



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

PUBLIC WORKS 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

Councilmember David McClain joined the meeting at approximately 5:33 p.m.

Present 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Absent 1 - Ann Williams

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Councilmember Chris Moore motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to adopt the Consent Agenda with the exception of RES-24:008. All present voted aye.

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

Aye: 10 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Absent: 2 - David McClain and Ann Williams

[MIN-24:006](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON JANUARY 16, 2024

Attachments: [CC Minutes 01162024](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-24:001](#)

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO

SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE FY2024 REBUILDING AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE WITH SUSTAINABILITY AND EQUITY (RAISE) GRANT

Attachments: [RAISE Handout1](#)
 [RAISE Map Handout](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-006-2024

[RES-24:003](#)

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO AUTHORIZE THE GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (USDOT), FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA), FY2021 49 U.S.C. SECTION 5339 FORMULA GRANT, FOR THE JONESBORO ECONOMICAL TRANSIT SYSTEM (JET)

Attachments: [NovusDR-Paratransit-Demand-Response-Software-Compilation-TripSpark- J](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-007-2024

RESOLUTIONS REMOVED OR NOT ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

[RES-24:008](#)

A RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH PLACER LABS INC. FOR DATA COMPILING SOFTWARE TO PROVIDE VITAL INFORMATION FOR GRANT WRITING EFFORTS

Attachments: [Placer Labs Inc](#)

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, I would like to say this. We discussed this I know in Finance and one of the discussions was this software potentially gathering information because of GPS or gathering this information from our citizens to know where they are and the location and so on and so forth. And, one of the questions that I have was if this was a violation of our rights as a citizen to have this, I don't know what the terms are but basically for them to know where we are and what we are doing. And, I just think it is good that we bring clarity on that. But the second piece of this and we discussed it in Finance is normally that, you know I have only been here a year on this council, and normally on resolutions we show the amount of what the contracts are and so on and so forth. I do realize that this is under the threshold and so it wasn't necessary for that. So, I would like for someone to kind of address the questions regarding a concern for having a person's phone or where they are and location and all of that without their consent. If they could speak to that. Mayor Copenhaver said, good question councilman. Director Biggs is present this evening. So, Jeremy, if you don't mind explaining a few more.

Grants Director Jeremy Biggs said, okay. Great question. We are entering into this contract so we can follow and abide by all of the confidentiality regulations and laws. But, this data does not track personal, this software does not track personal data. It does not tell us whose phone it is tracking. It doesn't have a number. We don't gather any of that. We are not privy to any of that. The company doesn't produce any of that data. They can't gain that data. They use third party apps that we all have on our phones and we all give permission for those apps to use our data or we can decline for

them to track our information. But, it is simply reporting back zip codes from where those phones originated at. So, we use that as, when we have festivals in town or where we have all of our trails and recreational outdoor activities that we can tell where people are coming from, how many people are using it on a regular basis or a weekly basis, how many people are coming downtown to a festival, where are they going after they leave the festival, that type of data is what we are going to be able to gain from this software in this agreement. No personal identification and will be. It is not even an option to have the personal identifying information provided to us, they don't collect it. So, as far as that concern, it is a valid concern, but there is no personal identifying data that is going to be gleaned from this. Mayor Copenhagen said, Director Biggs, do you remember the financial? Mr. Biggs stated, the price is \$20,000 a year for the annual contract and that gives us five users that can use that platform. It is a 12-month contract. So, it would be renewable after 12 months if the city or the council felt that was a good way to move. City Attorney Carol Duncan stated, the contract is attached in Legistar. So, it was on the resolution. I was double checking to make sure. Mr. Biggs said, you should have the full contract and it is listed out as \$20,000 annually. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you.

Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road, said, I think Dr. Coleman and I had basically kind of the same and so did a lot of people because I listened to the Finance meeting last week too. And, I noticed that there were five people using it and where the Community Service Manager and the CDBG Project Manager was going to use it so I am not understanding why, why, what service this tracking would provide to them. I don't know why those are the fourth and the fifth people for using this program. The app too, is that, that's my concern too. Is that, you know, if I look up lasagna on Safari or Google, is that the next thing I know is that I am getting a lot of lasagna ads on my Facebook page. And, so, that is just one concern that I have. So, if we can be guaranteed because I know a lot of times when you accept an app, you have to say I agree to the terms of it. So, I don't know if this is something that we have to do or it's just given out there. Ms. Duncan asked, can I respond to that real quick Patti? It is not an app that people here would have on their phone. It is taking data from apps that you have already agreed to collect your data. So, like, if you are on Facebook, you have probably agreed that they can collect your data. So, they are already tracking you everywhere you go. If you are on Instagram, they are tracking you because you probably don't read that big ole long, we all do it, we all click yes and then they start tracking us. All this does is collect that data. It won't tell me that it is you. But, it will just say you went to the park and so then we can use that data to say look at all of the people that came to the park from out of town and we should deserve this grant to help enhance our park or look at all of the people that came through. It is not something new that is on your phone. It is using data that has already being collected. Ms. Lack said, I guess, what we have to do as citizens is that you need to read that description instead of agreeing. Ms. Duncan said, or you can deny it and that means you don't get Facebook. Ms. Lack said, there you go. Ms. Duncan said, that is how they get you. Ms. Lack said, yeah, and I guess that is my concern too is that on every single resolution that I have read, you know over the years, it has always put the contract amount. So, if this is under the threshold but the contract is in there is that once again is that everything is good to have in writing on that. So if a contract is to there, then I think that just kind of satisfies that. Ms. Duncan said, yeah, the contract is there. Ms. Lack said, okay, okay. So, can anybody answer why the Community Service Manager and the CDBG Service Manager will be using this? Mayor Copenhagen stated, once we get that up and running, then we can move forward and we will be happy to provide who will be using that information and why. Ms. Lack said, okay. I appreciate it. Thank you. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you. Councilmember Chris Gibson said, I just want to say I think from an A&P perspective, this will be an invaluable tool. Mayor Copenhagen

