



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Finance & Administration Council Committee

Tuesday, September 13, 2022

4:00 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

1. Call To Order

2. Roll Call by City Clerk April Leggett

Present 7 - Charles Coleman; Ann Williams; John Street; David McClain; LJ Bryant; Joe Hafner and Brian Emison

3. Approval of minutes

[MIN-22:075](#)

MINUTES FOR THE FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COUNCIL COMMITTEE
MEETING ON AUGUST 30, 2022

Attachments: [FINANCE Minutes 08302022](#)

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: 6 - Charles Coleman; Ann Williams; John Street; David McClain; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

4. New Business

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

[RES-22:156](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO APPROVE CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FOR THE CRAIGHEAD TECHNOLOGY PARK INDUSTRIAL RAIL YARD EXPANSION PROJECT - SECTION II TRACK CONSTRUCTION (2022:10)

Attachments: [CTP Rail Yard 202210 Change Order 1 signed 07sep22](#)

Chairman Joe Hafner stated, I will just say it says in the change order that is attached, that the reason for the increase is replacing additional cross ties with funding remaining in the project budget.

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

Aye: 6 - Charles Coleman; Ann Williams; John Street; David McClain; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

[RES-22:157](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, FY22 MIDDLE MILE GRANT.

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Ann Williams, to recommend RES-22:157 to the City Council. Councilmember David McClain stated, I have a few questions. Community Development Director Regina Burkett asked the Finance Committee to table this resolution at this time because I have had some meetings since we had submitted this and I think we need to be a little bit more cautious before we move forward with it and the funding. Councilmember John Street withdrew his motion to recommend to Council. Councilmember Ann Williams withdrew her second on the motion to recommend to Council. Councilmember McClain asked, how long do we need to postpone? Ms. Burkett said, probably indefinitely. There is other funding coming available that doesn't have such restrictions as this. The restrictions on this I think we need to look more deeply into it than what we have before we would ever move forward with it. Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember LJ Bryant, to postpone indefinitely RES-22:157. All voted aye.

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

Aye: 6 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

[RES-22:158](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FY22 RAILROAD CROSSING ELIMINATION GRANT.

Councilmember LJ Bryant said, Mr. Chairman, obviously premature, but I just hope as that time comes, this is obviously needed, I just hope we will look at making bike-ped accommodations when we do that. Councilmember David McClain, said, that was going to be my next comment. Councilmember Ann Williams said, I have a question too. You know this has been considered in the past for discussion about closing the crossing at Fisher Street because there appears to be some danger there as far as the double tracks and there is not a crossbar coming down. There has been concern that people sometimes, you know even though the lights are flashing, they try to race across and there has always been concern about a danger there. Chief Administrative Officer Brian Richardson said, we have actually had some discussions with the railroad on that Fisher Street crossing. And, there's some assistance there, but that is certainly a costly project as well. You know, this is Gee Street and you are looking at somewhere around 6,000 vehicles a day that come through there and when there's a blockage on that track, it is a long ways around. Most recently, there was an incident out at Riceland that caused some delays there. And, we feel like this is certainly worth asking for. And, we hope that it helps to spur some redevelopment of Gee Street as well if we are able to get this. But, our primary concern is emergency responders being able to access people. I mean there was a train derailment the other day and this is certainly timely I guess but this is something that our Grants Department and the Mayor have been working on trying to figure out a solution for this. And, Ms. Burkett found this grant and we figured at least we can try it. I think it would be a good project for multiple reasons.

Councilmember Williams said, my concern about Fisher Street is the way that it is constructed or the way that you don't see a train coming at all because of the trees

and all at once, it comes around, you know, behind those trees and so people because they don't see a train coming, they think, oh I can make it. And, even though the lights are flashing, they go ahead and go across and risk it. Mr. Richardson said, it is certainly a bumpy risk to take because of that driving through there. Councilmember Willi9ams said, I've seen a lot of people doing it. But, at least, there is another route around that. Mr. Richardson said, sure. Councilmember John Street asked, what would the time frame be if we are successful on this grant? Mr. Richardson said, I really hate to try to speak on behalf of the federal government about how long they are going to take to process the grant. Councilmember Street said, well, usually, they are out a ways, but I was just curious. Mr. Richardson said, this would be, do we know, two to three years before we know something. Councilmember McClain asked, before you know? Ms. Burkett stated, once we are awarded the grant, we will have several different requirements we will have to meet like an environmental. They will have to figure out where it will be. We will have to get a design and that will take a little while. We will have to put it out and follow the city's guidelines for procurement and all that. Therefore, it will take some time because all of that takes about three to six months. So, if you have three to four projects, it's going to be three to six months before you can even start construction. So, with each project, so that would be a year with each thing that you have to do. So, anyway, hopefully, two years, but I might would push it out considering supply and demand.

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

Aye: 6 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

5. Pending Items

6. Other Business

7. Public Comments

8. Adjournment

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

Aye: 6 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison