



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Finance & Administration Council Committee

Tuesday, June 28, 2016

4:00 PM

Municipal Center

1. Call To Order

2. Roll Call by City Clerk Donna Jackson

Mayor Harold Perrin was in attendance.

Present 4 - Ann Williams; John Street; Darrel Dover and Todd Burton

Absent 2 - Charles Coleman and Rennell Woods

3. Approval of minutes

[MIN-16:077](#)

Minutes for Finance Committee Meeting on June 14, 2016

A motion was made by Councilman John Street, seconded by Councilwoman Ann Williams, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 4 - Ann Williams; John Street; Darrel Dover and Todd Burton

Absent: 2 - Charles Coleman and Rennell Woods

4. New Business

Resolutions To Be Introduced

[RES-16:081](#)

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO APPROVE SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT 1 FOR THE BNSF RAILROAD OVERPASS (HWY. 18) (JONESBORO)(P.E.) - JOB NO. 100824

Councilman Street asked Mayor Perrin if that the money that was going towards this was part of the money we already got. Mayor Perrin said yes this was part of the money we got. He said this was just an amendment to the contract. Councilman Street asked Mayor Perrin if the money was enough to cover the cost. Mayor Perrin said yes. Councilman Street wanted to make sure we had the money to cover it.

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

Aye: 4 - Ann Williams; John Street; Darrel Dover and Todd Burton

Absent: 2 - Charles Coleman and Rennell Woods

5. Pending Items

6. Other Business

Chairman Dover said there were two resolutions needing to be walked on. He asked for permission to suspend the rules in order to walk these two resolutions onto the meeting. Councilman Street stated he thought they were ordinances and not resolutions. Chairman Dover said they were indeed ordinances. Councilman Street moved to suspend the rules and place ORD-16:037 and ORD-16:038 on the agenda. Councilwoman Ann Williams seconded the motion. All council voted aye.

ORD-16:037

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF A CATERPILLAR EXCAVATOR FOR THE STREET DEPARTMENT, APPROPRIATING FUNDS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Chairman Dover said that after we received bids to do the work on ditch cleaning, they were more expensive than the city had anticipated. He said that after running the numbers, we thought this would be the most economical way to do this work. He asked the mayor to give more information about this project. Mayor Perrin said this was correct. He said one company came in at \$1.8 million to do the work and the other company came in at \$114,000. Mayor Perrin said that Gillis came in and confirmed their bid at the \$1.8 million. He said the owner of the other company came in and said there was no way they complete the work for the amount in the bid. Mayor Perrin said the other company did not know exactly what they were looking at when the bid was submitted.

Mayor Perrin said that we started talking about it and if the city was going to spend \$1.8 million and this is a yearly operation, it would be more cost effective to buy our own equipment and hire additional employees to do this work. Mayor Perrin said we have two excavators, but they are not big enough. The excavator would be big enough to pick up the equipment we need to do the work. He said this will allow the two excavators that we have now to stay in the ditches where they are needed the most. Chairman Dover asked if this excavator will do the work that the other two do. Mayor Perrin said yes. Chairman Dover stated this will give us three that will allow us to continue the work of cleaning ditches if there is nothing else going on. Mayor Perrin said the boom on this excavator is much larger and can reach much further.

Chairman Dover said he spoke with City Engineer Craig Light about the differences between mowing and cleaning the ditches. Mayor Perrin said that the excavators can take out saplings, but cannot take out large trees. He said we use prisoners to cut down the large trees with chainsaws. He said the new excavator will be able to cut down larger trees within a certain size. Councilman Burton asked if there was a bucket on the new excavator so it could do some digging. Mayor Perrin stated yes. Councilman Street asked how much more production would we get out of the new excavator as compared to what we already do. Mayor Perrin said he asked the same question. He said they have to move one of the current excavators to do other jobs so he couldn't quite answer that since we haven't been in that situation. Chairman Dover asked about the total package and since this is an ongoing situation if one additional excavator would be enough.

