HWY. 91 SIDEWALK AND LANE RECONFIGURATION PROJECT - JOB NO. 2026:10

Attachments: [Bid Tab Sidewalk.pdf](#)
[Contract Documents 2026 10.pdf](#)

THIS ITEM WAS APPROVED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA.

Enactment No: R-EN-058-2026

[RES-26:040](#)

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO UTILIZE FEDERAL-AID TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP) FUNDS; AND, AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE FY26 TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP) THROUGH THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ARDOT)

THIS ITEM WAS APPROVED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA.

Enactment No: R-EN-059-2026

[RES-26:041](#) A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 505 W. WOODROW, PARCEL 01-144073-17500, OWNED BY THOMAS & LINDA BOBBITT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,826.87

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

THIS ITEM WAS APPROVED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA.

Enactment No: R-EN-060-2026

RESOLUTIONS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

[RES-26:037](#) A RESOLUTION REQUESTING FREE UTILITY SERVICES FROM CITY WATER AND LIGHT FOR A LIGHTING PEDESTAL ALONG HUNTINGTON AVENUE

Councilmember John Street asked to be recused from discussion and voting on RES-26:037 due to his membership on the CWL Board.

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Gibson, seconded by Councilperson Joe Hafner, 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;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Recused: 1 - John Street

Enactment No: R-EN-061-2026

[RES-26:042](#) A RESOLUTION REQUESTING FREE UTILITY SERVICES FROM CITY WATER AND LIGHT FOR CITY-OWNED PROPERTY

Councilmember John Street asked to be recused from discussion and voting on RES-26:042 due to his membership on the CWL Board.

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Gibson, seconded by Councilperson Ann Williams, 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;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Recused: 1 - John Street

Enactment No: R-EN-062-2026

6. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[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](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison to suspend the rules and offer ORD-26:014 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one 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](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember L.J. Bryant to suspend the rules and offer ORD-26:015 by title only. All voted aye.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, I just wanted to mention I did go by and look at that property and Mr. Conrad's here tonight. He simply wants to split that property in half and build two single family homes. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you for your input, Councilman.

Held at one reading

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND 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

Mayor Copenhaver stated, I think we all know where this is.

Held at second reading

[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

Held at second reading

[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

Held at second reading[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](#)

Held at second reading**ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING**[ORD-26:011](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, ARTICLE III, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM C-2 TO C-3 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2005 EAST HIGHLAND DRIVE

Attachments: [Application](#)
[plat](#)
[Deed](#)
[EAAAA - Certified Mail Receipts](#)
[Staff Summary](#)
[MAPC Minutes 03.10.26](#)
[AE.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Gibson, 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-015-2026

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported on the following:

We do have the financial report statements are online and available to council. If you would, please go ahead and look at that. If you have any questions for Steve, I know he'll be happy to take those, whether here tonight or in his chambers.

I would like to say spring weather has allowed for an enjoyable time outdoors. Activities in our parks are busy as well as construction work and road overlays are going on. So if you've been downtown at all, you've probably seen Main Street One Lane Pilot

Project. This will be roughly a six-month project for Main Street from Washington to Creath, as brought forth by the Connectivity Committee. We've had a lot of input. Most of it is very positive, and I think there's some ideas that could come from it. I'll be meeting with a resident or actually a business owner downtown tomorrow with some concerns that we might be able to address. The stripe markings on the right side of the road are designed for delivery, emergency lane, allowing the local downtown deliveries and emergency vehicles to park as needed without causing a full stop on the roadway. In the next month, you'll utilize some of the Youth Council to collect feedback through surveys on utilizing downtown for suggestions for improvements. Upon the completion of the six-month pilot, we will return the full feedback to Council. I appreciate the input of residents that allow us to continue making these improvements in our city.

Please remember, though, the design week for Plan Jonesboro is complete, and as the 30-year plan is being designed by DPZ, co-designed by Crafton-Tull, the public input survey is still open for residents to make their ideas known. Please visit planjonesboro.com to ensure your voice is heard.

I was pleased to join the Chamber of Commerce for the fly-in to D.C. last week with city staff members Brian Richardson and Chris Ritchey. We met with Senators Bozeman and Cotton and Rick Crawford. Now, we had individual meetings for the city, and then later in the week we met with those members of the Chamber of Commerce that flew in. We discussed items and projects like public safety, industrial development, and the importance of a vibrant medical community and safety shelters. I can personally attest that each and every member is very supportive of what this community is doing. They like seeing projects that we as a community have engagement in financially, and they like seeing projects completed. So, again, I want to say thank you to them personally for providing us millions of dollars in appropriations beyond typical grant cycles that have helped us make significant improvements in Jonesboro.