said, thank you councilman.

Mayor Copenhaver said, we do have another councilmember that has joined us this evening. Thank you Councilmember McClain for coming. City Clerk April Leggett stated, I have him recorded as coming into the meeting before the discussion and vote of this item. So, his vote does count. (Councilmember David McClain joined the meeting at approximately 5:33 p.m.)

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 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

Enactment No: R-EN-008-2024

[RES-24:002](#)

RESOLUTION TO SET JUDGES, CLERKS AND ALTERNATE WORKERS FOR THE 2024 CITY, WATER AND LIGHT ELECTION

Councilmember John Street abstained from discussion and voting on RES-24:002 because he is on the CWL Board of Directors.

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: 10 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

Abstain: 1 - John Street

Enactment No: R-EN-009-2024

[RES-24:004](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO ACQUIRE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 315 WELCH FROM THE PROPERTY OWNER, REDBIRD INVESTMENTS, LLC

Attachments: [315 Welch - App](#)
[315 Welch St - Appraisal UPDATED](#)
[Limited Title Search - 315 Welch](#)
[Dec. 12, 2023 Land Bank Minutes](#)

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: 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

Enactment No: R-EN-010-2024

[RES-24:005](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO ACQUIRE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 405/411 MCDANIEL FROM THE PROPERTY OWNER, REDBIRD INVESTMENTS, LLC

Attachments: [405 & 411 McDaniel - App](#)
[405 & 411 McDaniel - Appraisal](#)
[Limited Title Search - 405&411 McDaniel](#)
[Dec. 12, 2023 Land Bank Minutes](#)

Councilmember David McClain said, Mayor, I've got a quick question. On these, what is our plan? What do we plan doing on these pieces of property? Are we planning to sell or hold onto them? I guess this would be for all of them, the one we just voted on and the next two. Mayor Copenhagen asked Planning Director Derrel Smith to come forward. Mr. Smith said, right now they are just going to be in our inventory. If somebody in the area is looking to develop, you know, we will look at that, but right now we are just putting them into inventory. Councilmember Chris Moore said, just as a note, I can't speak on the other ones, but this particular one adjoins our city park over on Hope Street. Councilmember McClain said, I was looking at McDaniel and Hope, you are right. Mr. Moore said, this one adjoins. Welch is actually a dead-end street that doesn't look like a street and this property is at the end of it and adjoins our city park right there. Councilmember McClain said, unless I am missing something, it looks like Redbird, Redbird, a piece of property in between, and then somebody else owns a piece of property. I'm just trying to make sure I know what we're doing. Mr. Smith said, right now, we don't have any plans for them, they are just going to go into inventory. Councilmember McClain said, okay.

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: 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

Enactment No: R-EN-011-2024

[RES-24:006](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO ACQUIRE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 812 CREATH FROM THE PROPERTY OWNER, REDBIRD INVESTMENTS, LLC

Attachments: [812 Creath - App](#)
[812 Creath Ave - Appraisal](#)
[Limited Title Search - 812 Creath](#)
[Dec. 12, 2023 Land Bank Minutes](#)

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: 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

Enactment No: R-EN-012-2024

[RES-24:007](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO ACQUIRE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1025/1029 HOPE FROM THE PROPERTY OWNER, REDBIRD INVESTMENTS, LLC

Attachments: [1025 & 1029 Hope App](#)
 [1025 & 1029 Hope - Appraisal](#)
 [Limited Title Search 1025&1029 Hope](#)
 [Dec. 12, 2023 Land Bank Minutes](#)

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: 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

Enactment No: R-EN-013-2024

6. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-24:001](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR A MICROBREWERY-RESTAURANT PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR DEFENDING ADVANCEMENT, INC. d/b/a LEBOWSKI'S INC. TO BE LOCATED AT 1514 SOUTHERN RIDGE BLVD., JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

Attachments: [Application Redacted](#)
 [Publication Receipt](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Mitch Johnson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-24:001 by title only. All voted aye.

