



# City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center  
300 S. Church Street  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

## Meeting Minutes City Council

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Tuesday, September 3, 2024

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

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### SPECIAL CALLED NOMINATING & RULES COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING AT 4:45 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** 10 - Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

**Absent** 2 - Brian Emison and Joe Hafner

#### 4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

#### 5. CONSENT AGENDA

##### *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:** 10 - Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

**Absent:** 2 - Brian Emison and Joe Hafner

[MIN-24:079](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON AUGUST 20, 2024

**Attachments:** [CC Minutes 08202024](#)

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

[RES-24:090](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION AND ACCEPT THE FY21 BUSES AND BUS FACILITIES GRANT

**Attachments:**     [AwardLetter\\_AR-2024-019-00](#)

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-088-2024

[RES-24:093](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE FY2025 GREAT STRIDES/TRAILS FOR LIFE GRANT FROM THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, HERITAGE AND TOURISM

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-089-2024

[RES-24:094](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ACCEPT THE LOW BID AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH BAILEY CONTRACTORS, INC. FOR THE JONESBORO BIKE PLAZA (Bid 24:23)

**Attachments:**     [JBR Bike Plaza 100% CD with PR1 Revisions](#)  
                          [Bid 2024-23 Bike Plaza Tabulation](#)  
                          [Value Engineering 7.31.2024](#)

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-090-2024

[RES-24:095](#)

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL RIGHT-OF-WAY ON S CARAWAY ROAD FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

**Attachments:**     [offer and acceptance 5100](#)

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-091-2024

[RES-24:096](#)

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL RIGHT-OF-WAY ON S CARAWAY ROAD FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

**Attachments:**     [offer and acceptance 5101](#)

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-092-2024

[RES-24:097](#)

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL RIGHT-OF-WAY ON S CARAWAY ROAD FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

**Attachments:**     [offer and acceptance PDE](#)

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-093-2024

[RES-24:098](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF JONESBORO AND CRAIGHEAD COUNTY FOR THE LEASING AND SHARED USE OF A FIRE TRAINING FACILITY

**Attachments:** [Craighead Cty Judge 20240820 154314](#)

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-094-2024

[RES-24:101](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO AMEND THE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR THE PARKER PARK COMMUNITY CENTER POOL ADDITION (2023:24)

**Attachments:** [Parker Park PR 3 Pricing](#)  
[Proposal Request 3 - Additional Site Parking and Walks 08.02.24](#)

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-095-2024

*RESOLUTIONS NOT ON THE CONSENT AGENDA*

[RES-24:099](#)

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING FREE UTILITY SERVICES FROM CITY WATER AND LIGHT FOR CITY-LEASED AND OWNED PROPERTY

*Councilmember John Street asked to be recused from voting and discussion on RES-24:099 due to his membership on the CWL Board of Directors.*

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

**Aye:** 9 - Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

**Absent:** 2 - Brian Emison and Joe Hafner

**Recused:** 1 - John Street

Enactment No: R-EN-096-2024

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

*ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING*

[ORD-24:025](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL AND REPLACE ARTICLE VII - BUILDING NUMBERING SECTION 105-200 THROUGH 105-210 OF THE JONESBORO CODE OF ORDINANCES IN THE CITY OF JONESBORO

**Attachments:** [Jonesboro - Addressing & Street Naming Standard](#)

*Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-24:025 by title only. All voted aye.*

**Held at one reading**

[ORD-24:026](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-2 TO PD-RM FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2117 SCHOOL STREET AS REQUESTED BY FLEX PROPERTIES, LLC

**Attachments:** [Application and Questions](#)  
[Deeds](#)  
[Neighborhood Meeting Flyer](#)  
[Proposed Design](#)  
[Publication Receipt](#)  
[Rezoning Plat and Site Layout](#)  
[Rezoning Signs](#)  
[SchoolStreet-CommonAreaMap](#)  
[Staff Summary](#)  
[MAPC Staff Summary Minutes](#)

*Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Mitch Johnson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-24:026 by title only. All voted aye.*

**Held at one reading**

[ORD-24:027](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-3 TO C-3 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 901 CHURCH STREET AS REQUESTED BY MICHAEL SHANNON KEE

**Attachments:** [Rezoning Application](#)  
[Plat](#)  
[Mail Receipts](#)  
[Publication Receipt](#)  
[Rezoning Sign Posted](#)  
[Staff Summary](#)  
[MAPC Staff Summary Minutes](#)

*Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Mitch Johnson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-24:027 by title only. All voted aye.*

**Held at one reading**

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

*ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING*

[ORD-24:022](#)

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE FLOOD INSURANCE STUDY (FIS) AND FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP (FIRM) FOR "CRAIGHEAD COUNTY ARKANSAS AND INCORPORATED AREA," DATED SEPTEMBER 26, 2024; AND AMENDING BOTH THE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS AND THE STORMWATER

