



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, April 7, 2020

5:30 PM

Municipal Center

1. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR PERRIN AT 5:30 P.M.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

3. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK DONNA JACKSON

Present 11 - Ann Williams;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent 1 - Charles Frierson

Mayor Harold Perrin said, before we get started, I would like to make a few comments. Really to just take a moment praising the people of Jonesboro and the workers of the City of Jonesboro. We have been through a lot both our citizenry and government over the past month. Our employees in all of our departments deserve your appreciation. They worked tirelessly and many hours with a remarkable attitude. The Jonesboro residents have been strong and came to one another's rescue. We are definitely a loving people in Jonesboro. The coronavirus and tornado have created a new landscape. Our duty is to adjust. I ask for patience as we adjust with each other. This is not a new future, it is simply a temporary fix. It is not going to be perfect. Any change this drastic is going to have glitches. So, please be kind and be patient. We are doing the work of the city and we cannot stand still. Life does not work that way. But, we are not weak and we will not cower to obstacles that are ahead of us. We must be smart and we will definitely work together. As you can see, I want everyone to wear a mask. Protect yourselves. Protect your loved ones. This is no time to worry about appearances. You look better with a mask. Please help your city by being responsible. Your city government employees are working long hours and I want to thank them publically. I also want to point out that 22 chiefs and directors and all of the salaried employees who do not receive overtime pay that they have stepped up for the good of Jonesboro and they have stepped up for you. We owe and I owe all of our city workers a debt of gratitude so I thank them as I thank you from the heart. Now, as we begin, I want to review the ways the public can participate in tonight's meeting. One, you can send an email at any time during the council meeting to councilcomments@jonesboro.org. Two, you can comment on the Facebook Live screen of this meeting at the City of Jonesboro, Arkansas Facebook page. Three, you can call 870-336-7248. As I go through the agenda tonight, I will definitely pause when we ask for comments because it will allow people to do those three items that we just discussed.

[RES-20:044](#)

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING MEETING PROTOCOL FOR THE CITY OF

JONESBORO DURING TIMES OF NATIONAL OR STATEWIDE EMERGENCY

Councilmember David McClain said, in order for us to even have the meeting, we still have to approve RES-20:044. Mayor Harold Perrin said, that is correct. Prior to this meeting, we had a rules and nominating committee meeting and they had a resolution so that we could provide this council meeting by video.

Councilmember David McClain, Chairman of the Nominating and Rules Committee, said, we had RES-20:044. Carol, I will let you read it. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, we need a motion to suspend the rules and walk it on.

Councilmember Mitch Johnson motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore, to suspend the rules and walk-on RES-20:044 to tonight's agenda. All voted aye.

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Mitch Johnson, to adopt RES-20:044. All voted aye.

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: 11 - Ann Williams;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Charles Frierson

Enactment No: R-EN-031-2020

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Councilmember Chris Gibson motioned, seconded by Councilmember LJ Bryant, to adopt the Consent Agenda with RES-20:027 being removed from the Consent Agenda. All voted aye. The reason why RES-20:027 was removed and voted on separately is because the lien was paid.

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Gibson, seconded by Councilperson LJ Bryant, to Approve the Consent Calendar. The motioned PASSED

Aye: 11 - Ann Williams;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Charles Frierson

[MIN-20:027](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MARCH 3, 2020

Attachments: [CC Minutes 03032020](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

[RES-20:005](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 409 NORTH FISHER, PARCEL 01-144181-10500, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY PAUL D GAMBILL

Attachments: [409 N. Fisher - Affidavit of Statutory Lien](#)
[409 N. Fisher](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-032-2020

[RES-20:028](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT NORTH THIRD, PARCEL 01-144182-22000, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY ALMA LETICIA AND NICOLAR MATA

Attachments: [N. Third 01-144182-22000 Invoice](#)
[N. Third 01-144182-22000](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-033-2020

[RES-20:036](#) A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE DESTRUCTION OF RECORDS BY THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH RESOLUTION 93:1369

Attachments: [General Affidavit](#)
[Record retention laws](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-034-2020

[RES-20:037](#) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO AMEND THE 2020 ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE CODE ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-035-2020

[RES-20:040](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXECUTION AND MAINTENANCE OF A LETTER OF CREDIT TO BE ISSUED TO THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT, DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (DEQ)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-036-2020

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

[RES-20:027](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT MIDDLEFIELD,

PARCEL 01-144284-07900, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY 3B HOLDINGS, LLC.

