



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, April 15, 2025

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

SPECIAL CALLED NOMINATING & RULES COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING AT 4:45 P.M.

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 (ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE) INITIATED AND CONFIRMED BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

Present 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, well, good evening council and it is always a pleasure to stand before you, but I think it's really important that we recognize a powerful team that we have that work for the community and work for us, the City Council and the City of Jonesboro. And this week is the Jonesboro E-911 Emergency Dispatcher Week. I just want to say thank you to each and every one of you. I think it's really unique and I'll talk about in our Mayor's notes, a little thing that has been going on this week and they've been adopted by the community. How cool is that? We are really proud of that. The community members stepped up in so many ways. When an emergency occurs, the proper response of police officers, firefighters, and paramedics is critical to the protection of life and preservation of property. The safety of our police officers and firefighters is dependent upon the quality and accuracy obtained from citizens who call E-911 emergency dispatchers. E-911 emergency dispatchers are the first and most critical contact our citizens have with emergency services. The E-911 emergency dispatchers contribute daily to the apprehension of criminals, suppression of fires, and getting treatment for patients, despite the emotional toll and intense nature of the work. Jonesboro's E-911 dispatchers remain passionate and committed to serving the community with care and dedication. In March of this year, the team implemented emergency medical dispatch, a new program allowing dispatchers to provide lifesaving instruction over the phones such as CPR, first aid, and childbirth assistance, enhancing their ability to support the community during critical moments. So, I, therefore now, Harold Copenhaver, Mayor of the City of Jonesboro, do hereby proclaim April 13th through 19th, 2025, E-911 Emergency Dispatcher Week.

[COM-25:009](#)

PROCLAMATION FOR JONESBORO E-911 EMERGENCY DISPATCHER WEEK

Attachments: [Proclamation for E911 Emergency Dispatcher Week.pdf](#)

Read

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

Aye: 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

[MIN-25:029](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON APRIL 1, 2025

Attachments: [CC Minutes 04012025.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-25:031](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO ACCEPT AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION, OFFICE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL SERVICES FOR THE PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS GRANT (PSN)

Attachments: [PSN Award Info.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-045-2025

[RES-25:032](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1305 ROSEMOND, PARCEL 01-143243-10300, OWNED BY MARCUS & STORMIE SWAN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$665

Attachments: [01. 1305 Rosemond Notice of Violation.pdf](#)
 [02. 1305 Rosemond Clean-Up Invoice.pdf](#)
 [03. 1305 Rosemond Billing Request.pdf](#)
 [04. 1305 Rosemond Council Notice.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-046-2025

[RES-25:033](#)

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY OF JONESBORO'S GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR A SPARKGOOD GRANT FROM WALMART SUPERCENTER #128

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-047-2025

[RES-25:034](#)

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO AUTHORIZE THE GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA), FY2022-2024 49 U.S.C SECTION 5339 FORMULA GRANTS FOR THE JONESBORO ECONOMICAL TRANSPORTATION (JET) SYSTEM

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-048-2025

[RES-25:035](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF APPLICATIONS WITH THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION, AN OPERATING ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FOR FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED BY 49 U.S.C. CHAPTER 53; TITLE 23, UNITED STATES CODE, OR OTHER FEDERAL STATUTES ADMINISTERED BY THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-049-2025

[RES-25:036](#)

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO AUTHORIZE THE GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA), FY 2022 AND 2024 49 U.S.C SECTION 5307 FORMULA GRANTS FOR THE JONESBORO ECONOMICAL TRANSPORTATION (JET) SYSTEM

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-050-2025

[RES-25:037](#)

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO UTILIZE FEDERAL-AID RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM (RTP) FUNDS; AND, AUTHORIZING THE CITY'S GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR AN FY25 RTP GRANT

Attachments: [Higginbottom Soft Surface.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-051-2025

[RES-25:038](#)

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO UTILIZE FEDERAL-AID TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP) FUNDS; AND, AUTHORIZING THE CITY'S GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR A FY25 TAP GRANT

