



# City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center  
300 S. Church Street  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

## Meeting Minutes City Council

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Tuesday, April 19, 2022

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

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### PUBLIC SAFETY 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 BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

**Present** 9 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Joe Hafner; David McClain and LJ Bryant  
**Absent** 3 - Chris Moore; Bobby Long and Brian Emison

#### 4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

*Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, Good Evening Council. It is a good evening and the sun is out. So, that is good for the City of Jonesboro and people are excited. I wanted to stand before you this evening though as I do on situations. We have a proclamation this evening. This is a proclamation for the Nettleton High School Boy's Bowling State Champions. Whereas, Nettleton High School's varsity bowling team won the class 5A Boy's State Championship last month. Whereas, the team was led by state individual Zach Grosvino, third place finisher Will Jensen and Cameron Sale who also won fourth place in the 5A; and, Whereas, other team members including Brandon Troutman, Anthony Berry, John Berry, Caleb Tedder, Tyler Brady and Jance Williams; and, Whereas, the team coached by Coach Bobbie Timmerman and interim coaches Amy Reed and Allie Robbins finished the season with a remarkable record of 62-1. (Congratulations, that is awesome.) Whereas, Nettleton School District is known for excellence in all of its endeavors and a state bowling championship is more evident of the well-rounded athletic program this district provides. Now, therefore, I, Harold Copenhaver, Mayor of the City of Jonesboro, by the virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim this Nettleton Boys Bowling team day in the City of Jonesboro, Arkansas. Congratulations.*

#### 5. CONSENT AGENDA

##### *Approval of the Consent Agenda*

*Councilmember LJ Bryant motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to removed RES-22:069 and RES-22:072 from the Consent Agenda. All voted aye.*

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

**Aye:** 9 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Joe Hafner; David McClain and LJ Bryant  
**Absent:** 3 - Chris Moore; Bobby Long and Brian Emison

[MIN-22:028](#) MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON APRIL 5, 2022

**Attachments:** [CC Minutes 04052022](#)

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

[RES-22:051](#) A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL RIGHT-OF-WAY AT 902 CREATH AVENUE FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

**Sponsors:** Engineering

**Attachments:** [Offer and Acceptance - 902 Creath Avenue](#)

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

[RES-22:056](#) A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ENTER INTO A SECOND AMENDMENT TO INDUSTRIAL TRACK AGREEMENT

**Sponsors:** Engineering

**Attachments:** [RES-22-056](#)  
[RES-22-056 Attachment showing differences in Drawing numbers and dates](#)  
[Exhibit A - ITA - City of Jonesboro - Jonesboro \(Nettleton\), AR - \(82979\) Rev.](#)

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

[RES-22:057](#) A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL RIGHT-OF-WAY AT 1003 CREATH AVENUE FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

**Sponsors:** Engineering

**Attachments:** [Offer and Acceptance - 1003 Creath Avenue](#)

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

[RES-22:065](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH MEADOWS CONTRACTORS, LLC. FOR THE CRAIGHEAD TECHNOLOGY PARK INDUSTRIAL RAIL YARD EXPANSION PROJECT - SECTION I SUBGRADE WORK (2022:10)

**Sponsors:** Engineering

**Attachments:** [Certified Bid Tab](#)  
[Contract - CTP Rail Yard Expansion - Section I](#)

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

[RES-22:066](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH TRAC-WORK, INC. FOR THE CRAIGHEAD TECHNOLOGY PARK INDUSTRIAL RAIL YARD EXPANSION PROJECT - SECTION II TRACK CONSTRUCTION (2022:10)

**Sponsors:** Engineering

**Attachments:** [Certified Bid Tab 2](#)  
[Contract - CTP Rail Yard Expansion - Section II](#)

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

[RES-22:067](#) A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ENTER INTO A RAILROAD LICENSE AND OPERATING AGREEMENT WITH NEW PATRIOT ENTITY, LLC. (NPE)

**Sponsors:** Engineering

**Attachments:** [Jonesboro - NPE Draft Railroad License and Operating Agreement - 11-17-2](#)  
[Railroad Licensing Agreement](#)

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

[RES-22:068](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH WAGNER GENERAL CONTRACTORS, INC. FOR THE RENOVATIONS TO THE JONESBORO RECREATIONAL CENTER