Attachments: [Middlefield 01-144284-07900 Invoice](#)
[Middlefield 01-144284-07900](#)
[3B Receipt](#)

Councilmember Chris Moore motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to postpone RES-20:027 indefinitely. All voted aye. The reason why RES-20:027 was postponed indefinitely was because the lien was paid.

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Moore, seconded by Councilperson Chris Gibson, that this matter be Postponed Indefinitely . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 11 - Ann Williams;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Charles Frierson

6. NEW BUSINESS

RES-20:021

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT 304 WARNER STREET, PARCEL 01-144192-13500.

Attachments: [Deed Chain](#)
[IMG_0629](#)
[IMG_0635](#)
[IMG_0646](#)
[IMG_0647](#)
[IMG_0655](#)
[Inspection Report](#)
[Invoice & Search](#)
[WHITEHALL INVESTMENTS LLC-01-144192-13500 - ARCountyData.com](#)

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: 11 - Ann Williams;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Charles Frierson

Enactment No: R-EN-037-2020

RES-20:031

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING FREE UTILITY SERVICES FROM CITY WATER AND LIGHT FOR TRAFFIC SIGNALS

Councilmember John Street recused himself from voting and consideration on RES-20:031 due to the fact that he is on the Board of Directors of City Water and Light.

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

Aye: 10 - Ann Williams;Chris Moore;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Charles Frierson

Recused: 1 - John Street

Enactment No: R-EN-038-2020

[RES-20:038](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO PURCHASE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 409 NORTH FISHER STREET FROM THE ARKANSAS STATE LAND COMMISSIONER

Attachments: [409 North Fisher](#)
[CRAI20155-11](#)

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

Aye: 11 - Ann Williams;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Charles Frierson

Enactment No: R-EN-039-2020

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-20:012](#)

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING BY REFERENCE THE BASE LEVEL ENGINEERING (BLE) STUDIES FOR THE ST. FRANCIS, CACHE AND L'ANGUILLE WATERSHEDS

Attachments: [Cache BLE Report](#)
[Cache Discovery FRR](#)
[L'Anquille BLE Report](#)
[L'Anquille Discovery FRR](#)
[St. Francis BLE Report](#)
[St. Francis Discovery FRR](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-20:012 by title only. All voted aye.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, Mr. Mayor, I ask that ORD-20:012 be held for three readings. Mayor Perrin said, we will hold ORD-20:012 to the next council meeting.

Held at one reading

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[ORD-20:006](#) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 117-139(C) OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO ZONING CODE

Attachments: [Salvage Yards Changes 03032020](#)

Councilmember John Street said, I ask that ORD-20:006 be held there. Mayor Perrin said, I concur to give people more time. I don't think we have received any comments on that either, but we will hold it to the next council meeting.

Held at second reading

[ORD-20:008](#) AN ORDINANCE TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO PLACE VARIOUS TRAFFIC SIGNS AT DESIGNATED LOCATIONS AS DETERMINED BY THE TRAFFIC CONTROL COMMITTEE

Councilmember Chris Moore said, I will ask that ORD-20:008 be held for three readings. Mayor Perrin said, alright, we will hold that and I agree with it the way we are doing it with video.

Held at second reading

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-20:002](#) AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING BY REFERENCE THE GUIDELINES FOR THE REQUIREMENT OF A TRAFFIC IMPACT ANALYSIS IN THE CITY OF JONESBORO

Attachments: [Transportation Impact Study Guidelines](#)

Councilmember LJ Bryant said, hey Mayor, can you walk us through what size development that will be required to do this? Mayor Perrin asked, Carol, can you help me with that? I don't have my book with me. I just have the agenda on that. I know I have read it, but I think it is primarily in the commercial area rather than residential. Have you got that handy on yours Carol? Craig, are you on?