James Elwin Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, said, I tried to find out exactly where this was located, but I have been told that the building doesn't even exist at this point. I think it is way premature to be looking at this. I know if they were trying to locate that in my neighborhood, I would be very upset about it.

Held at one reading

[ORD-24:002](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM AG-1 TO I-1 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 6725 E. HIGHLAND DRIVE AS REQUESTED BY GARRETT DUNHAM OF FISHER ARNOLD ON BEHALF OF PLATINUM PROPERTIES OF NEA, LLC

Attachments: [Staff Summary-CC](#)
[Rezoning Plat](#)
[01032024 Certified Receipts](#)
[01042024 Certified Receipts](#)
[Platinum Properties Cover Letter](#)
[Platinum Properties Property Owner Notification](#)
[Platinum Properties Rezoning Application](#)
[Staff Summary \(6\)](#)
[6725 e highland](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Mitch Johnson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-24:002 by title only. All voted aye.

Garrett Dunham, 3121 Galloway Court, said, I am just here to represent the rezoning. There is 3.9 acres that are currently already zoned I-1 on this property. We are just trying to clean it up and rezone the remaining portion of the parcel to I-1. Thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Mr. Dunham for your comments.

Held at one reading

[ORD-24:003](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE APPROVAL OF A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR JONESBORO KIDS D/B/A SOUTHERN BBQ HILLTOP

Attachments: [Southern BBQ Hilltop Private Club_Redacted](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Mitch Johnson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-24:003 by title only. All voted aye.

James Elwin Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, said, are we really considering a private club permit for Jonesboro Kids? Think about that name. There is something wrong here. Now, I know it is a priority for the City of Jonesboro to connect young people with alcohol at the first possible moment, but Jonesboro Kids, that evokes underage drinking, the name. I really think that Jonesboro Kids, if they are honest about what they are trying to do, then that would not be an appropriate place for a private club permit. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you for your comments.

Held at one reading

[ORD-24:004](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE TRANSFER OF LOCATION OF A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR 1812 PIZZA COMPANY

Attachments: [Private Club Relocation Application](#)
[Publication Receipt](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Mitch Johnson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-24:004 by title only. All voted aye.

James Elwin Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, said, I really don't have a whole lot of objection to this. However, there is something I am concerned about with these transfers. Sometimes we see people come back and they want to put in another pub after the one that moved out and say, well there's been one there the whole time and try to sneak another one in on us. And, I just think we need to be on alert and not be allowing that kind of thing to happen if we approve these transfers. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you sir.

Held at one reading

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-23:045](#)

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 John Street, seconded by Councilperson Chris Moore, that this matter be Passed. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

Enactment No: O-EN-003-2024

[ORD-23:048](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE TRANSFER OF LOCATION OF A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT

Attachments: [Transfer of Location of Private Club Permit Application](#)
 [Publication Fee Receipt](#)

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 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

Enactment No: O-EN-004-2024

ITEMS THAT HAVE BEEN HELD IN COUNCIL

[ORD-23:046](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 AND C-5 TO C-3 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 915 SOUTHWEST DRIVE AS REQUESTED BY G. S. BRANT PERKINS

Attachments: [Staff Summary - C.C.](#)
[Application for Zoning Ordinance Map Amendment](#)
[H23-075 Cahoon Boundary survey with aerial \(002\)](#)
[H23-075 Cahoon Boundary survey](#)
[Ltr](#)
[Perkins](#)
[Signed Owner Notifications](#)
[U.S](#)
[Warranty Deeds](#)
[Zoning Sign](#)
[Patti Lacks Handout on Trees 12192023](#)
[cahoon receipt](#)

Mayor Copenhaver stated, I will make initial comments. Carol has been a part of this negotiation process and it was requested by the city to provide her information in this and they have come to a resolution. So, Carol, would you like to make any comments? City Attorney Carol Duncan said, yes, as I sent you all in an email earlier, I guess it was yesterday. I have not spoken to Mr. Cahoon. Mr. Cahoon's legal counsel, Mr. Perkins, who I think I saw here earlier had reached out to me earlier about him voluntarily paying into the city for the fact that the trees were removed and he made the statement he wasn't aware. He had moved before we had adopted that ordinance was the statement made and that he wanted to try to make it right. So, I reached out to the Mayor's Office and it was determined that an employee (I don't know who it was. It might have been Derrel.) went out when we heard the trees were being cut and looked at the stumps and determined how many significant trees were actually cut. We reached a number of six with Mr. Perkins as his counsel and as I told you the basis for that was \$250 per tree and then \$500 for the permit that should have been obtained in the beginning plus our standard with the City of Jonesboro if you don't do a permit in the beginning, you go back and try to make things right, you pay double the permit is essentially what we charge all citizens. So, that is how we reached the \$2,500. It was \$250 a tree times six significant trees that were on the lot and the \$1,000 for the permit and that was then paid Monday morning or afternoon, pretty quickly on Monday into the City of Jonesboro and it is being placed in the tree I don't know what we call the fund. But, it is basically a fund to plant trees as needed in Jonesboro similar to the in lieu of sidewalk fee. The tree ordinance has a section that if they are unable to replant the trees on their property, it allows them to pay an in lieu of fee so that trees can be planted elsewhere as needed in the City of Jonesboro. So, that is where that money is. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you for that explanation and your work on that.