**Sponsors:** Engineering and Parks & Recreation

**Attachments:** [Certified Bid Tab 03.23.22](#)  
[Agreement Jonesboro Recreational Center](#)

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

[RES-22:070](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONTRACT WITH JONESBORO MONUMENT COMPANY FOR SPONSORSHIP OF ONE ATHLETIC FIELD AT THE SOUTHSIDE SOFTBALL SPORTS COMPLEX

**Sponsors:** Parks & Recreation and Finance

**Attachments:** [Exhibit A - Jonesboro Monument Company Southside Complex 2022](#)

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

[RES-22:071](#) A RESOLUTION TO WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH ACTIVE NETWORK, LLC FOR THE PURCHASE OF POINT OF SALE EQUIPMENT FOR THE PARKS DEPARTMENT

**Sponsors:** Parks & Recreation and Finance

**Attachments:** [ActiveNet POS Invoice](#)

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

[RES-22:073](#)

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE DONATION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY TO THE ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT FOR ROAD MAINTENANCE PURPOSES

**Sponsors:** Engineering

**Attachments:** [ROW plans](#)  
[Agreement for Donation](#)

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

**RESOLUTIONS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA**

[RES-22:069](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE FY 2023 SELECTIVE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM (STEP) FROM THE ARKANSAS STATE POLICE

**Sponsors:** Grants and Police Department

*Councilmember LJ Bryant motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to removed RES-22:069 and RES-22:072 from the Consent Agenda. All voted aye.*

*Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road, asked for clarification on the grant. I know that it was at the Finance meeting last week with you Joe and I know that you even kind of questioned the amount of the grant and what the city was going to have as far as the local match. I know that Mr. Thomas came up here and explained and Chief Elliott did also. So, if we could have just a little clarification because I know after hearing it I was still a little confused. So, if we could just have a little clarification on the dollar amount on it. Councilmember Charles Frierson asked, clarification of what? The whole thing or something specific? Ms. Lack said, no, well the clarification as far as Mr. Hafner had questioned, the amount of the local, the city match and the total dollar amount of what the grant was going to be. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, I didn't really question the amount. I questioned the wording because it said that there was no local match required or something like that. Ms. Lack said, exactly. Councilmember Hafner said, we will provide X amount and the way that it was explained to me is that the \$75,000 or the grant itself is for overtime, but along with overtime goes fringe benefits, vehicle maintenance, fuel, all of that other stuff that we still have to pay out of our own pocket. Ms. Lack said, I guess what I am asking is that if Chief Elliott can explain that a little bit more to the citizens. Thank you. Police Chief Rick Elliott said, thank you for this opportunity. As we said, the grant is the full amount of the grant. The key word here is the in-kind part on the city's behalf. And, that is the gas, the maintenance and things on the cars and everything associated with putting that officer out there to do this type of work. We have been utilizing this grant for well over twenty years. It comes up and we have been successful in getting this grant well over twenty years. And, again, it gives these officers a chance to get out and just do this selective enforcement at being paid at time and a half of their salary. So, are there any other questions in regards to the grant and the wording on that or is it clear? Okay, very good. Thank you Mayor.*

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

**Aye:** 9 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Joe Hafner; David McClain and LJ Bryant

**Absent:** 3 - Chris Moore; Bobby Long and Brian Emison

[RES-22:072](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ENTER INTO A CHANGE ORDER WITH RAMSONS INC. FOR THE JONESBORO SHOOTING SPORTS COMPLEX PHASE 1C (2020:07)

**Sponsors:** Parks & Recreation, Police Department and Finance

**Attachments:** [Proposal Request](#)

*Councilmember LJ Bryant motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to removed RES-22:069 and RES-22:072 from the Consent Agenda. All voted aye.*

*Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road, said, I guess the question here is that if my memory serves me right is that there was an itemization for this and in the amount I think it was \$334,000. So, my question to you is this a change order to increase it to \$380,000 and what are the reasons for that price increase? Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, Ms. Lack, we have had some adjustments obviously. Craig, would you come forward and make her aware of what those adjustments were and how we came at the \$380,000 figure please. Engineering Director Craig Light said, I am not sure about the \$330,000 estimate. There was an estimate at \$360,000 that we were looking at. The cost of the trap houses actually doubled in price because of the concrete and steel was the increase in the contract amount for that. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you.*