City Engineer Craig Light said, yes I am here. Mayor Perrin said, the question is on ORD-20:002, the requirement of a traffic impact analysis, what is the effect of that? Who does it affect? Mr. Light said, all developments will need to bring the size of their development to see if they meet the threshold that would require a traffic impact study. The first threshold is 100 peak hour trips. We saw a bank today that met it for the PMP. So, it would be, maybe a small bank, commercial establishments, fast food restaurants. There are three tiers based upon the number of trips that we would anticipate from that development that would kind of give an idea of the level of study that would be required for that development. Mayor Perrin asked, does that answer your question councilman? Councilmember LJ Bryant said, yes sir. Thank you Mayor and Craig.

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

Aye: 11 - Ann Williams;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Charles Frierson

Enactment No: O-EN-011-2020

[ORD-20:003](#)

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING BY REFERENCE THE GUIDELINES FOR THE ACCESS MANAGEMENT IN THE CITY OF JONESBORO

Attachments: [Traffic Access Management Policy](#)

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: 11 - Ann Williams;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Charles Frierson

Enactment No: O-EN-012-2020

[ORD-20:004](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE JONESBORO CODE OF ORDINANCES, AND ADOPTING THE CITY OF JONESBORO MASTER STREET PLAN; PROVIDING FOR AMENDMENTS OF ARTICLE III, CHAPTER 101, AND ADOPTING SUCH AMENDMENTS TO THE MASTER STREET PLAN BY REFERENCE;

Attachments: [Master Street Plan Changes 03032020
2019 MSP UPDATE \(002\)](#)

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: 11 - Ann Williams;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Charles Frierson

Enactment No: O-EN-013-2020

[ORD-20:009](#)

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 PD-M PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, LIMITED USE OVERLAY FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2914 MCCLELLAN DRIVE AS REQUESTED BY GEORGE HAMMAN OF CIVIOLOGIC ON BEHALF OF CENTERLINE, LLC.

Attachments: [Aerial View of Layout](#)
[Application](#)
[Conceptual Layout](#)
[Conceptual Overview](#)
[rezoning plat](#)
[School Email](#)
[School returned Signed Form](#)
[USPS Receipts](#)
[Staff Summary - City Council](#)

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

Aye: 11 - Ann Williams;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Charles Frierson

Enactment No: O-EN-014-2020

[ORD-20:010](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, ARTICLE III, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1, SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL TO PD-RS, PLANNED DEVELOPMENT RESIDENTIAL FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1130 GREENSBORO ROAD AS REQUESTED BY RICKEY JACKSON

Attachments: [Application](#)
[Conceptual Layout](#)
[H19-131 Rezoning Plat](#)
[Rezoning Plat](#)
[Staff Summary - Council](#)
[USPS Receipts](#)
[Brown email Against 04022020](#)
[Brown email Against 04062020](#)
[Ellison Against 04062020](#)
[Gatlin email Against 04072020](#)
[Gatlin Against Dropped off 04072020](#)
[Letter to Editor Dropped off 04072020](#)
[Signatures Petition Against Dropped Off 04072020](#)

Councilmember Chris Moore motioned, seconded by Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman, to postpone the rezoning ordinance for 1130 Greensboro Road, ORD-20:010, until the first regularly scheduled meeting in June (June 2, 2020) due to the emergency situation with the COVID-19 pandemic and that health emergency does not allow the public to come in person to voice their concerns. All voted aye.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, Mr. Mayor, we would like to get this tabled as soon as possible. Councilmember Chris Moore said, I will make a motion to postpone until we can convene in person at the next council meeting because Dr. Coleman and I received considerable objections to this and most of the people would like to appear in person. Councilmember Chris Gibson said, I will second that. Mayor

Perrin said, the motion will be that we will postpone this until we can all meet physically in the council or are you saying postpone it until the next council meeting? Which one are you saying? Councilmember Coleman said, no. We need to postpone it until we can be able to get the people in the public to come to the council meeting and voice their opinion. I have got about three or four pages of names today and phone calls, but at the same time, I was emailing, I guess, about 80 people that want to talk about this. They don't have any problem with Mr. Jackson and what he is doing and neither do I, but at the same time, they want to be able to discuss their opinions before this is approved or disapproved. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I think we need a date certain. April, you can correct me? Councilmember Moore said, I will amend my motion to postpone for 60 days. Ms. Duncan asked, so the first meeting in June? Councilmember Moore said, yes. Mayor Perrin said, does everyone understand the motion?