I fully enjoyed also the Chamber of Commerce Business Expo at First National Bank on April 10th. The energy, I think they had over 215, which is the largest since COVID they've had participation. It's wonderful to see new development, economic development opportunity, talent recruitment, and retention. Jonesboro is thriving, folks. The Foundation of Arts Porchlight Film Festival was April 10th through the 12th. It brought its creativity and local filming, providing hands-on workshops and filmmakers. And don't forget the FOA Oasis Arts and Eats Festival downtown on April 25th. That's this weekend. I hear we even had a special guest appearance by Big John, the rodeo bull. Don't miss your opportunity to get a picture with him.

And thank you to many of our departments for preparing the annual Touch a Truck event sponsored by Nettleton East and NEA Baptist Hospital on April 25th, this weekend as well, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is a beloved event. It gives a real hands-on of kids showing what we do in the community and their engagement. It's really exciting to see their eyes pop open when they can get on vehicles they normally just see driving down the road.

We celebrated an amazing E-911 Dispatchers National Public Safety Telecommunications Week on April 12th through the 18th, and they serve, obviously, a vital role in our community. From hearts behind the headsets, these dispatchers are not often seen, but they're heavily depended upon.

The April Neighborhood Cleanup on the West End had a great turnout. We had 9.38

tons of trash and 57 tires collected with, I'm sure, many mosquitoes were in those tires, as well as glass and cardboard with volunteers help picking up trash and continued beautification efforts. Keep Jonesboro Beautiful Commission combined this event with their clean sweep in honor of Earth Day and extra efforts.

Don't forget to mark your calendars on May 2nd. The Neighborhood Cleanup is at Annie Camp Junior High back parking lot for another opportunity for volunteers to drop off bulky items. As spring is here and more events are offered citywide, please stay informed by following city social media and websites.

As we continue to tour Jonesboro, there's a lot to do around town, and these opportunities allow us to build within the city.

[COM-26:020](#)

FEBRUARY 2026 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

Filed

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Chris Gibson said, Public Services had a special call meeting earlier this evening, and I would like to suspend the rules and walk on ORD-26:013.

Councilmember Joe Hafner seconded the motion. All voted aye. City Attorney Carol Duncan asked, do you want me to read it in its entirety? I can do that. Then we need a motion. Councilmember David McClain asked, just to read it by title only? Ms. Duncan said, yes. Councilmember L.J. Bryant motioned, seconded by Councilmember David McClain, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-26:013 by title only. All voted aye. (There was some confusion with moving forward for adoption of ORD-26:013.) Ms. Duncan said, it's an ordinance, so this is just the first reading. If you want to approve it today, there needs to be a motion to waive second and third reading. If there's no emergency, then it would just go to its second reading. Councilmember Gibson said, it's not that urgent. Ms. Duncan replied, okay, so it will be on its second reading at the next City Council meeting. Mayor Copenhaver said, so its on its first reading, discussion, and it will move on to the second reading. Alright, thanks Council.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, yes, thank you. It feels as if I haven't been here in ages, but actually I was missing for a good reason. Two things. One, I've been here in since 1996, or I mean year 30 of my anniversary as a resident in Jonesboro. And I say that because I missed the last meeting and I want to honor my wife, that we have been married for 25 years, and that date fell on City Council. So I think family was a little bit more important than City Council. Ms. Duncan said, you made a wise choice. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman continued, I want to stay with her another 25, right? Ms. Duncan replied, yes. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman continued, but the thing that I want to say about that is that we're grateful to see over the past several years how Jonesboro has expanded and grown in quality of living here. I was just amazed that we did not have to travel an hour, two hours out of town to find fine dining and just have time to just relax and see green spaces. So I appreciate what Jonesboro is doing. We're able to eat and just have a good time here, and we're doing well. But I also know that there are challenges, and one thing that I don't want to do is, and I've heard one of my colleagues say this before, kicking the can down the road, because I heard a definition that says if you keep doing the same thing, expecting a different result, it's insanity. And so there are some things I know we've been speaking about and getting information, being transparent, communicating, and I want to ensure