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-052-2025

6. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING**[ORD-25:011](#)**

AN ORDINANCE REZONING PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5905 E. JOHNSON AVENUE IN JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, FROM R-1 (RESIDENTIAL SINGLE-FAMILY) TO C-3 (GENERAL COMMERCIAL); AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Attachments: [Application](#)
 [Certified Mail Receipts](#)
 [Deed](#)
 [Letter](#)
 [Plat](#)
 [Rezoning Signs](#)
 [Site Photos](#)
 [Staff Summary](#)
 [Receipt](#)
 [MAPC Minutes](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Joe Hafner, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-25:011 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING****[ORD-25:009](#)**

AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE AND ABANDON A DRAINAGE EASEMENT LOCATED IN LOT 5R OF THE SECOND ADDITION OF BLOCK C, SOUTHERN HILLS, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS:

Attachments: [OpinionLetter](#)
 [DRAINAGE EASEMENT ABANDONMENT](#)
 [SignedPetition](#)
 [UtilityLetters](#)
 [Receipt](#)

Held at second reading

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported on the following:

Good evening, everyone, and the weather this evening is certainly nicer than at our last City Council meeting. You may remember two weeks ago tonight was the start of two consecutive record-breaking storm fronts. The historic amount of rain certainly put our drainage system to the test, and I'm pleased to say the system performed well. I attribute these efforts to our staff and keeping waterways cleaned out, as well as to storm water mitigation efforts in new developments. The city's multiple departments long-range improvement plans in the system work and to my knowledge no primary

structures had significant water problems, though there may be cases we don't know about, but if you did get water in your home, please let us know so we can document it and look for improvements. And, I've got to purposely say that in seeing the community and more importantly, our departments in action, Streets did an amazing job in being prepared for this. The waterways that were obstructed were due to trash in some circumstances and that caused some of the backup. But, fortunately, over in Fairview, they didn't get into the homes. I can't say this enough as well about our neighbors and I'll get into that now. As you're aware, many of our neighbors suffered significant storm damage like the EF-3 tornado that hit Lake City and heavy flooding in Hardy. Our Fire Department and Police Department dispatched to Lake City that night, April 2nd. Our Fire Department went to Hardy to help during the flooding. I'm always proud of all of our first responders but especially in times like this. So, in expanding on that a little bit more, Ethan Barnes the Mayor of Hardy, we are actually going to take a little bit of our crew up to Hardy to help with their cleanup because they just frankly don't have the equipment in order to do so. They are pulling from Jonesboro, Batesville, the State of Arkansas ARDOT. And so, it is a collaborative effort. A lot of people depend on the City of Jonesboro for a lot of things, but one day we'll have to depend on them as well. And so, that's what makes Northeast Arkansas who we are and I'm very proud of the community and the clean-up efforts that they have done so far. But again, so many people do lean on us and I want you, as Council, to be well aware that our directors, we are prepared and we are always learning. So, there's always room for improvement and we are going through and addressing those situations. So, hopefully, the weather on this point, we have had 114 tornado warnings in the State of Arkansas, the most of any state of the country. So, right now, we seem to be a hotbed. Hopefully, that will chill out one way or another.

Another item to note is that our Police Department, our First Security Bank Employee of the Month for April is Mary Oliver. Mary works in the Records Department at JPD and has proudly been serving the citizens of Jonesboro for more than 30 years. And so, congratulations Chief and again to Mary. She does a great job. This week we celebrated National Telecommunications Operator month as I just read by proclamation and I can assure you they all deserve all the accolades they are receiving. The very first cry for help in most situations goes to E-911, including dangerous storms. If you want to participate, you can always send a note. We will make it easy on you. In the lobby is a table with note cards already in place. So, if you care to sign one, please do so. We also helped to push out, Adopt a Dispatcher, and every dispatcher was adopted and receiving this daily attention for their hard work and compassion. I think it's very important. After this meeting, we will be going over to the center. If you haven't been there, I'm going to pass out to all the employees, their own proclamation personally.

