



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Public Services Council Committee

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

4:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL (ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE) CONFIRMED BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

Present 5 - Chris Gibson; Joe Hafner; Ann Williams; Brian Emison and Janice Porter

Absent 2 - LJ Bryant and Anthony Coleman

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[MIN-26:008](#)

Minutes for the Special Called Public Services Committee meeting on Tuesday, January 13, 2026

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

A motion was made by Brian Emison, seconded by Ann Williams, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 4 - Joe Hafner; Ann Williams; Brian Emison and Janice Porter

Absent: 2 - LJ Bryant and Anthony Coleman

[MIN-26:015](#)

MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL CALLED PUBLIC SERVICES COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2026

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

A motion was made by Brian Emison, seconded by Ann Williams, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 4 - Joe Hafner; Ann Williams; Brian Emison and Janice Porter

Absent: 2 - LJ Bryant and Anthony Coleman

4. NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

[RES-26:014](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO ENTER INTO A PLATFORM SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH CUBIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS, INC., FOLLOWING A COMPETITIVE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS PROCESS

Sponsors: JETS

Attachments: [Jonesboro AR Platform Services Standard Agreement.pdf](#)

Chairman Chris Gibson said, Lee, do you want to give us a background on this just real quickly? JETS Department Director Lee Wells approached the podium and said, absolutely. So, this is something we have talked about, and we have been working towards. What this is, is a way for us to be able to collect fares in the buses with credit card, debit card, tap to pay, phone payments, things like that. But also, it will allow for customers to be able to purchase those cards that are refillable, reusable, and to give more formats for them to be able to purchase their fares. So, whereas right now we have a simple ticket that is sold at Collections and only at Collections this ability will actually allow retail stores to be able to load your fare. So that way, someone's at Walmart buying groceries, maybe they used the bus to get there and they realize I need a little bit more money on my card, they can actually put \$5, \$10, \$20 on their card there at Walmart.

Chairman Chris Gibson said, have they given you any projections on how much this might increase ridership? Just out of curiosity. Director Lee Wells said, I honestly haven't seen any types of projections, but I do know that what this will allow, in conjunction with some of the other items that have that we're going to be moving forward to, is this will allow those that maybe don't normally use the bus system or those that are coming from out of town to have an easier and more convenient way to utilize transit. So, this will, in essence, allow for that increase, but as far as some raw statistics I have not seen anything like that. Chairman Chris Gibson said, ok thank you.

Councilmember Brian Emison said, chairman, I had a question if you don't mind. Lee, I noticed in here, in the RFP, that they had submitted that on the reloadable transit cards, and I know this is a lot of one-time cost that's coming in effect here, but it was showing that each card cost roughly \$14.15. I just know how easy it is to misplace those things and how expensive the plastic is from the banking industry side of it. But do we have any plans or anything else as far as our scheduled fees and how we're going to negate \$5 necessarily walking out every day? Director Lee Wells said, absolutely. So, we have actually considered this. We have also thought of some processes to put in place. We've looked at some other transit agencies on what they do. We have some ideas, but we don't have anything fully finalized yet. This will be something that will be in the discussion process once we get this fulfilled and we start this enactment of the cubic process. I'm sure they'll have some feedback on that for, you know, history standards, things like that that other agencies have done. One of the things with that refillable card is, what we use now, we actually also pay, honestly I don't have the numbers, apologies, but I can get that if anyone is interested. Those refillable cards or I'm sorry, the one time use cards that we have, they have to be preprinted and they are proprietary. We have to order them in bunches of 5,000 at a time. They are not cheap either and they are literally intended to be thrown in the trash. So, there's already a cost for those. But with this the process is, what we're thinking anyway, is that will allow a consumer to be able to come in and say I would like to purchase a refillable card. There will be a fee for that card. That gives them that refillable card. Then once they have the card they will be able to put their fares on the card. So, if initially that first time purchase for the card or for a replacement of their card there is a fee associated already with getting the card and then the fare would be added to the card after that initial purchase of the card, if that makes any sense. Councilmember Brian Emison said, it does, yes.

Councilmember Ann Williams said, do you want to talk about the Gojo app. The app.

Chairman Chris Gibson said, not yet, let's wait until your report to do that.
Councilmember Ann Williams said, oh ok.