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

**Aye:** 9 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Joe Hafner; David McClain and LJ Bryant

**Absent:** 3 - Chris Moore; Bobby Long and Brian Emison

[RES-22:045](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 308B Vine, Parcel: 01-143134-25400. OWNER: David and Gail Oesterblad

**Sponsors:** Code Enforcement

**Attachments:** [308 Vine Inspection](#)  
[DAVID & GAIL OESTERBLAD TRUST-01-143134-25400 - ARCountyData.c](#)  
[Limited Title Search](#)  
[Supporting Documents](#)  
[308 vine 1](#)  
[308 vine 2](#)  
[308 vine 3](#)

*Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, members I would like to request and have a motion if possible. We wanted to review the paperwork. These were initially indicated by the previous director. That would be RES-22:045, RES-22:046, and RES-22:048. We would like to bring those back at the first meeting in June. We are going to have a new director. Director Roper will be in place starting May 1, 2022 and we just want to make sure that the paperwork is completed for council. Councilmember Joe Hafner asked, did you mean to leave out RES-22:047? Mayor Copenhaver said, RES-22:047 has been demolished so I will need a motion to table that indefinitely. Dr. Charles Coleman said, I make a motion to table that indefinitely. Mayor Copenhaver said, okay, the first*

one, RES-22:045, RES-22:46, RES-22:048, I just need a motion if council would approve to move it to the first meeting in June. Councilmember Coleman said, you have a motion on the floor. We need to get that. Mayor Copenhaver said, that is the second item, table indefinitely. Is there a second? Councilmember John Street seconded the motion. All voted aye. Mayor Copenhaver said, now, we will go back to RES-22:045, RES-22:46, RES-22:048. Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Charles Coleman to postpone temporarily RES-22:045, RES-22:46, RES-22:048 until the first meeting in June. All voted aye.

**A motion was made by Councilperson John Street, seconded by Councilperson Charles Coleman, that this matter be Postponed Temporarily. The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 9 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

**Absent:** 3 - Chris Moore;Bobby Long and Brian Emison

[RES-22:046](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 1208 E. Washington, Parcel: 01-144173-14500. OWNER: Cynthia Diane Scott Fletcher, Korreen Prunty, Koreon Prunty

**Sponsors:** Code Enforcement

**Attachments:** [1208 Washington Inspection Report](#)  
[FLETCHER CYNTHIA ETAL-01-144173-14500 - ARCountyData.com](#)  
[Invoice & Search - 1208 E Washington](#)  
[Supporting Docs - 1208 E Washington](#)  
[WIN 20201208 14 34 21 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20201208 14 36 51 Pro](#)  
[614A5AB9-8778-42CE-B926-E18F21EC092D](#)

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, members I would like to request and have a motion if possible. We wanted to review the paperwork. These were initially indicated by the previous director. That would be RES-22:045, RES-22:046, and RES-22:048. We would like to bring those back at the first meeting in June. We are going to have a new director. Director Roper will be in place starting May 1, 2022 and we just want to make sure that the paperwork is completed for council. Councilmember Joe Hafner asked, did you mean to leave out RES-22:047? Mayor Copenhaver said, RES-22:047 has been demolished so I will need a motion to table that indefinitely. Dr. Charles Coleman said, I make a motion to table that indefinitely. Mayor Copenhaver said, okay, the first one, RES-22:045, RES-22:46, RES-22:048, I just need a motion if council would approve to move it to the first meeting in June. Councilmember Coleman said, you have a motion on the floor. We need to get that. Mayor Copenhaver said, that is the second item, table indefinitely. Is there a second? Councilmember John Street seconded the motion. All voted aye. Mayor Copenhaver said, now, we will go back to RES-22:045, RES-22:46, RES-22:048. Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Charles Coleman to postpone temporarily RES-22:045, RES-22:46, RES-22:048 until the first meeting in June. All voted aye.