## DRAINAGE DESIGN MANUAL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO

**Attachments:** [Sec. 112 67. Decision of the board.](#)  
[Floodplain Guidelines Article 3.](#)  
[Sec. 112-62 APPEALS AND VARIANCES Article 2 Sec F](#)  
[Sec. 109 1. Special flood hazard areas.](#)  
[Sec. 112 1. Def Article 1](#)  
[Sec. 112 10. FDP Article 2 Sec. C](#)  
[Sec. 112 63. Variance Article 2 Sec. E](#)

*Councilmember David McClain said, Mayor, I've got a quick question. I hope it is a quick question. Maybe a quick answer. Do we have any influence in this map in terms of do we have any say in this or was this something that came down. Mayor Copenhagen replied, we have and Craig, if you want to go ahead and come forward and speak on that too. We have basically, this has been going on, an ongoing procedure for how many years and we have delayed it as much as we can and this was our last point. We are to the point to where we have to move forward with it. Craig can be more articulate on it. Engineering Director Craig Light said, this has been going on for a long time and we have exhausted all appeals that we have on the floodplain management or floodplain maps are coming out. In fact, I received a letter this week that said if we do not have these adopted by September 25th, then we will be suspended from the flood insurance program. So, we, this has to be adopted. Mayor Copenhagen said, and what we sent out to Council as well, we sent it out to all the residents in the community that this would be affecting either for insurance or those that would come out and give them assistance on who to contact and where to go to where they could have those phone initiated conversations with FEMA. Councilmember McClain said, thank you.*

**Held at second reading**

## ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-24:023](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR CITY TRAILS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

**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:** 10 - Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

**Absent:** 2 - Brian Emison and Joe Hafner

Enactment No: O-EN-025-2024

[ORD-24:024](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 TO C-3, GENERAL COMMERCIAL FOR 0.91 ACRES LOCATED AT 5441 E. NETTLETON AVENUE AND IS BEING SUBMITTED BY PAMELA H. WARD

**Attachments:**    [Application](#)  
                          [Rezoning Plat](#)  
                          [Rezoning Signs](#)  
                          [Certified Mail Receipt and Letter](#)  
                          [Staff Summary - CC](#)  
                          [Publication Receipt](#)

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

**Aye:** 10 - Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

**Absent:** 2 - Brian Emison and Joe Hafner

Enactment No: O-EN-026-2024

## **8. MAYOR'S REPORTS**

*Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported on the following:*

*I will try to keep this short. Since our last meeting on August 20, 2024, our departments have continued the hard work if not keeping up with the city in making sure we have additional improvements. For example, we applied for an Urban Forestry grant that will grant 144 trees to increase the urban canopy to be planted at Allen Park, Greenway Trail, City Hall, and Fire Stations 2 and 3.*

*Community Block Grant facilities, improvements and infrastructure funding applications are open through September 13, 2024. CDBG may be used to fund public facilities and improvement assisting not-for-profit organizations.*

*Also, A&P Commission grant funding requisitions are open through October 1, 2024. Applications may be delivered to the Mayor's Office or by mail. Mailed applications must be postmarked by October 1, 2024.*

*You may have seen the communication board donated to the Miracle League Park revealed in a partnership with Ag for Autism. The board is a valued tool for non-verbal children empowering them to express their needs and make new friends. As board member Zach Owen said, "everyone's voice deserves to be heard no matter the circumstances." Together we are making our parks more inclusive for all. Stay tuned and more updates as we continue to enhance the accessibility all across Jonesboro.*

*As you know, we held some public meetings to share information on the capital investment plan. We'll be talking more about that in the near future. Just an update.*

*This past weekend, the Red Wolves first game was here at home and the JET bus ran for the Red Wolf Express Route of 2024. With expansions to the program, we added 130 riders to the very first game. 78 season passes were sold this week. They are only \$10 and they include transportation for all games. ASTATE students and employees, City of Jonesboro employees, students under 18, seniors, disabled citizens, and veterans can get a season pass for the games for only \$5. Pickup locations are Cate and Church Streets and there is free city parking at those areas and the yard on the ASU campus. They pickup two hours before the game and 15 minutes after the game*

concludes. Purchase your tickets and passes in advance at the Jonesboro Municipal Building at the City Collector's office at 300 South Church Street.

Now, it is time to "Paint the Town Red" week which includes decorations throughout town and a pep rally tomorrow at Valley View Elementary. The schools take turn hosting that event each year. "Paint the Town Red" block party is downtown this Friday. Main Street from West Washington Avenue to Cate will be closed from 1:30-5:00 p.m. on Friday in preparation for the main event which will occur from 5:30-8:30 p.m. This will be the first event in the Entertainment District.

Saturday is a neighborhood cleanup that day from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Valley View Intermediate School. As of the August cleanup, we have collected a total of 599 tires and 75 tons of trash which is already more tires than all of last year and almost as much trash.

Our Employee of the Month was announced this morning. Congratulations to Kevin Hester. He's been employed here 12 years with the first 5 in the Street Department before moving to the Sanitation Department.

Our Citizens Police Academy, the fall session is just now getting underway. It's a 13-week course for the public to come and learn about the JPD. We've got 31 enrolled. It is the 18th CPA.