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

Aye: 4 - Joe Hafner;Ann Williams;Brian Emison and Janice Porter

Absent: 2 - LJ Bryant and Anthony Coleman

5. PENDING ITEMS

6. OTHER BUSINESS

[COM-26:005](#)

JET TRANSIT SYSTEM UPDATE

JETS Department Director Lee Wells approached the podium and said, so I just jotted down some quick notes. I'm going to go through these pretty quickly, but a few of the projects that we have that are ongoing, of course, one is our A-State project. The partnership that we have done with A-State and the trolley routes and service that we've been doing with them. We have found that those routes that they're working well. They serve the purpose. They function on time. That's great. That's exactly what we wanted to do. What we've found is that we have some other routes that are also crossing through campus at the same time. A lot of the students that are riding have realized that they can get on one bus as opposed to the other, it takes them directly to their destination. That's the way it should work. That's awesome. They're finding out these things on their own. We do want to obviously drive more students to utilize this service. I think we could increase this ridership, and I think we will increase this ridership especially with some of the items that we have to come. We are looking for obviously a fall semester push. We are already into the spring semester, so we'll be going and doing a lot of things with the upcoming students. I'm doing presentations with groups and organizations to be able to help drive that.

We also have our shelter project. I'm sure you all have heard us talk about this before. We do currently have 28 of our 45 shelters placed. Those are all over town, different locations. All of the remaining stops and a couple of those stops, I know of one off of the top of my head, due to ADA standards or various reasonings, we may have to move slightly in order to get them up to the proper standards. That's going to require some concrete work. Some of them we knew were going to require some concrete work already. That concrete work has already begun. They are doing that. They've already laid concrete in a number of locations, and they're going to continue to do that as long as weather permits. As soon as that concrete cures, dries and is ready for a shelter those shelters will be going up just as quickly. I think we're on average once we have everything ready, we can get two or three shelters up in a day. Which is pretty awesome.

We do have routes. Currently we've been operating on four routes for quite a while now. We did maintain our four route system. In order to build our staffing and get the people where we need to be, we're glad to say that our staffing is increasing both from new hires and also internal training, that we will be soon able to go to not only our full five route service but also the two trolley route services through our entire day of business. Which is 5:00 AM to 7:00 PM. So, look for that be coming up really soon. Really excited about that.

Our streets project, which is a Tripspark lead project, that is the software company that we use for our equipment. We are currently still working with them to nail out a few bugs on the tracking process that this system utilizes. There are some other features that it has, which it has a connectivity to the internet, it allows for real time tracking, it also does annunciators in the bus, and then also an internal message board that tells where your next stop is. This will also be connecting to some of our upcoming items that we have to announce. One of which in conjunction with both the streets and the shelters project is our multimedia project. We do have some message centers that will be going in at our transfer center. That will be able to notify the riders of when the next bus will arrive, where that bus is going, what time it should be able to arrive. Kind of like when you go into the airport and you look at the board, we'll have a very similar process there at the transfer center. Also, we'll be having some message boards in our shelters as well. So, when someone does go to a shelter, they will be able to see what bus stops there and when they can expect that bus. That will be utilizing that system, that street system, which gives them real time information.

We do currently have an app. We've been talking about needing one. We've been working towards it behind the scenes. We are currently right now in the beta process. That is being tested not only by myself internally, internally in the company that's doing the app, but also with some few select members that we are hoping to be able to get feedback from. So far, everything we've been hearing is great. I know myself; I've made a few suggestions. These are just minor tweaks and things. We'll also have control over it once we get it to be able to maintain it. But this will allow not only for accurate tracking and time notices it'll also have trip planning, and it should do automatic live updates to both Google and Apple map programs that are out there. So, any visitors that come in that maybe don't know about the app, they should still be able to look on whatever app program they're using and find out where the bus stops are, where the bus system is, where the buses are going and what time they should be there. Even without the use of the app. So really, really cool stuff that we've got coming.

And then obviously we have a lot of other things that we're working on. Some things we're just not quite ready to be able to bring to the table yet. Just some exciting things to be looking forward to in conjunction with these items that we're working on.

Councilmember Ann Williams said, I just want to mention that I... about the fact that I'm one of the ones testing the app. Director Lee Wells said, yes. Councilmember Ann Williams said, I think it's great. Director Lee Wells said, well good. We're definitely glad to have you testing it. We've also got some students on campus, we've got some individuals that utilize our bus system, and then some individuals that are just kind of in the know for apps and processes and technology, in order to make sure we're getting that feedback.

And the last item that I just wanted to mention is, I just wanted to give a shout out to our marketing coordinator, the Communications Department, the Engineering Department, Grants Department, and the many more departments that are out there helping us get all these items done.