Councilmember David McClain said, I have a quick question. Mayor Perrin said, yes. Councilmember McClain asked, if we are postponing, does that mean we don't have discussion right now or can we still have it? I have one question. Ms. Duncan said, you would have discussion on the motion to postpone. Councilmember Moore said, postpone for 60 days is not debatable. We have a motion and a second and it is not debatable. And, if it passes, then that is the end of the subject that night. Mayor Perrin said, right. Mayor Perrin said, the motion would be to postpone for 60 days which would be the first council meeting in June. Do I have any comments or questions on that motion?

Councilmember LJ Bryant said, Mr. Mayor, point of information. I had emailed some with the City Attorney. Do we have a limited number of days to consider something and if so, how does this impact that? Ms. Duncan said, we do have a limited number of days to get something before council, but I believe if we make a motion to postpone for a reason, I think that time is stayed. I think that is more for the applicant to get something heard by council. Once we start it, we are supposed to get started. So your motion probably needs to include, to be safe, I would say our motion needs to include some language because of the emergency situation, we are waiving any time requirements on this matter by setting it on the June date. Does that make sense, Chris? So, can you amend your motion?

Councilmember Moore said, my motion was, to postpone for 60 days which is the first meeting in June. Councilmember Coleman said, I second that. Ms. Duncan asked, can you add to waive any time limits that might be running on rezonings, just to be safe? Councilmember Coleman said, I thought 60 days was the time limit. Ms. Duncan said, I don't have it in front of me, but there is a time limit once you start a rezoning that you have to finish it. I don't know that this would violate that, but that is what we were asking. Do you know April? Deputy City Clerk April Leggett, said, no, I do not. Chief of Staff Mike Downing said, Derrel might know. Ms. Duncan said, I don't know if Derrel knows off of the top of his head. What I am asking is that the motion waive any times that might run during that 60 day period because of the emergency. Councilmember Chris Moore said, I will amend my motion to reflect that. Councilmember Coleman said, I second. Ms. Duncan said, it is just a precaution. Mayor Perrin said, I have a motion and a second on the amended motion and second. Are there anymore questions? Councilmember McClain said, the only question again, so I am clear, I want to make sure. Unless it passes, the motion to postpone passes, then we will not have any discussion about this tonight? Ms. Duncan said, correct. Councilmember Moore said, that is correct. Mayor Perrin said, right. Councilmember Moore said, the motion to postpone is non-debatable. Call the roll. Mayor Perrin said, that is right, exactly.

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

Aye: 11 - Ann Williams;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Charles Frierson

[ORD-20:011](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, ARTICLE III, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM C-4 NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL DISTRICT LIMITED USE OVERLAY TO C-3 GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT LIMITED USE OVERLAY FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 400 E. HIGHLAND DRIVE, JONESBORO, AR AS REQUESTED BY DITTA ENTERPRISES.

Attachments:

[Application](#)

[Certified Mail Receipts for MAPC Meeting](#)

[H20-003 REZONING PLAT](#)

[Hardware Store Layout](#)

[Legislation Details of the C-4 LUO](#)

[Letters in Support of Rezoning](#)

[LUO](#)

[Neighborhood Meeting Minutes](#)

[Returned Property Owner Signatures](#)

[Rezoning Plat](#)

[Schools Signed Notification](#)

[Site Plan](#)

[Study of Impact of Commercial Development on Surrounding Residential Pro](#)

[Staff Summary - Council](#)

[Ditta letter](#)

[Ditta Rezoning Comments](#)

City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I have comments from previous meetings.

This is dated January 31, 2020. To Whom It may concern: Since we are the closest property owners and two sides of our property lies beside the bank property, we would like to express our feelings regarding the changing of the zoning to accommodate the building of a Hardware store by the Ditta family. We believe from the meetings we have had with them that they will be good neighbors. They have explained their plans to the neighborhood property owners to include having adequate green space to serve as barriers, such as planting more trees and shrubs, which would assure the property owners in the area that they are still residential. As long as they do the things talked about in our meetings that they would do, we have no reservations with the proposed zoning change. It is a plus that they are local people, living in the area themselves, and owning other properties in Jonesboro. In fact, we think it would be a good business to have in that area and predict that once built, other citizens of Jonesboro will think so too. Shirl & Jean Strauser, owners of 1809 Rains Street.