**A motion was made by Councilperson John Street, seconded by Councilperson Charles Coleman, that this matter be Postponed Temporarily. The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 9 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

**Absent:** 3 - Chris Moore; Bobby Long and Brian Emison

[RES-22:047](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 3103 Fairview, Parcel: 01-144281-18500. OWNER: Oscar Ramirez

**Sponsors:** Code Enforcement

**Attachments:** [3103 Fairview Inspection](#)  
[Supporting Documents - 3103 Fairview](#)  
[Invoice & Search - 3103 Fairview](#)  
[RAMIREZ OSCAR LEONEL-01-144281-18500 - ARCountyData.com](#)  
[3103 fairview](#)  
[3103 fairview2](#)  
[3103 fairview7](#)

*Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, members I would like to request and have a motion if possible. We wanted to review the paperwork. These were initially indicated by the previous director. That would be RES-22:045, RES-22:046, and RES-22:048. We would like to bring those back at the first meeting in June. We are going to have a new director. Director Roper will be in place starting May 1, 2022 and we just want to make sure that the paperwork is completed for council. Councilmember Joe Hafner asked, did you mean to leave out RES-22:047? Mayor Copenhaver said, RES-22:047 has been demolished so I will need a motion to table that indefinitely. Dr. Charles Coleman said, I make a motion to table that indefinitely. Mayor Copenhaver said, okay, the first one, RES-22:045, RES-22:46, RES-22:048, I just need a motion if council would approve to move it to the first meeting in June. Councilmember Coleman said, you have a motion on the floor. We need to get that. Mayor Copenhaver said, that is the second item, table indefinitely. Is there a second? Councilmember John Street seconded the motion. All voted aye. Mayor Copenhaver said, now, we will go back to RES-22:045, RES-22:46, RES-22:048. Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Charles Coleman to postpone temporarily RES-22:045, RES-22:46, RES-22:048 until the first meeting in June. All voted aye.*

**A motion was made by Councilperson Charles Coleman, seconded by Councilperson Mitch Johnson, that this matter be Postponed Indefinitely. The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 9 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Joe Hafner; David McClain and LJ Bryant

**Absent:** 3 - Chris Moore; Bobby Long and Brian Emison

[RES-22:048](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 5523 E. Nettleton, Parcel: 01-144351-00800. OWNER: Paul Wise

**Sponsors:** Code Enforcement



**Attachments:** [5523 E. Nettleton Inspection Report](#)  
[Supporting Docs - 5523 E Nettleton](#)  
[Invoice & Search - 5523 E Nettleton](#)  
[WISE PAUL AND DEBBIE-01-144351-00800 - ARCountyData.com](#)  
[5523 nettleton6](#)  
[5523 nettleton7](#)  
[5523 nettleton8](#)

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, members I would like to request and have a motion if possible. We wanted to review the paperwork. These were initially indicated by the previous director. That would be RES-22:045, RES-22:046, and RES-22:048. We would like to bring those back at the first meeting in June. We are going to have a new director. Director Roper will be in place starting May 1, 2022 and we just want to make sure that the paperwork is completed for council. Councilmember Joe Hafner asked, did you mean to leave out RES-22:047? Mayor Copenhaver said, RES-22:047 has been demolished so I will need a motion to table that indefinitely. Dr. Charles Coleman said, I make a motion to table that indefinitely. Mayor Copenhaver said, okay, the first one, RES-22:045, RES-22:46, RES-22:048, I just need a motion if council would approve to move it to the first meeting in June. Councilmember Coleman said, you have a motion on the floor. We need to get that. Mayor Copenhaver said, that is the second item, table indefinitely. Is there a second? Councilmember John Street seconded the motion. All voted aye. Mayor Copenhaver said, now, we will go back to RES-22:045, RES-22:46, RES-22:048. Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Charles Coleman to postpone temporarily RES-22:045, RES-22:46, RES-22:048 until the first meeting in June. All voted aye.

**A motion was made by Councilperson John Street, seconded by Councilperson Charles Coleman, that this matter be Postponed Temporarily. The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 9 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Joe Hafner; David McClain and LJ Bryant

**Absent:** 3 - Chris Moore; Bobby Long and Brian Emison

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

### ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

#### [ORD-22:014](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO PLACE VARIOUS TRAFFIC SIGNS AT DESIGNATED LOCATIONS AS DETERMINED BY THE TRAFFIC CONTROL COMMITTEE

**Sponsors:** Engineering

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember LJ Bryant, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-22:014 by title only. All voted aye.