Councilmember Ann Williams said, I was going to add that, I had told Lee this earlier, that one of the things I liked about the app was that it can give you alternative trips. You can design your trip based upon whether or not you're willing to walk part of the way. You know in good weather. Which can in some instances, you know, alter the route you wish to choose or you have different options. And if you're willing to walk part

of the way, that sometimes gets you there faster. You know, based upon the route, the breakdown as far as walking and riding that the trip is made up of. Director Lee Wells said, yup. When you do the trip planning it does give you those breakdowns, but it also gives you options as well. So, you know, maybe you're looking for the fastest, so it'll give you that option. Maybe you're looking for the most convenient, it'll give you that option. Maybe you just want to do some sightseeing, it'll you know, it's going to give you options. And that's the great thing about it and it tells you, shows you on a map, gives you the time frames, and like you said, it shows you the walking distances, actually gives you an estimated time of arrival based on standard walking speeds. All kinds of things like that. And then you'll also be able to log into it and my understanding is that it will have some memory processes that may possibly, you know, like look for your standard type of trip and kind of give you those same types of scenarios. Kind of like whenever you do a Google search, you know, if you're doing a Google search from the same computer it's going to know and tailor towards your taste.

Chairman Chris Gibson said, we've come a long way since we acquired those first buses many, many years ago. You're doing a good job Lee. Director Lee Wells said, thank you sir.

Filed

[COM-26:006](#)

PARKS & RECREATION UPDATE

Chairman Chris Gibson said, I don't see anyone from Parks here to give a presentation. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, do you have any additional information? Chairman Chris Gibson said, yeah, I wanted to just kind of talk about that as a group. I've had several individual conversations and had another small meeting with some community leaders and people that have vested interest in what we discussed at the joint meeting the other day between Public Services and the Parks Advisory group. Jay, did you want to address anything that came up at the meeting? Jay Clevenger said something off in the distance. Chairman Chris Gibson said, ok. I think based on the conversations that I've had, what I would like to recommend to this group, and I'm certainly open for deliberation. But I think the group that we have in place currently, they bring a lot of resources to our Parks Department. I don't feel that there need to be changes made to that board in any form or fashion. I think they need to focus on the parks plan, the opportunities that we have for our youth and adults in the area first and foremost, and our facilities. And I think we need to consider as a group possibly appointing a Sports Tourism Advisory Council in addition to that.

That being said, A&P and Public Facilities Board have requested positions on that committee, and at this point we have not heard back from their attorney as of 3:00 this afternoon, so we don't know if they can actually take voting spots on those groups. Is that correct Carol? City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I just strongly recommended that their legal counsel weigh in before. I think everybody thinks they need a seat at the table. I just want their legal counsel to weigh in on what that looks like.

Chairman Chris Gibson said, and I want the input of this group to, you know, you guys were all in attendance. I want to know what your feelings are about that meeting and where your heads go and if I'm on the right train of thought or not.

Councilmember Ann Williams said, so does... we'll still have the citizens advisory? Chairman Chris Gibson said, that's correct. Councilmember Ann Williams said, commission. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, committee. Councilmember Ann Williams said, and will there be additional people on there? Chairman Chris Gibson

said, I think we've got three that are rolling off in March, and I feel that they'll all accept their appointment back if we so choose to go down that path. I don't think there's anyone on that group that we want to actively replace at this point. I just think we've got to figure out a parallel path for sports tourism and recreational sports in our market. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, I will say I think that the committee needs to be reviewed, because I think there's some people that think they're still on there who's terms had expired, and I didn't see them in Legistar so that needs to be covered. And maybe, you know, they might be, you know, great members of that committee and can be reappointed. I just think that needs to be cleaned up. And as I say during the special meeting, you know, I think I agree with the two separate groups. They're kind of covering two different things. But I just think at some point there's got to be a coordination to where there's not just one person in charge of allocating the field, you know the facility time. And I know the RAC's going to really change the scope of indoor tournaments. You know, basketball, pickleball, you know whatever. Volleyball. But just when it comes to using the soccer field and stuff, there's got to be more than one person kind of helping with that coordination. Chairman Chris Gibson said, agreed and I think that they are working currently on an active calendar that will be accessible to everyone. I don't know what the completion timeline is on that but... Councilmember Joe Hafner said, my only thought on the calendar was, and I may have misunderstood a little bit of what Jim was saying in the meeting. That calendar's got to be, you know, established more than just a few months in advance because when people are trying to schedule soccer tournaments and whatever, you can't do it the same year. I mean those got to be scheduled last year, the year before, for this year so they know they have the field time so.