Chief Operations Officer LM Duncan stated he thought one more excavator would be enough. He said two would stay in the ditch for mowing or shredding. He said one has a shredder and one has a bush hog. He stated the shredder gets the big stuff and the other one does the small stuff and is used to clean out dirt. Chairman Dover

said this is an ongoing operation. Mr. Duncan said we have 60 miles of ditches that we clean out in a year. Councilman Street stated that for \$1.8 million, we could buy two or three more excavators if we had too. Chairman Dover wanted to make sure that if we purchase this excavator that this will help elevate the problems for the citizens. Councilman Burton said he agrees with Dover. He said he is concerned that the excavator may be moved from the ditches to do other things and absorbed into other purposes in a year. He said that he would like to see an ongoing storm water management system within the City of Jonesboro. He would like to see that this equipment is designated strictly for the purpose of storm water management.

Mayor Perrin said that it is his understanding that it would be strictly used for drainage cleanout and he would even provide the council with a monthly report with how many miles and the coverage they have completed. He stated that the city's Storm Water Management Program should be tied into an ongoing system. He said that right now, we say to a developer that you can't do this and can't run water off onto someone else. He said there is one or two ways to address this. Mayor Perrin said that some houses flooded on Trinity Oaks. He said we might be able to put in a larger ditch. He said the problem arose as some of the people who bought and built filled in the ditch and so there is no place for the water to drain. He said he the city may have to go in and dig out those ditches or possibly have to buy some property to do a detention pond. Mayor Perrin said the excavators will stay in the ditches. Chairman Dover wanted to know what projects the excavators were pulled out of the ditches for. Mr. Duncan said they used them at Joe Mack Campbell Park and both were used for about a three month period. Chairman Dover asked if there was a smaller piece of equipment that does have all of the attachments that can be used for that work. Mr. Duncan said they need the bigger machine to put tiles in. Chairman Dover asked if they needed the two to lift culverts. Mayor Perrin said yes, but the new one will be able to do it by itself.

Councilman Street stated he would not be opposed to buying more equipment if that will help keep things in order by making sure the ditches are maintained. He stated that no amount of ditch cleaning would have prevented the flood that we had last month. He said it was an extraordinary event. Councilman Street said the city has made great strides in keeping that program going of keeping the ditches clean. He said his main concern is working with the county to make sure that they are keeping the line of ditches from the city into the county cleaned out. Mr. Duncan said they have spoken with the county judge. He said the city is out working on Little Bay Ditch and the county judge would not help us on that. Councilman Street said that was not right because the floodway doesn't stop at the city limits and it hurts the residents of the county. He said the citizens of Jonesboro are also residents of the county. Mr. Duncan said we have an excavator out on a county ditch right now. Mayor Perrin said he called a meeting of the county judge and all the drainage districts to address the issues of having the ditches clean, maintenance, and costs being spent on the drainage. He said that meeting is coming up in about two weeks. Mayor Perrin asked Congressman Crawford to attend because he is a liaison between the Corps and the drainage districts.

Councilman Burton said he has seen models and there are certified storm water management managers out there. He said he wants to know who is responsible for the ditches that were filled in. He said who in the city is responsible for watching out for that. He said who is coordinating storm water management. Mr. Duncan stated it would be the Planning Department, but this happened several years ago. Councilman Burton stated we need a department and a certified manager that is shared with the county to be responsible for the drainage. Councilman Street reiterated that the ditches will have backflow if the county does not clean their section of the ditches out. Mayor Perrin said that is what the meeting will address in a couple

of weeks. Councilman Burton said again that we need someone that is responsible for looking at both the city side and the county side of drainage issues. He said the most common model is having a county person in which each city within the county contributes to the budget based on population. He said moving forward that he would like for the city to be very proactive on getting this.