Councilmember David McClain stated, Mayor, I have a quick question. I know I was reading the staff summary and it checks all of the boxes, but I think my biggest concern would be whatever goes there, will it fit and will we have any issues and there has to be a traffic study, but do we foresee any issues in that location. I don't know if Derrel, you want to touch on that, but in my mind, I almost feel like there may be some future issues whether it be drainage or traffic. That is right at a red light and it seems like there may be. Mayor Copenhaver said, Derrel, if you would please come forward. And, I will tell you that ARDOT is also doing traffic studies so there might be some utilization at that point for additional expansion on I-555. Councilmember McClain asked, would that be something that would go on that property or are you saying that? Planning Director Derrel Smith said, I don't have that information David. All I know is that we will look at whatever is proposed for it. It will have to meet all of the ordinances before it will be approved. So, anything that is listed under C-3, there is no limited used on this. Anything listed under C-3 could be a possibility on that site and we will just

have to look at it and make those determinations as it is submitted. Realistically, C-3 is probably the best zone for the site because of the location. But, will there be challenges developing it, yeah, but we have got challenges on a lot of sites in Jonesboro.

Chloe James, Perkins Law Firm on behalf of Mark and Thurse Cahoon, said, I would like to echo what Carol said. Mark had no ill intent and he wanted to make that donation into the city. And, we truly appreciate Carol and the city working with us to come to a resolution. As far as access issues, there are currently two access points on the property and we don't know what will be put there, but we would love to have a traffic light. But, it is our understanding that is up to the Arkansas Department of Transportation and the City of Jonesboro to ultimately make that call of whether a traffic light is placed in that location. Councilmember McClain said, like I said, that is a concern for me going forward, but everybody else do what you feel, but I don't think I can support it for that reason. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you very much. Councilmember Chris Gibson said, I want to expand on that just a little bit as well. You know, safety is a big concern of mine also just for the simple fact that is the worst area in Jonesboro in regard to traffic flow as we all know. So, I don't know where my head is at on this one, but that would be my biggest concern. Chief, can you elaborate on how many accidents actually happen across that corridor? Police Chief Rick Elliott said, not off the top of my head. I mean that is a number we can certainly research and get back to you. I don't know right off the top of my head. I can probably look at it on my phone through the mobile app and maybe come up with a number here in a few minutes. Mayor Copenhagen said, and I will say council that the Arkansas Highway Transportation Department is looking at each and every one of our intersections along I-555 for improvements when it comes to safety. This one will be addressed in that as well. So, that study has already been somewhat, it has been looked at in a big mode and it is about a \$100 million investment all the way up and down the bypass. But, this will possibly be a part of that. So, that will improve the safety issue and possibly your concern.

Councilmember McClain asked, what does that mean? I guess my follow-up to that is so, they are looking to improve, what kind of improvements are they looking to make, like widening, sidewalks, what does that mean? Mayor Copenhagen said, on and off I-555, so multiple locations all the way up and down the bypass basically making improvements. But, that again, is just on the table. So, this is where this communication will be forwarded on to the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department. Councilmember Joe Hafner asked, Mayor, isn't that the section that is going to be worked on like pretty soon? Mayor Copenhagen said, it could be, yes sir. Councilmember Hafner said, there should be... Mayor Copenhagen said, it is going to be on the Parker Road side of the road, the majority of it, but there will be some improvements made on that Southwest Drive. Brian, do you remember which one of the improvements is going to be made? Chief Elliott said, Mr. Mayor, if I may, the results for motor vehicle accidents in 2023 at Southwest and Alexander Drive is 53. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you Chief.

Chief Administration Officer Brian Richardson said, of course, ARDOT has had a couple of public meetings about the interchange studies that they are doing. I think as of right now, of course I think it might still be open to comment, but as of right now, the improvements that they are planning are actually on the south side of the road, but it is already a signalized intersection. And, I guess kind of like what Director Smith talked about that each individual project is looked upon at the merits of when it is presented. We have no idea what the traffic count in and out of whatever is going to be located there is until it is actually presented. And, so, as far as what kind of burden it

would cause, I don't know. We will just have to see whatever is submitted. So, but I do know that ARDOT has looked at some of those interchanges through there. There have been public meetings. All of the current improvements, I believe are on the south side of the interstate. So, that's what I know. Councilmember McClain said, again, I will say this the last time, the only reason I'm saying something is when you drive down Southwest in the morning and you look at Shadrach's, the line is in the street. So, the last thing I think we should do is to continue to create issues along that corridor. And, I don't know if that lot lends itself to have enough space. So, anyway, that is just my two cents. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you councilman.