Chairman Chris Gibson said, you know, one other point that I think that the other group really needs to take focus on is the needs of our facilities moving forward. We've talked for two or three years now about a rolling renovation of our parks. We're doing an ok job of that, but I think that it needs to be more stringent. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, yeah, especially since we're getting more parks. Chairman Chris Gibson said, right. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, we're talking about putting in, you know, two or three more, you know, especially the park out by Hilltop. And that's going to be a very sizable park, lots of equipment. You know, Beatrice Park is a little bit different, you know it's more green space type. I mean, as our inventory grows we have to, like you said, be on top of it. You can always have good plans with the Master Parks Plan and everything like that we just have to follow it and put the money back for the maintenance. Chairman Chris Gibson said, I'm sorry Miss Williams, go ahead. I was just going to say, most of our parks from a recreational sports perspective, right now, are we've got pretty good inventory on those. But I can foresee us outgrowing much of that in the very near future. And our pool inventory is very much lacking, as we all know. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, and our one pool on Nettleton needs major repairs or replacement so... Chairman Chris Gibson said, exactly.

Councilmember Ann Williams said, I'm glad to hear you say that, because that's a big issue that I've had and speaking to parents and people in the community is the fact our lack of swim facilities. And a big concern I have and this has been said by others is that we have a lot of young people growing up not learning how to swim. And that is really not good. And for health and safety reasons. Kids need to have access to swim lessons at an early age. And we have to have the pools and infrastructure to do that and prepare for that. Also, I just want to say, I think it was mentioned at the last meeting about having representation by parents on the citizens advisory committee to kind of point out and speak up for some activities that where we might need to be beefing up certain activities and that'll be good. So, I understand that is going to be. Is that was, am I right that that was something that was mentioned at the last committee

meeting? The representation on the citizen committee. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, I know the representation by, you know, the schools was mentioned and things like that, but I think a lot of that, you know, goes back to how big can the committee be and any revisions. I don't think you'd want to make it too big, I mean. You could almost say that each person is a parent, you know. Councilmember Ann Williams said, well back to this other thing. I think, I've been saying this for a while. I think we're kind of really at a critical stage as far as swim facilities, because it's something you have to plan for in advance. We need to keep in mind, and I've said this before, that we The National Parks and Recreation Association recommends one pool for every 25,000 population and we're way below that in a city that's going toward 100,000. And so, we have to think ahead on that. And that's another benefit of having plenty of swim lessons is that you train lifeguards and there's always a need for lifeguards if you're going to increase the number of pools. There's a double benefit. Win win if we have lessons. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, as a lifeguard growing up you're preaching to the choir.

Chairman Chris Gibson said, Mr. Clevenger, do you want to comment on this? Jay Clevenger, 4842 Leesburg Drive, approached the podium and said, I thought it was a productive meeting that we had. And I'm not your chairman of that committee. Just was a longtime member. Got off for a little bit and just got back on. The one thing I'd ask is Chris, you said that you would share that email from Jerry. I haven't seen that in my inbox. Chairman Chris Gibson said, I apologize. I've not been in the office Jay. I'll get that to you. I can assure you. Jay Clevenger said, but I had a couple of questions about the Sports Commission and maybe what people are telling you. I haven't had the opportunity to speak with you one-on-one Chris. But, you know, we have a vendor in the Jonesboro Baseball Boosters right now, so I was wondering what sports or what activities would this commission oversee? Would it include baseball? Would it include everything that's happening at the RAC? And then my follow-up question to that, the management group that's been hired to run the RAC, are they going to be required to recruit events there or is that going to be A&P, would that be the Sports Commission? How would that work? Chairman Chris Gibson said, I think from a recruiting perspective, and Craig please come up and address this if you would like, but I would think that's going to be the responsibility of all three groups jointly to fill that facility. Craig Jonesboro Advertising and Promotion Commission Executive Director Craig Rickert approached the podium and said, primarily, that will fall on Sports Facilities Companies. That's what we've contracted them to do. They bring a lot of resources. As we know, I'll be working, A&P, will be working with Sports Facilities, trying to bring tournaments in and things like that. But without putting an accurate number on it, the lion's share is going to be Sports Facilities, A&P signing off on that. There's... I don't see much reason for this committee or commission to get terribly involved in the happenings at the Ridge Athletic Center. Chairman Chris Gibson said, ok. Jay Clevenger approached the podium and said, ok so then my question goes back to baseball, will they be overseeing that? Looking at the contract that was approved by City Council, I think last year, with the Jonesboro Baseball Boosters, there was an item in there that the city, in the rec league, there would be a break, four tournaments. Would that Sports Commission also be recruiting opportunities for that or would that be the Jonesboro Baseball Boosters? Because the way I read the contract it implies that it would be the Jonesboro Baseball Boosters to bring that in. Chairman Chris Gibson said, I've mentioned several times during the course of conversations with every group that I've talked with, a parallel path. And I think that it's going to take everyone pulling on the same end of the rope to get as much sports tourism into our community as possible. Whether that be baseball, whether it be softball, whether it be volleyball, whether it be swim, cheer, bago was mentioned the other day at our meetings. So there are a lot of opportunities out there that we just need to have, we