This one is dated January 31, 2020. Dear Mr. Ditta: I am in support of the rezoning proposal you are requesting for the property adjacent to Wofford and Highland. With commercial from that piece of property that starts with the bank and then extends west

to the corner of Highland and Main, it would only make sense to rezone the property to something that would allow construction and operation of another commercial development. I understand that there is no intention of reopening Wofford to Highland. My opinion is that this would be the best use for the property. Very truly yours, Rusty Guinn, 1506 South Church Street.

Anthony, I have no problem with your rezoning request for a Hardware store. I live next door to the proposed building. Anne Raulston, 1803 Rains.

I see no problem with the rezoning, as a matter of fact I am excited about the prospect. I do not see the need of expending the side walk to Highland because as you know the street will be closed farther back making a cul-de-sac a little further north than your plan shows. Hence, no street, no need for sidewalk, but its just my thought. If you do continue I would move to the center of the then property line. Mike Ebbert, dated January 31, 2020.

As you are aware, we held a neighborhood meeting on December 19, 2019 to discuss the possible rezoning of the property at 400 E. Highland Drive, Jonesboro, Arkansas. At that meeting, we showed a draft of some plans for the hardware store project. Many concerns were raised regarding the proposal, and my client heard your concerns and would like to address them so that everyone can be as comfortable as possible with the project. To that end, we would like to invite you to a second neighborhood meeting on Wednesday, January 15th at 5:30 at Farmers & Merchants Bank (the same room we met in on the 19th). At that meeting we will present some additional plans showing increased buffering, sidewalks, and green space, and no access to Wofford Street. My client is committed to being a good neighbor and addressing your concerns and questions, and I hope you can attend this meeting. If you cannot for any reason, feel free to call my office at your convenience to discuss this and I can also put you in touch with the Dittas if you wish to speak to them directly. Sincerely, Jim Gramling, dated January 9, 2020.

Ms. Duncan said, that was a letter sent out by Jim Gramling, the attorney for the Ditta family. The response on the bottom of it says, "Dear Jim: I did send a note to the Jonesboro Planning Department and to Pilgrim Lutheran Church stating no objection to the rezoning of your client's lot. Pat Hughes.

Councilmember David McClain said, madam attorney, can I ask a question real quick, Mayor? Mayor Perrin said, go right ahead. I know in the report there were not, it did not look like there were any letters opposing. Did you receive anything or have you or April received anything opposing this today or the last few days? Ms. Duncan said, nothing today or over the last few days. Deputy City Clerk April Leggett said, the only opposition that I can remember, there should be some opposition from a past city council meeting. Ms. Duncan said, I am looking for that. Councilmember McClain asked, there was some opposition? I thought there was before. Ms. Duncan said, there was opposition that spoke at the very first reading, I believe on council. Mayor Perrin said, that is my understanding that the Ditta family, I believe, met with them? Do we have anything Bill, coming in on Facebook, since she has been talking? Director of Communications, Bill Campbell, said, no. Mayor Perrin said, so there is nothing coming in on this through Facebook. Is that right? The phone has not rung at all. I do remember that there was one gentleman, I think in my recollection, that did that, but I think at that meeting, the Ditta family or Mr. Gramling told him that they would visit with him and I think they have got that worked out. I think that was the green space and some other stuff because this is for the third reading. Councilmember McClain asked, did they agree to something? Mayor Perrin said, yes. Councilmember McClain asked,

they were ok with it, the rezoning? Mayor Perrin said, my understanding is yes and that is the reason. We want to give it some time here to come through. I know Mr. Gramling delivered something. I think you read that just a while ago. Ms. Duncan said, I read his letter to the neighborhood meeting. Was it Janet Gehring? Ms. Leggett said, that is correct. Ms. Duncan said, I have the statement from the Gehrings from the meeting of February 18, 2020 that I can read.