that we are continuing to do that. I've asked a few times months ago, weeks ago, about the east side, the east park that's being planned, and I was promised to be a part of that. I haven't heard anything yet, so I'm waiting to hear that. We have residents that are really eager and want to know what's happening, how that's going. But also that there is a lot of traffic on Prospect. We know that part of the plan is to expand some of the road on Prospect, and I know we've already gone over that and done some of those, having those discussions. But I think we need to do, I would like to see done, maybe another study or something down Prospect, even beyond where the park is, because that community, that area is growing fast. There's a lot of houses and neighborhoods being built across the track in the fields off Kathleen Street, and there's a lot of speeding going on Kathleen Street. So I'm mentioning that because I don't know where else to mention it other than here. But it's a lot of traffic, there's a lot of speeding going on on Kathleen, on Prospect, which of course feeds those communities, and so I'd like for us to consider that. And on an ending note, I was able to host a Grammy Award winning artist here on this past Sunday. We got that out and it was well attended, it was on the ASU campus, and we're just grateful, I'm grateful to the Lord for the success of it, but also just the City of Jonesboro coming and just being a part, and to know that we can have groups and camaraderie and have a good time without having fights, and all the other things that people try to portray and say about certain groups or individuals. But I just want to say that I appreciate being here in Jonesboro, and I'm sorry I missed, but I think home is first. Thank you all. Mayor Copenhagen said, and Councilman, just in response to that, I know Brian and I actually discussed it today, we're about 60% on that completion on the Eastside project, and so when we have that, it should be here by the end of this week. I think we're ready, we can present that, so we'll be contacting and reaching out so we want you involved in your district obviously, both of y'all. You bet.

[ORD-26:013](#)

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

Councilmember L.J. Bryant motioned, seconded by Councilmember David McClain, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-26:013 by title only.

Held at one reading

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road, said, I just want to share with you guys, being a citizen and listening to citizens, is that a lot of the city is losing respect and a lot of trust in the city. And I only say that because of what came out when I requested the expense report from the volleyball tournaments earlier in the year. And I want to tell you that there was three separate meetings. One was is that we had great tournaments. The next meeting I heard that we lost \$6,500, and then last week I heard that we made \$10,000. So, we don't really know where those numbers are. I know that last week is that Mr. McClain asked Mr. Stearns to come up and talk about a couple of the employees of the Parks Department that were on the expense report just to show that they were there to help out with the numbers and how much they make and all that to show that they were actually working. Well, one of them is a Pool Director. The pool closes in September and doesn't open in January or February, and I don't know why we have to show that he was working at the tournaments on an expense report. I questioned some of the expense. I don't know if you all got the expense report on here, but it needs to be redone because the reason why I questioned it is because that's why we're having an FBI investigation, is that we don't know where the numbers, how many, and how much. On some of this expense report, is like there was gatekeepers, and it gives a dollar amount, but how much per hour and how many did we have? The

concession workers, I know that I saw \$11 an hour that we're paying our concession workers, but it says concession workers was a price. Food and snacks, \$825. Drinks, \$540. But what happened to the rest of the food that was left over? And I don't know of what tournament you cannot make money on the concession stand. So, apparently, we made some money, but we lost money all the way around. On this expense report, it says lunch boxes from Potbelly, \$3,100. Who ordered Potbelly? And who got the food? It doesn't say, but it gives a dollar amount. It gives hotels. Did we pay? What hotels did we pay for, and who stayed in the rooms? We don't know. We have a dollar amount. It's questionable there. The cleaning staff, there's a dollar amount on one of them that says \$600. What did they clean? Did they clean every single day? How much were they paid an hour? I know of the people that put together the tournament, but we also had some sports coordinators, and we had Jim Stearns, which I'm going to assume has the knowledge of running these things. So we had a lot of people that cost a lot of money, so who was running it? The concession stand manager, we paid \$22 an hour. I don't know who gets \$22 an hour to run a concession stand. What I'm just saying to you guys, and I know that, Ann, you had mentioned that Steve Purtee and Jim Stearns was going to work on a different expense report. It needs to be crystal clear to what is spent and what is taken in to the public because that's where the trust and the respect is going to come from all of you. And we want the city to run, but we need to know what is taken in and what is not. And I would have hoped that this expense report would have been done correctly the first time around instead of having to go and redo it again and being more clear. So I hope that we can work on it. I know Mr. Stearns is, and I know Mr. Purtee can work on it. But that's the reason why you're losing trust and you're losing respect from a lot of citizens. And we don't need that to happen in our city right now. So, I hope we can get it right the next time around. Thank you.