Chloe James said, thank you for your comments. It is currently zoned commercial already and there is no limit on the amount of traffic flow that can be handled under this current C-5 zoning. And, I think the issue to consider here is whether a property on Southwest Drive is appropriate to be rezoned as C-3, General Commercial. And, I think based upon just looking across the street, there is a bank, there is about five different restaurants, and a grocery store and this is consistent with the city's land use plan. It is in a high-intensity area growth sector. Southwest Drive is a principle arterial street and I think C-3 is appropriate and any traffic considerations can be addressed in the site plan. Councilmember Mitch Johnson said, and there is several businesses that have had traffic lights added to their advantage to get in and out of their properties. Advance Auto Parts was one right there at Harrisburg and Highland and Centennial Bank at Old Greensboro and Johnson as well. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you ma'am. Councilmember LJ Bryant said, Mayor, if I could ask Mr. Smith, I was just kind of looking here on GIS and I know that it is currently C-5 and R-1 and kind of looking down Southwest Drive going the opposite direction on the same side of the road, it is more C-4. And, of course, obviously, it butts up to the Pinecrest and stuff there. Just kind of generally speaking, why is it more appropriate for the others to be C-4 that abut it along that side of Southwest Drive and this be C-3? Planning Director Derrel Smith said, Mr. Bryant, that is what they were zoned when it started. I don't, why they didn't go for C-4, is probably because they were adjacent to residential, but this is at a major intersection and most of your major intersections, the commercial areas are C-3 at all of them. Councilmember Bryant said, thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Derrel.

Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road, said, first I want to say thank you Carol for informing me yesterday about the information there. What I just want to tell you is that one of my questions that was brought up at the very first meeting was is that Beverly Parker mentioned that there was a stop work order on this and apparently someone had lifted it. I just want to let you guys know that if the stop order was in place and we looked at that and we addressed the situation with the trees, this whole issue about the trees would have been handled right then. So, still today, I do not know and if it was, who placed that stop order and who was the person that lifted it. So, if we follow our ordinances, we would be in a different situation right now. So, that being said about the trees. Now, we have to talk about the rezoning. Yeah, there is going to be additional traffic there and it is an extremely dangerous intersection. And, Chief, I appreciate you saying that there are 53. I actually asked the girl at the Police Department to do a traffic study. I have to tell you this is really detailed about it. You say 53, I have, she said 14 in the year of 2023 on that. So, 53 versus 14, whatever it is, it is 53 more and it is 14 more than what we need at an extremely, extremely dangerous intersection. And, the thing is, is that it is not going to get any less busier because you look at Southern Hills being expanded and you look at the Valley View area being expanded. The intersection of Parker Road and Southwest Drive, I talked to Brad Smith and Shannon last week about that because I wanted to find out about the dates and they said that would be starting probably in June of this year. So, it is

coming up pretty soon on there. The cost. So, that where that property is located, it is not an exact line up to that traffic signal. So, one, who is going to pay for the additional signage for that and who is going to pay for the traffic light to be given to that. Is that going to be the person who purchases the property or is it going to be the city? Also, too, the water flow on that. You know we had some pretty heavy rain this last couple of weeks. With all of the trees removed, where is that water going to be because it is on a hillside. So, we are going to have that issue coming up. So, I have got the traffic study, but where I am concerned with is the last couple of rezonings that we have talked about is that we have limited the type of C-3 businesses that can be on the property. Remember that of Culberhouse and Southwest Drive going through there, we limited those businesses. We limited the times of those businesses. We have not done that yet for this piece of property. And, where my concern is, is that once you guys rezone this if you approve it today, it is rezoned, it is C-3. You guys don't have an option of saying no you can't do it anymore. You know, maybe what they need to do is to look and go back to the drawing board and figure out what they want to put there and put the proper rezoning. But, once you guys sign that over to C-3, it's set and done. So, I hope you guys really, really think hard about rezoning this property right now as is where the location is. And, until we get that intersection at Southwest Drive and Parker Road fixed, we don't know exactly what the traffic count is going to be. But, the only thing it is going to do is it is going to increase and we are going to have more accidents, whether it is 14 or whether it is 53 from what the Chief said. So, I hope you think hard about this one. Thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you.

Councilmember Mitch Johnson said, Mayor, can I ask Derrel real quickly, did this property meet all of the criteria in the rezoning request and the application? Just to refresh my memory. Mr. Smith said, yes sir, it did. Councilmember Johnson said, okay, thank you. Mr. Smith said, it met all six criteria. Councilmember Johnson said, thank you.