**Held at one reading**

## **7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING



[ORD-22:018](#) AN ORDINANCE FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR CLASSIC HOSPITALITY DBA AS DON JOSE LOCATED AT 2200 WILKINS AVENUE

**Attachments:** [Don Jose\\_DO NOT USE\\_Redacted](#)

**Held at second reading**

#### ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-22:016](#) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, FROM C-3 GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT TO I-1, LIMITED INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT FOR PROPERTY LOCATED ON SERVICE ROAD AS REQUESTED BY JEREMY BEVILL OF FISHER ARNOLD ON BEHALF OF A&J DELIVERIES

**Attachments:** [Staff Summary - City Council](#)  
[Rezoning Ordinance](#)  
[Plat](#)  
[Application](#)  
[22103-01](#)  
[Charge Sheet](#)  
[Charges - Paid](#)  
[Cover Letter](#)  
[Directional Rezoning Sign](#)  
[Location](#)  
[Map View](#)  
[Notification Letters Certified Mail Receipt](#)  
[Rezoning Sign](#)

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

**Aye:** 9 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Joe Hafner; David McClain and LJ Bryant

**Absent:** 3 - Chris Moore; Bobby Long and Brian Emison

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

*Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported on the following:*

*Communications Director Bill Campbell asked for clarification regarding the postponement of the condemnations. City Clerk April Leggett stated the actual date is June 7, 2022.*

*Mayor Copenhaver said, since the recent outbreak and constant outbreak of weather we have had in our region and in our area, I wanted to say thank you to our emergency response department that includes Ronnie Shaver and his maintenance department and their work in multiple recent weather events. I also want to say the collaborative nature between what many of you are aware of but that goes on behind the scenes*

when storms are coming into our community, region, and other cities. We are always in constant awareness of what is going on in each other's community so we can reach out and help other communities. And, I want to say thank you to many of the Mayor's that reached out to the City of Jonesboro as weather approached this last week as well. I also want to say that there were no injuries or damage resulted in Jonesboro. Our E911, Fire, Police Departments and administration are aware and we were prepared for what might have happened.

The City Code Enforcement reports show that they have assisted in 36 houses that have been brought down without lengthy condemnation process. This has occurred over the past year. Immediately, we are working on another half dozen that are in the works. We are going to increase these efforts to continue to clean up Jonesboro.

I spoke to Northeast Arkansas Chapter of Military Officers Association of Arkansas today. I was glad to see them together because it has been a while since they have met in the past couple of years. This is a unique group of individuals, once again, our veterans served who were officers many of them are aging as they go on throughout their years. So, I commend this group for their service and what they have provided for us and our freedom.

The D.A.R.E. run was held this past Saturday. It was cold. There was a councilmember that was present, Councilmember McClain. I ran in it to my car and back. We had about 150 people that took part and it was a very good event in Jonesboro at Joe Mack Campbell Park. I would like to say thank you for the police department and Chief Elliott in providing hot dogs for that event. We also came over to the north side of Jonesboro and had a cleanup and Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman was present for that.

I wanted to announce to council, we have had our second Mayor's Youth Advancement Council class announced. Last year, we had 49 participants. This year we have 66. So, this is 10th, 11th, and 12th graders in our community. This is engaging them and empowering them. So, we are really excited about that growth.

You will be hearing PSA's and more about enforcing a new act in Arkansas that goes after many people who commit violent crimes with guns and domestic crimes. Chief Rick Elliott and I have met with Sheriff Marty Boyd and prosecutor Keith Chrestman and we have had enough. We have had enough with gun violence in our community. Starting now, repeating offenders will no longer have an opportunity for good time in prison. If they are sentenced to ten years, they will serve every day of it.

We have missed Touch-a-Truck for more than a year, but it is back. This Saturday at NEA Baptist, thanks to the work of Nettleton High School and Sandra Taylor as well as NEA Hospital. This event is very popular with our kids and I will have my grandson out there starting at 10:00 a.m.

We send prayers out to the family and loved ones of a retired Lieutenant Roger Morphis who passed away recently. His service to the residents of Jonesboro will be felt for years to come.