Carol White, 5001 Nicole Cove, said, I just wanted to show y'all these pretty tickets. They cost \$3 a piece to get into the Joe McCampbell flag football game. So, you can see they're really nice. I mean, they're very colorful. They're a really nice paper they're printed on. I have a little bit of a problem with that. Well, for the first thing, my grandson plays flag football. There are two entries to get in and pay your fees and everything. Well, my daughter, she waited. She's the mother. She waited in line. She got there in plenty of time, so she waited in the long line 20-25 minutes, then she gets up to the ticket takers, and there's three of them, very well-mannered. I mean, I had no problem with them whatsoever. They were doing their job, but the way it's set up, there's no way that they can monitor who, what cars in the line have been taken care of, you know, have paid their fees, and each person in the car pays three dollars and gets this ticket, and so I'm just wondering why we're spending, I don't know how much these cost. Mr. Stearns might have an idea, but you know, when we go to the basketball games, they're just a little tear-off ticket, and you know, they seem to be a little bit more economical, but anyway, I'm just wondering how much it costs for those, and then this, like I said, the sale of the tickets and collecting the money took all that time, so she made it into the game. She was in plenty of time. My husband, he got in line probably 15 minutes before the game. Well, he waited, and he waited, and he waited to get through the line. Well, the games had started, so he turned around and left, you know, because it wasn't going to be, he might have got five minutes, but anyhow. Okay, so that being said, I'm sorry, I'm nervous. Mayor Copenhagen said, that's okay. Ms. White continued, you know, I wanted to give a positive comment to the Craighead Forest groundskeepers. That forest looks so good. We camped out there. We're local campers, but I was very impressed. Whoever's taking care of that, one little hiccup, and I know y'all probably knew that, but we went over to the kids area where the playground is and the fishing, you know, where the little ones play. Well, let me just say there were some older teenage boys that were on the dock, and they were

using some really foul language loud, so we're walking by with my little seven-year-old grandson. You know, what do you do? Well, then I also saw a gentleman sitting on the park bench or the picnic table, I'm sorry, that was just observing the kids. I don't know his motives or anything, but he did not look like he had children out there, so I guess, and then I saw a bunch, about five junior high kids that were throwing big huge rocks into the to the lake where the kids were fishing, so I just wonder, you know, what kind of supervision is going on out there. I know we can't monitor everything, and I'm not asking. I don't want any freedoms taken away. I want people to be able to enjoy what we have, and I do appreciate the cleanliness and everything about Craighead Forest, except for that one thing. So, you know, in a supervisor position, maybe somebody has some answers, so that's it. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you for your comments, Ms. White. If you don't mind, visit with Jim after the meeting would be just fine.

Eugene Holloway, 408 Marshall Street, said, being that I have five minutes, I will get right to the heart of the matter. Mayor, you and I met at my church. We had a meeting conference at our church on March 12th. You and some of your associates came down here. We talked about sidewalks, curbs, traffic lights and things such as that with Plan Jonesboro. However, I want to get right to the heart of the matter about why I'm here. This is from an article that I wrote 10 years ago that was published in the Jonesboro Sun. This is just an excerpt from it, and I'm going to read it to you and get to the heart of the matter. During May of 2016, the City of Jonesboro established a committee to discuss the submitted property maintenance code to govern existing building structures to ensure a minimum level of public health, safety, and welfare for the general public and the occupants of the structure. It is my opinion that this code and its intent are honorable and beneficial to all the citizens of Jonesboro. However, the intent of this property maintenance code is to ensure that the tenant and the landlord owner had legal avenues to take when a health, safety, or welfare issue arises within or without the city structure. That's it. That's it. And this is why I'm here. I have a friend of mine who recently I've got I want to speak to someone after this. I have a video here of an apartment here in Jonesboro that he was, he put the down payment on, and they gave him this apartment. There's no one in this room here right now that will go into this place. Absolutely no one. I don't care if you were homeless. I think it's just that's it's too terrible. I'd rather sleep out on the street. And we've got to do something. We've got to make some changes with this landlord-tenant relationship here in Jonesboro. It's absolutely terrible. It's horrendous. I don't know if you've ever been into one of them to go look, but you need to. You need to get some kind of group to start this movement so that some of these events, some of the issues can be taking place. Despite long opposition, strong opposition, real to the fact that Jonesboro City Council passed the property maintenance code that day, this back in 2016. The new code, which kicks in March 15th, would require owners to maintain both the inside, this is what they tried to do, to maintain both the inside and outside the properties. This is what they tried to do. To maintain both the inside and outside of properties, locked doors and windows need to work, insects and rodents to be controlled. If the plumbing, electricity, or heat isn't working, it needs to be fixed. In the past, Code Enforcement officers could list complaints about such issues, but that was about it. These are the events, rather these are the issues that were being presented for the property maintenance code, which was what appealed...what, is that the word to use, appealed, repealed...I don't know what word to use, because it went into effect, and then just within a matter of weeks, I think, it was turned around completely. But we've got to do something here, because people are living in turmoil. This is a friend of mine, the apartment he went into. My daughter right now, she was going to come down here with me today, she said I'll never get here. She has, there's a snail that was on the wall in her son's bedroom. Now, they came to cut the grass in front of her apartment, okay. But now, all of the shrubberies, and not shrubberies, but just plants