While on the subject of law enforcement, you recall the raid on a house located at 220 Baker Street to serve a warrant in reference to a puppy mill being run out of that residence. The Fire Department had to respond as well to setup an apparatus to clear the house of toxic fumes and other contaminants. During that time, the Jonesboro Fire Department put on breathing apparatuses and rescued 20+ dogs from the house. In total, 50 live dogs, 2 dead dogs, and one cat were rescued from these horrific conditions. The occupant was arrested for multiple felony and misdemeanor counts of animal cruelty. Animal Services spent approximately 16 man hours a day caring for the 51 animals. NAFA volunteers spent 200+ man hours assisting Animal Services. High Grooming Standards volunteered over 32 in bathing and cutting and trimming the dogs. Initial veterinarian on the rescue was Dr. Reed. Advanced Care Surgeries were done by Dr. Baker of Wynne Animal Rescue Clinic. On June 9, 2024, the courts awarded ownership of the dogs and cat to Animal Rescue Services. The restitution bill at that date was more than \$136,000. Rescue Coordinator for Animal Services Kaylee England began contacting out-of-state rescues and it was a long difficult process, but the final two dogs have left for New Orleans Thursday. The animals were placed in Louisiana, Tennessee, Colorado, Florida, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Ohio. All dogs were neutered or spayed, placed in foster homes, and will now experience love, compassion, and care. Out of the 50 dogs and 1 cat, we only lost one dog which both vets attempted to save several times. After such consultation, it was euthanized. This is the kind of people that we have in our city and work for our city as well.

And, finally, if you haven't seen it yet, I encourage you to find the latest edition of AY magazine, a statewide magazine that illustrates many of the best attributes of our community right here in Jonesboro, the education, the parks and health, describing us as a city that is hard to outpace.

## **9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

Councilmember Chris Moore said, I have just a couple of things. A couple of weeks ago there was a petition for a quiet title for the Citizen's Bank Building. So, we will wait

and see how that comes out, but as you know I have been on that for quite awhile so I'm looking forward to maybe having one owner and one group that might be in charge. So, I would ask the City Attorney if she hears how that turns out to let us all know and then we can proceed. The other thing there'd been six or seven weeks ago I mentioned the 9th Circuit Court ruling on homelessness and there have been several people call me since then. I have met with Carol as recent as today. I think that within the next 30 days, Carol and the Mayor's Office will be coming forward to the Public Safety Committee with a couple of ordinances that will fall in line with that Supreme Court ruling. That's all I had Mr. Mayor. Mayor Copenhagen said, okay, thank you Mr. Councilman.

Councilmember Chris Gibson said, yes, just real brief on the 17th which is our next scheduled meeting, I will be out of state and we are also scheduled to have a Public Services Committee meeting that night. If there are agenda items, I will ask Councilman Hafner to Chair that committee. If there are none, then we will cancel it until the following month. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you for your comments.

Councilmember David McClain said, yes, the Nominating & Rules Committee meeting met tonight, earlier today and I would ask that we suspend the rules and walk on a couple of resolutions from that meeting. One is set to meet sometime soon and the other is I think very similar. So, I would ask that we suspend the rules and walk on RES-24:087 and RES-24:100. Councilmember Mitch Johnson seconded the motion. All voted aye. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you Councilman for moving those forward. Councilmember McClain said, that's all I had.

[RES-24:087](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS AS RECOMMENDED BY MAYOR HAROLD COPENHAVER

*Councilmember David McClain motioned, seconded by Councilmember Mitch Johnson, to suspend the rules and walk-on RES-24:087 and RES-24:100 due to time sensitivity. All voted aye.*

**A motion was made by Councilperson Mitch Johnson, seconded by Councilperson Chris Moore, that this matter be Passed. The motion PASSED with the following vote:**

**Aye:** 10 - Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

**Absent:** 2 - Brian Emison and Joe Hafner

Enactment No: R-EN-097-2024

[RES-24:100](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS AS RECOMMENDED BY MAYOR HAROLD COPENHAVER

*Councilmember Chris Gibson asked to be recused from voting and discussion on RES-24:200 due to his nomination on the Downtown Entertainment District Committee.*

*Councilmember David McClain motioned, seconded by Councilmember Mitch Johnson, to suspend the rules and walk-on RES-24:087 and RES-24:100 due to time sensitivity. All voted aye.*

**A motion was made by Councilperson Mitch Johnson, seconded by Councilperson John Street, that this matter be Passed. The motion PASSED**

with the following vote:

**Aye:** 9 - Chris Moore;David McClain;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

**Absent:** 2 - Brian Emison and Joe Hafner

**Abstain:** 1 - Chris Gibson

Enactment No: R-EN-098-2024

**10. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Gibson, seconded by Councilperson John Street, that this meeting be Adjourned. The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 10 - Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

**Absent:** 2 - Brian Emison and Joe Hafner

\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Harold Copenhaver, Mayor**

**Attest:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**April Leggett, City Clerk**