## **9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

Councilmember LJ Bryant said, I had a good visit with Chief last week and got to see all of our new cameras in use and everybody working hard. They need more space. Everybody is working in that tiny little Real Crime Center, I was like I don't know how

they get all of this work done. So, I appreciate the Chief's time last week.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said, I want to say thanks to Steve Purtee and his staff for getting the updated financials out to us. Thank you to Tony Thomas, Brian Richardson, and everybody that helped. I had a couple of neighbors that had called last week that had a couple of issues and they were able to get on them and get them taken care of. Also, I want to point out. I was off work this past Friday and went by Allen Park. There is a group called Jonesboro Pickleball. They are on Facebook. I don't know how many people know about pickleball, but it is kind of a combination between ping pong, whiffleball, and tennis. It is really fun. It is really popular. People of all ages were playing. At Allen Park, they play on Friday's from 9:00-11:00 a.m. Obviously, it is free. They had over 30 people there. They had at least six or seven courts going, all skill levels, all ages. It was a lot of fun and it was really good to see our facilities being used. They kind of described themselves as one big happy family. I could tell that is was a lot of people having fun. So, if you are looking for something to do to get active and you have a Friday morning open, I would check out Jonesboro Pickleball and go by there. Randy Johnson, they kind of refer to him as the Pickleball Patriarch in Jonesboro. Patrick Brewer or Cathy Nutt, Rusty Koster, and Brian Riga are just a few of the people that I know who are really involved in it. But, they just do a great job. And, like I said, it is great to see our facilities being used and everybody having a good time. Thank you.

Councilmember David McClain said, this weekend was good to support the D.A.R.E. program. I had a great time. It is a great program to support.

Councilmember Chris Gibson said, I just want to thank Craig Light and Steve Tippitt for being so responsive on that erosion issue that I brought up at the last meeting. I appreciate that.

Councilmember Charles Coleman said, we had a real good cleanup. We thought it was going to rain Saturday, but we had a really good cleanup this Saturday. For me, it is going to be a busy week with Fisher Street Community in Action and Scenic Hills. They have a cleanup on May 7th. We have a cleanup again on May 21st. We also have on May 14th, we have a block party and also free fish like we had last year. We have sat plates back for the city utility people because of all the good work they have done to help us. May 14th, I know that is graduation day, but the block party is also a culmination of the leadership of Jonesboro Chamber of Commerce. So, they are going to be putting their block party on from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We will have plenty of food on both ends. So, we hope everyone will come out and enjoy themselves with a little dancing, a little basketball, a little stuff for the kids so we will be pretty busy that day.

## **10. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Bill Smith, 102 Academic, said I came here this evening to say thank you and I think it is something you all often hear. You hear the people who complain. I will freely admit that I have been one of those people myself. I said this to Councilmember Street earlier that the work that you Mr. Mayor and Brian and many of the staff have done on lowering the speed limit on Johnson. It was talked about a little bit this week at the MPO meeting. I can tell you as someone that lives in that area and I am speaking today as a resident not on behalf of who I work for, I live out there and I drive Johnson almost every day getting Vickie back and forth to NEA Baptist. She works days, nights, weekends, you know, so I see the traffic and it's been remarkable how the simple act of changing the speed limit and putting the signs up has had on beginning

*to calm that traffic. I freely admit that I'd be the one person who would be going 35 and everybody else would be zipping by. I keep looking around and as I drive it thinking it's remarkable. The citizens are coming together and the city is coming together and we are seeing something very positive happen along Johnson with that traffic starting to slow. And, I would tell you that I think you know when we see it, the majority of the people are doing the speed limit out there now. I mean once you get a little past the football stadium, running out toward Red Wolf where it goes up to 45, people do pick up a little bit there. In the core, I think we are seeing a very positive impact. So, I just wanted to come today and say thank you Mr. Mayor and thank you to the council. Thank you to Brian and all of those that have been working on this that it is having a positive impact. So, again, thank you. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, thank you Mr. Smith. I appreciate your comments.*

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Aye:** 9 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Joe Hafner; David McClain and LJ Bryant

**Absent:** 3 - Chris Moore; Bobby Long and Brian Emison

\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Harold Copenhaver, Mayor**

**Attest:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**April Leggett, City Clerk**