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: 9 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street and Charles Coleman

Nay: 2 - David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

Enactment No: O-EN-005-2024

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported on the following:

These will be my comments for 2/6/24. Our sales tax receipts in January were a pleasant surprise and it is clear that a lot of people enjoyed a good Christmas around Jonesboro. Monthly receipts were up 9.1% year over year, more than \$350,000 better than last year and by far the best Jonesboro has ever seen in a January report. January figures represent previous November spending so if the trend continues, we can probably pave more streets and accomplish more than we anticipated this year.

I also attended this year's first Economic Development Corporation meeting where Mark Young expanded on the future projects for growth. As we have mentioned, Jonesboro was ranked 14th among the leading hot spots for economic growth by Area Development Magazine, a publication known by CEO's as the leading corporate site

selection resource for more than 50 years. So, it is crystal clear that Jonesboro remains on the right path for the future and I am proud of the leaders and our proud city who are participating in that success. We have locked arms and we are good for our residents. Another source of pride, a part of the reason for our economic growth is the success of the Red Wolf Convention Center to constantly attract conventions to Jonesboro. Later this month, we will host the Governor's Conference on Tourism. That will be a three day event that will draw more than 600 tourists and industry leaders and experts and especially the governor herself to the city. It will include a concert by John Carter Cash, and you know that is Johnny's son, a big party downtown and events all around our city.

Not long after that, we will be visited by one of the most rare events in any community, a great American eclipse that will cut directly through our city. We anticipate large numbers and the Oasis Festival has moved its lineup to the weekend of the event of April 6th. The eclipse is the following Monday and we are preparing for filled streets, hotels, and an almost three hour event that includes more than a little over two minutes of a complete mid-day darkness. I have my glasses so I hope you are ready to have yours.

We came through almost two weeks of harsh weather relatively unscathed. I am proud of our emergency services and street crews for keeping our roads safe. I am also proud of the sixteen restaurants and food providers that donated meals for those staying in the Salvation Army through that weather. And, I would like to list them council: Legends BBQ, Big AK BBQ, Post Consumer Brands, Sam's Club, SSC Strategic Solutions, Lost Pizza, Fazoli's, Steak'n Shake, McDonalds on both Highland and Nettleton, Texas Roadhouse, Grace Community Church, Newks, Marco's Pizza on Hilltop, Cracker Barrel, and Native Brew Works. All are community minded servants of Jonesboro and they are much appreciated. I also want to acknowledge the three members of our administrative team who were instrumental in delivering those meals to the Salvation Army, Tonya Hottel, Shelly Anderson, and Lynette Hirsch. They went above their job titles to serve and they deserve special appreciation.

Another group that never gets told enough about the recognition are the staff and volunteers who serve our four legged friends. We have had a hard couple of weeks and the emotions that come with dealing with these rescues from puppy mills and an overflow crowd of more than 110 at Animal Services requires a special type of servant. It's sad that shelters all across the country have to put dogs down and I was disgusted to see such a horrible puppy mill in our community. Sweet dogs don't realize when the conditions that they live in are an abomination. I will ask everyone to thank our staff and volunteers. I can't encourage the good people of Jonesboro enough to please adopt a pet. One way to lower the orphan population is to spay and neuter and Animal Services are offering a low-cost vaccination clinic. With the help of Dr. Laura Dacus, the next one will be held 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, February 17, 2024. That is a week from Saturday at the back of Earl Bell Community Center on Church Street.

The past several weeks we have held our Craighead County Mayor's Dinner late last month and it was good to visit and hear about the Mayors from around our county. I especially want to thank the volunteers of Project Search. These special needs young adults were mentored by Mrs. Mary Housewright and her team at St. Bernards. These young people learn how to do their jobs and add meaning to their lives and believe me, they are an inspiration to watch. They are happy. They are hardworking and they take true pride in their work. We have hired several graduates from Project Search and I can tell you they are some of the most dependable people we have to employ .

Also, we had a Mayor's Caucus that was attended by more than 60 individuals and Mayors over eight counties. This is growing and we are continuing to share communication and efforts. It is imperative that we do so and we are taking this forward across the state to other areas as we continue to grow this. They are learning and seeing what we are doing here. So, I commend the leadership now in place that the Mayor's Caucus and what they are doing for Northeast Arkansas.

I want to give out a special thanks to Pastor Clark at New St. John's Church for hosting me and its congregation this past Sunday. They allowed me to present community awards for property managers for their service. Pastor Clark's mantra: A Church that doesn't serve it's community, cannot save it's community.

Our Chief and a few directors joined me a few nights ago to the West End Neighborhood meeting discussing the concerns and solutions to improve one of the most thriving and active neighborhoods in our city. Councilmember Chris Moore was also available for that meeting. I appreciate their dedication and commitment in making the West End, and therefore, Jonesboro, stronger.