Mr. Duncan stated they had spoken with the county and were told that they do not clean out big ditches. Chairman Dover asked what the definition of a big ditch was. Mr. Duncan responded that it would be like Little Bay Ditch or something like that. Chairman Dover asked what the price differential was between the big excavator and the smaller ones that we already have. Mr. Duncan stated it was about \$30,000-\$40,000. Mayor Perrin stated that if we get in these ditches and realize we need another excavator, we will be back to request another one. Councilman Street said that the Highway Department also needs to be responsible for cleaning out ditches. Mayor Perrin said that they requested in writing that the Highway Department do that and they have been working on it.

Mayor Perrin said that we also need maintenance workers who have a CDL to work with these excavators. He said we have to have additional people who are certified to operate this machinery in case someone is out. Chairman Dover said that these two maintenance laborers are to be designated for the storm water drainage cleaning. Mr. Duncan stated that they would be street laborers and the city would take the ones who have already been trained out there to work on the drainage. Councilman Burton asked if there were going to be two people identified as storm water management workers. Mr. Duncan said they would stay in the ditches.

Mayor Perrin asked Councilman Burton to forward any articles he had on storm water drainage management to him. He said he would love for the county and city to work together to get that accomplished. Councilman Burton stated that a storm water coordinator/manager would identify any potential problems before a flood happens. Councilman Street said it was a dance between the city and the county. He said for instance, there was flooding on Flemon Road. He said the county had to clean up a ditch before the Highway Department would agree to put in a new culvert and after it was done the flooding stopped. He said there has to be a coordinated effort between the city and the county.

Councilman Burton asked about subdivisions that were built below the level of the road. Councilman Street said a lot of that happened prior to when the city annexed the land in 1988. He said they annexed 45 square miles into the City of Jonesboro. He said a lot of those subdivisions were in the county which had absolutely no regulations. He said right now they have to be built a minimum of a foot above the base flood plain. Councilman Street said he would hate to think of what would have happened if we did not have the detention ponds we have in place now. Mayor Perrin said we do have a Storm Water Management Board. He said he would send information to Councilman Burton about the Board. Councilman Street said there is no law that he knows of that will make them clean out the ditches.

Mayor Perrin said he now has a list of who is over every drainage district and they will have a meeting on drainage issues. He stated they will continue to work with the Newport Corrections Unit to get workers to clean the ditches and grind the trees. Councilman Street said we have discussed this as well. Chairman Dover asked if these would be the people who run the equipment. Councilman Street said no, they will be people who replace the workers who will run the equipment.

A motion was made by Councilman John Street, seconded by Councilman Todd Burton, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion

PASSED with the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Ann Williams; John Street; Darrel Dover and Todd Burton

Absent: 2 - Charles Coleman and Rennell Woods

ORD-16:038

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO AMEND THE 2016 BUDGET TO ADD TWO NEW STREET MAINTENANCE LABORERS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Chairman Dover requested to get pricing for smaller excavators for future reference. Mayor Perrin said they could get prices. Chairman Dover asked how long it would take to get the excavators. Mayor Perrin said it would take five weeks starting from July 5th. He said there are two in the ditches right now. Mayor Perrin stated that Gillis estimated 90 days for the project. He stated he estimated that the city would be in the ditches until October.

Chairman Dover said he would like to have the pricing information available in case we need additional excavators. Councilman Street said that if we double what we have then we should get better results. Councilman Burton asked if it had to go out on bid. Suzanne Allen, CFO, stated no.

Councilman Street asked if the Highway Department had street sweepers. Mayor Perrin said the city does some sweeping of state highway intersections. He said he will speak with them about getting that done.

Mayor Perrin said if it passes council then we will be ready to roll on the project. He said that the ditches have to be cleaned out all of the time.

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

Aye: 4 - Ann Williams; John Street; Darrel Dover and Todd Burton

Absent: 2 - Charles Coleman and Rennell Woods

7. Public Comments

8. Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilman John Street, seconded by Councilwoman Ann Williams, that this meeting be Adjourned . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 4 - Ann Williams; John Street; Darrel Dover and Todd Burton

Absent: 2 - Charles Coleman and Rennell Woods