need to cast a wider net. Jay Clevenger said, and so, I think what I'm getting is the Sports Commission would be involved with everything. That entails... Chairman Chris Gibson said, that is correct. And if we... Jay Clevenger said, even with events at the RAC. On working together. Chairman Chris Gibson said, and if we decide to look at an outside contractor for softball, or swim, or whatever it may be, I mean, there's going to be sports outside of the RAC as well that we need to continue to focus on. I think that that group needs to look at every opportunity to bring people into Jonesboro, to put them in our restaurants, put them in our beds in our hotels, and we just need to, we've got to cast, as I said, a larger net, and everybody's got to be pulling in the same direction. And if it comes to us outsourcing any of those other sports I think that that committee needs to vet those individuals that would be coming in. Check their credentials. See what they can offer the city of Jonesboro. See if they're the right fit for our people in Jonesboro. And then we can choose to move down that path or not as it comes to this group.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said, am I too... just a little... my thoughts. I think some of this is very fluid right now. But like the Sports Commission may be kind of just the coordinator. Like, baseball boosters, what tournaments are you planning on bringing in this year? It may not be the Sports Commission going out and recruiting the tournaments, but just going ok baseball boosters what have you got lined up for 2026 or 2027. You know, just something like that. I mean... Chairman Chris Gibson said, and then fill those spots that we don't have filled internally. Jay Clevenger said, well, I'll make a final comment. I know you're running out of time here and I know Craig wants to say something. I would ask that one thing be considered. We do have the A&P Commission that promotes tourism in our city and reading through some of the A&P minutes I know that we're looking to hire a director of finance, marketing, business development. I don't know if that was A&P themselves or the committee or the company hired to run it. But one thing that I think we should consider is hiring one individual that works for the A&P, that reports to Craig, that that is their job. And it could be performance based. And have some requirements. If they report to Craig that they get the information from the vendors and attempt to vet them. And bring them to the Public Services Committee for you guys to approve that vendor. I don't know if that's a step that would be required or not, but I think it would be in the best interest of the public that we put something in place. I have some other things here, and I'll be glad to visit with you individually about that. But I feel like that's one thing... I'm afraid if we get a committee it's going to get bogged down and not everybody may have their opportunity to come to Jonesboro to bring their product here. And that's my opinion and I would love to have that considered in all. Chairman Chris Gibson said, thank you Jay. Craig.

Jonesboro Advertising and Promotion Commission Executive Director Craig Rickert approached the podium and said, I just want to clarify one thing I said briefly. That input from that committee will always be considered and you know well thought of and wanted. But every event that will be in the Ridge Athletic Center will go through Sports Facilities Companies to book it, to do all that. Whether it's a vendor model, right's holder, whatever that's going to be. I just wanted to make sure I cleared that up. And those positions that Jay discussed, those are people be hired by Sports Facilities Companies. Employees of those companies. But I just want to make sure, not that not saying we don't want any help, we certainly do. This is a community project but all that stuff will go through Sports Facilities. Whether it's a local project or a group out of a major metro from somewhere else in the country. It all goes through SFC.

Jay Clevenger approached the podium and said, and one thing I failed to say is if you went to an individual, that person could serve on the Parks Planning Advisory

Committee, and work in conjunction with the Parks Department as well. I think that's a good bit. That's something that should be considered instead of having 10 people on a board making the decisions. You guys be the ones that make the decisions on who we're having into this community after the vetting from one individual that works for Craig and promotes the city and the tourism here. Thank you. Chairman Chris Gibson said, thank you Jay.

Councilmember Ann Williams said, it can be a sorts of confusion as far as when we talk about boards and commissions as far as which particular, which body we're talking about as far as citizens and then the facilities board. And is there some clarification as far as that? Or are they referred to as board or commission or committee? Chairman Chris Gibson said, I'll defer to you on that Carol. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, if you're talking about the one that Jay is talking about I think it's a committee right now. It was a commission when it started but I think it's counted as a committee right now. They changed the name. I don't know what it'll be moving forward. Councilmember Ann Williams said, I think when we use those terms it may cause confusion. I just thought we might have some clarification as far as what particular body we're referring to when we discuss the issues. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, of course, that's all subject to change moving forward if that's the decision that's made. But right now, I think it serves as a committee.

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7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 4 - Joe Hafner; Ann Williams; Brian Emison and Janice Porter

Absent: 2 - LJ Bryant and Anthony Coleman