I also took a trip out to Valley View Junior and Senior High Schools to see their programs in agriculture, medical professions, sports medicine, computer science, and radio and television. What they are doing out there is incredible. As they prepare these end roads for these youth in our community to be engaged in their future, hopefully Arkansas State University and other futures here in our community.

Finally, I want to mention another great success with our Neighborhood Cleanups which last Saturday was held at the Southside Softball Complex. Code Enforcement sent individuals to more than 250 doors and the community responded. This continues our efforts to make the city more beautiful every day and I would like to point out that since that piloted program just 13 months ago, more than 300,000 pounds of garbage, waste, and future blight have been removed from the city. Congratulations to all involved.

We do have a short video, I believe, prepared by Sally Smith with the Jonesboro Police Department. We will go head and play this short video for council. That is the end of my council reports.

(Video plays from 49:42 to 53:13.) Before you say something Carol, I would like to say thank you and I can't say enough about our Animal Services staff, its Director, obviously our Police Department as well, our Fire Department, and City Attorney's Office for all collaboratively working together on this.

City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I just wanted to say that every office, Animal Control, and my office, and the Mayor's Office have been inundated with people wanting to adopt these dogs from this puppy mill. And, I think it is important for everyone to understand that these are not going to be eligible for adoption for quite some time, if ever. Unfortunately, they are going to be tied up in a lawsuit. There are criminal charges that have been filed and we cannot adopt these dogs out. However, if your heart is there to adopt a dog, there are wonderful dogs at Jonesboro Animal Control that need adopting. We also appreciate all of the donations that have been coming in. People have been very generous. It is going to be a long haul. So, keep being generous if you can be generous because it is going to be a while that we have to take care of these dogs. But, there are a lot of great dogs out at Animal Control available. Don't just sit back and wait for one of these. Thanks. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Carol.

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember John Street said, I would just like to echo what the Mayor and Carol said and extend a heartfelt appreciation to those involved in the rescue of those animals. It's heartbreaking to think that in this day and age that can exist in Jonesboro, but it apparently did and thank God it was found and those animals rescued. Mayor, I know winter is not over, but what we have had has taken a terrible toll on our streets as we talked about earlier. I would hope that the Street Department and Engineering is starting to gather a list on that and that we can get on that. The sooner that we get them repaired, the less damage that will occur. Winter was tough. I haven't seen that many potholes around town in a long, long time. Our Street Department does an excellent job in maintaining our streets and I hope we get on that pretty quick. Mayor Copenhagen said, well, the good thing is you are right on point and we did open the bid so we are moving forward with that and the first layer is on its way. Councilmember Street said, that's all I got. Thank you Mayor. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you.

Councilmember Mitch Johnson said, very impressive video Mayor and I am glad that we have the staff that could handle something like this and probably when you think about it, we are fortunate to the city that we have the ability to take on something like this. It would be a challenge for probably somewhere else.

Councilmember LJ Bryant said, I was just going to say and I know we have made some efforts and there will never be a magical solution, but we had a pedestrian hit on Main Street in the last day or two. In all of my years on the Council, we have had a lot of pedestrians hit all over town. We will never have a magical solution for it. I know we have worked on things, but I hope we will continue to work on things because I know people want to feel safe walking downtown. When we think about safety is like, not getting robbed which is very important too, but people feeling safe crossing the street is important as well. Mayor Copenhagen said, I think we are finding out just to add to that is lighting is a key element in that and so where the pedestrians can see better, car traffic can see better as well. So, we are already in discussions on how we can continue to improve the downtown especially. You will be seeing a new speed table going in front again, it is going to be in front of right out on the south side to the east side of St. Bernards. They have requested another. So, we are going to be putting another speed table there so we are trying to slow the traffic down in the downtown community especially. So, thank you.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said, I would just like to say that tomorrow night is a big game out at ASU. They play James Madison University. Our team has greatly improved this year. If you don't have any plans, I think it would be a great idea to go out there and encourage our, support our team and cheer them onto a victory. Mayor Copenhagen said, that would be great. James Madison is 20-3, 8-3 in conference, and so they are a top ranked team in the country so far this year. So, hopefully, we can get all of the word out to the community. Councilmember Hafner said, they deserve it. Thank you.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, yes, real quickly, thank you Mayor. I wanted to add to your kudos on those restaurants that were giving during that cold spell. There was one I don't know if you knew about, but I wanted to make sure that I did have this on record, but Shamal Carter and his business SCC Strategic Solutions, LLC, they also gave during that time as well. So, I wanted to make sure. Thank you. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you and I will say that during that cold spell, we did have

one outage in downtown and that is something that should have taken approximately eight hours and we were preparing our warming shelters in case anybody needed to use it. And, CWL was able to resolve the problem within a half an hour. So, again, we are very fortunate on what CWL means to this community and what they do. Kudos to them.