and weeds and things that are growing up around, they cut the grass, but they didn't cut those things. So, they told her that if you don't like it, you can move. That's what she told me they told her. And so now, with property maintenance, where you're renting from, taking care of the yard and garden, you have to do that yourself. I think that's going a little bit too far. But there's a complete denial, and there's so much more I want to reveal, but I don't have the time to do it here right now today. But I thank you for this time to bring this to you. I would really love to hear from someone else, so we can discuss this. It's not a protest. Like T.D. Jakes says, I talk to the left wing and the right wing so the whole bird can fly. Thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Mr. Holloway. We'll get with you after the meeting. Thank you very much.

Latoya Yarbrough, 4610 Prospect Road, said, I don't care about apples and oranges. This is my second time seeing yall today. I don't care about mosquitoes. I care about my father laying in Oaklawn Cemetery in the wrong grave because the city instructed the grave diggers to dig the wrong grave. I care about my 81-year-old mother who cannot properly grieve because I'm having to be here, because I had to meet with them today. So while we're fixing roads, while we're making tickets for Little League games, what are you going to do about the Parks and Recreations Department records? Because apparently, my father's not the only person that was in the wrong grave. Because the information that I received on the day that my mother and I stood at Oaklawn to pick my father's grave was not the right information or somebody dropped the ball. Come to find out, after my father was buried, that somebody dropped the ball. The supervisor that this city hired dropped the ball. And so now my father, who died on Good Friday, is laying in a grave that does not belong to him and now has to be exhumed at this city's expense. Someone made mentioned earlier that people are losing trust. I've never not trusted this city. I've never not trusted this council. But how do you expect me to trust you and the people who you hire and the people who you put in place to handle my father's remains, to tell me that he can lay in a grave that initially you say it belonged to someone else? How do you expect me to trust you to do something with some mosquitoes and some kids' tickets to a game when my father is laying in a grave that does not belong to him until he's approved to be exhumed? Yet the city can't be sued. The city can't have nothing done to them. And thank you for the offer that you made. I'm expecting the proposal and I promise you we will respond. I appreciate you meeting with my mom and I today. I appreciate you explaining what you were trying to explain. But that does not negate the fact that for the last week of my life where I was supposed to be grieving my father has been disrupted because now I have to figure out whose responsibility it is to have his body exhumed so that he can be in the grave that my mother and I chose and paid for. So while you're meeting in your chambers, in your offices, over the phones, and at your house, ask yourself how would you feel if it was your spouse and your father laying in the wrong grave? How would you feel if on the day you buried your father and you went the next day because your grieving mother wanted to go visit her deceased husband's grave only to find out that it was the wrong one? And today I get an apology. It's almost like giving a criminal a slap on the wrist. So if we want to talk about doing something for the City of Jonesboro, bump these streets, bump the sidewalks, bump the mosquitoes. Take yourself out there and get the records together so that we will know where our people are or where they're supposed to be. Because it is unfair to my 81 year old mama to have to be going through this today. So if you want my suggestion, do something different because apparently the Parks and Recreations Department is falling apart. Apparently the records are old and ancient and just paperwork. Because when I went out there last week he couldn't even show me a map, but today they could create one after a very strong demand letter. Thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Ms. Yarbrough.

11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Gibson, seconded by Councilperson Brian Emison, that this meeting be Adjourned. 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