Last week we recognized Child Abuse Awareness month with Northeast Arkansas Child Advocacy Center and with CASA.

The monthly neighborhood cleanup was at West End this month. There were more than 12 tons of unwanted junk and trash and they collected 144 tires. That is probably the biggest amount, most amount that we have ever collected. I'm amazed by the stats after these neighborhood cleanups and you know not only do we help beautify the community by doing this, but we help keep mosquitos away as well. The events also save us money on tipping fees at the landfill. Instead of numerous individual fees charged to the city, it's just one more additional fee that we don't have to pay.

This past Saturday, we had the Mayor's Youth Advancement Council (MYAC) Spring Community Fair at Northside Park, a free event for families, complete with vendors,

entertainment, games, food, arts and crafts and more. I will say that the new enrollment figure for the Mayor's Youth Council is at 99 students for this coming year. It has expanded as well to Brookland Schools. I'm really pleased that the youth are really wanting to be involved and engaging. So, we've got challenges for 99. We have got to find a lot for them to do. So, if you have creative ideas, council members, we would like to hear them.

As weather turns to summer fun, I encourage you all to experience our city parks and enjoy what each has to offer.

And finally, I must mention the groundbreaking for the much anticipated sports complex, which happened Friday. Many of you were there and I appreciate you in attendance. The A&P Commission unveiled the name, which will be Ridge Athletic Center and I think they call it the rack. This space will have plenty of room for competition gyms and indoor competition swimming and diving and volleyball, as well as outdoor swimming. That's just a few of the activities. I have no doubt that the facility will spur even more internal development and redevelopment in the area and we have a great net benefit beyond the immediate recreational offering to the facility. Council, it is going to be the single largest facility that citizens of Jonesboro have invested in and we're looking forward to that. They've already torn down the two buildings that were on the property. Nabholz, we do have one of their members here this evening. Obviously, you're really good at destruction, right? And, speaking of that, I just want council to be well aware that they have been doing a great job. And, I think you have seen how they have come along, very judiciously and cautiously, but more importantly in a very expedient manner for the community and for the downtown citizens. Now it's very important and we are going to keep you updated with that as well. And, council, I can assure you that we are taking the next steps forward to see what avenues are available for this community to hopefully recoup some of that funding that we put into that building and demolishing that.

[COM-25:008](#)

JANUARY 2025 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Attachments: [January 2025 Financials.pdf](#)

Filed

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Chris Moore said, just hallalujahs tonight, nothing to complain about. The new sports center had groundbreaking. Naholz got the building down without dropping it on Jim Lyons' office. The sun is out and it's almost Easter. So, it's all good today. Thank you Mayor.

Councilmember David McClain said, the only thing Mayor, I was going to ask you, you mentioned Fairview, is there a plan or an anticipated cleaning of ditches. I had someone call me about drainage and all that in that area. Are we cleaning or is it slated to be done sometime? Mayor Copenhagen said, we were actually out there, I think, last week. Steve and his team when it was raining to clean some of that out and we are assessing everything that has gotten in. We talked about it Monday morning as well and so we are coming up with a general overall plan. But, you know, I have been married for 43 years. My wife and I, our first house was in Fairview on Greenwood. My Father-in-law came and picked me up in a John boat. And so, the flooding has been much improved, but it still an issue. Councilmember McClain agreed, it is. Mayor Copenhagen said, we will get Steve. I'll have him contact you and he will give you up to

date on everything going on.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, thank you. It's good to hear and I want to thank you all, the first responders too because I know it was really tough the last couple of weeks. So, I appreciate that and that report Mayor. But, I just want reminded everyone that we do have a town hall meeting on schedule for Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at Allen Park. And so, everyone is welcome to be there as we hear from our citizens. Thank you.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

_____ **Date:** _____

Harold Copenhaver, Mayor

Attest:

_____ **Date:** _____

April Leggett, City Clerk