Councilmember David McClain said, I have a couple of questions, Mayor. If you or somebody can get back to me later. One, with what Mr. Bryant touched on as far as pedestrian safety. What projects are we working on to address pedestrian safety? Maybe identifying areas that need crosswalks, things like that. I know there are some areas that you would think, okay a crosswalk would go here. I don't know if we are working on a study along those lines, but I would like to see that. But then, also, the eclipse, you mentioned, on the committee, are they working with emergency management, parks and rec, are they all, everybody a part of that and the county as well? City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I am not sure. Mayor Copenhaver asked, who has been attending that meeting? Brian, have you or Tony been attending that meeting? Councilmember McClain said, the only reason why I was curious, I saw something on Arkansas this Week where the Mayor of Morrilton was talking about it and how they will have total darkness and what they were doing to prepare and I am just curious what all we were doing to prepare. Mayor Copenhaver said, we have been working on it for over I know nine months. And, so, it has been with the Chief and every one of the departments, Fire Department. We have been working on all of those case scenarios. Chief Administration Officer Brian Richardson said, you know, there is kind of two pieces to it. There is one, the marketability of the committee and as far as getting people to come here and what they can do while they are here. And, then the second is, there is the public safety side, the Street Department, the Police Department, the Fire Department working together with other law enforcement agencies to make sure that we have a coordinated plan. Obviously, there are a lot of towns that have a lot less support, I guess, in those arenas as far as ability of officers and firefighters to be on hand. So, we are really fortunate there. But, you know, it's going to be kind of an all hands on deck kind of thing to make sure that traffic moves around as orderly as possible. So, it will be a mess, but it will be a good kind of mess because there will be a lot of people here spending money. But, yes, we have been working on proper plans for that and also working on additional areas to view with Jonesboro with our Parks and with the Parks Department. A&P has also been heavily involved in those discussions as well. Councilmember McClain said, if you don't mind, an email update would be sufficient. Just sent out hey, this is what we have discussed. This is what we have been working on, the plan going forward. Mr. Richardson said, okay. Mayor Copenhaver said, that will be fine. And, on the pedestrian study, you know we received the grant on Johnson all the way up to Parker Park. So, that was a pedestrian study for safety and then also in the RAISE grant, it is going to be addressing about what Jeremy would you say about another seven miles of pedestrian studies for sidewalks that would be ADA compliant and safety with crosswalks on that as well. So, those reports are constantly going. So, the next grant that we will be doing will be another study that we are doing, but I will provide you that information on the safety. Councilmember McClain said, okay, thank you. Mr. Richardson said, in addition, identifying sidewalk needs, pedestrian needs comes from a multitude of areas, anything from a citizens feedback. I know recently during the RAISE grant information gathering process, we put out a survey that one of the main things that they asked people about was how safe they felt and how much did they walk and also with this recently, earlier today, the approval of that Pacer AI that will also show Pedestrian trends as well as what we've got another program, Urban SDK, that the council approved to purchase earlier this year that also shows pedestrian trends. So, really, it is kind of a culmination of both your visual approach, the sidewalk and street

inventory that we also did showed sidewalk conditions so we can kind of see where we are missing some pieces at. Our Engineering Department does a really good job of keeping up with that sidewalk inventory. So, really, it is just kind of a culmination of pedestrian ideas on how we can make it safer and an important piece of that is each of you gaining feedback from your constituents about areas that they see people walking and kind of the beaten down paths and where some of those people would like to see additional sidewalk infrastructure as well. So, our doors are always open and we like to solve as many of those problems as we can.

Councilmember Chris Gibson said, the application process for the Impact Fee Committee has come to an end. We will be reviewing those applicants within the next week or so and we will be appointing that committee very soon. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you.

Councilmember Janice Porter said, I would just like to thank the Mayor for hosting the Mayor's Supper and putting the focus on the impressive young people and Project Search Program. Thank you.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

James Elwin Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, said, I do hope that after they finish the work there on Southwest Drive with I-555 and all of that, that there can be looked at the impact and the amount of traffic. Let me tell you something, there are some places on Southwest Drive that are really dangerous. And, I especially want to mention, I quite a bit and I do and I cross it. My insurance agent is not very far away across Southwest Drive and I sometimes walk through there. He knows who he is. And, by the way, if you notice these scars, you might be happy to know that had nothing to do with a vehicle. I fell on a sidewalk. Councilmember McClain said, I am glad you are okay. Mr. Hinds said, I especially hope that something be done about what I call the deathray 2000 intersection which is Southwest Drive and Culberhouse. And, I realize there is no way in making that a perpendicular intersection and by the time you see where all of the lights are, so it's safe to cross, you have lost your opportunity to go because you can't see enough of them. I would like to think at least we get some walk and don't walk signs there. Because it is safer to walk over to his office where there is no crosswalk or no lights than it is to cross that intersection where there are traffic lights. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you for your comments.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

_____ Date: _____
Harold Copenhagen, Mayor

Attest:

April Leggett, City Clerk

Date: _____