Janet Gehring, 1830 Wofford Street, said, my husband I live adjacent to the property in question here, 400 Highland Drive. I got a call last week from a friend who was in support of building a hardware store on that property which is adjacent to ours. She is a property owner there, but she doesn't live in the house that they own. And, I asked her why that she was in favor of the hardware store being built and she said I think they would make good neighbors. Well, I think the definition of a neighbor is a person, a person who lives close by, not a store, not a business, but a person. Okay. I don't have anything against hardware stores. I love hardware stores. I love to shop there and we have some good ones here. However, living next door to one, to a hardware store, would not be my choice. And, I think, I might ask you all would you like to live by a hardware store and call that your neighbor? Mr. Rogers probably would. Mr. Rogers probably would say won't you be my neighbor, but I would say, please don't be my neighbor. Please don't be my neighbor. Okay. The second thing that I wanted to point out was in 2007, there was an ordinance that was passed by this council and by the current Mayor at that time Doug Forman. In that ordinance, there were two areas that I quickly wanted to read. The first one said, no future subdividing shall occur on this lot, you probably have a copy of this, other than for right-of-way dedication matters. Number two, if the property is resold, which is where we are now, it cannot be used for anything but used as a commercial bank, C-4, limited use commercial bank only. My question is this, if we talk about honor, honoring your word, and I think that is what honor is, is keeping an agreement. Let me repeat that. Honor, according to the dictionary, is keeping an agreement. And, in this ordinance, that you all have copies of and I just mentioned the two. First of all, the property was not to be used for anything but a commercial bank. Is that not still valid? Why, why would it make any difference if the Mayor has changed since that time, that was 2007, or you folks sitting there have changed, why would that matter with this ordinance with this agreement? We went through quite a period of time with that and you agreed that and we agreed that a bank could be built on that property, that it would not be a hazard to traffic right there on Rains, which did not turn out to be the case, but that is okay too. It is a bank and it is not intrusive in the neighborhood and nobody objected to that. Our property being connected to that particular piece where the hardware store proposes to be built would be right up against our borderline, our property. So, I guess what I am asking is very simply this. If that cannot be honored, then what is the purpose of these meetings? What is the purpose of going through neighborhood meetings and meeting with you all and meeting with the Planning Commission and spending all of this time? Why would we do this if this isn't honored? It seems to me a very simple thing that if this council can override an ordinance that stated these things that we agreed to that many years ago, then I see no purpose in being here. So, I would ask you to please consider what happened at that time. These documents, this document in particular, has been kind of overlooked and bypassed as if it didn't have any significance, but it does. It has a great deal of significance to me and that is the honor of this city and what you folks decide or shouldn't decide. So, I will appreciate very much if you would consider that, what I have said, and do the right thing by honoring that agreement. Thank you so much. Mayor Perrin said, thank you.

Ms. Duncan said, Jim Gramling spoke after that.

Jim Gramling, Gramling Law Firm, said, I represent Ditta Enterprises. I will reserve most of my comments for third reading. I just wanted to point out a couple of things. We had a neighborhood meeting. We invited everyone, not just within 200 feet, but within 400 feet, to get as many people as possible including the Gehrings. We showed them plans. The plan is to build a hardware store, a small neighborhood hardware store between 10,000-12,000 sq. ft. We got a lot of feedback from the neighbors at that meeting with a lot of concerns. We literally went back to the drawing board, came up with some new plans that agreed to some additional buffering, agreed to pull back the northern boundary of where the store would be so there is approximately well over 200 feet between the hardware store and the nearest property which would be the Gehrings. We had a second neighborhood meeting and invited everybody. They chose not to attend. So, the Dittas have agreed to extra buffering. There is a big retention pond back there so there is quite a bit of buffering and they have agreed to do more. Obviously, our zoning laws can't be frozen in time. They have to reflect changing conditions. I don't know why this ordinance was written that way. I suspect they were doing whatever they had to do to get it passed at the time. But, this property has remained vacant. There is an auto parts store nearby and this proposal, I think, is a good compromise between some other higher commercial use and something that will actually fit in with the neighborhood and be an amenity to the neighborhood. They also agreed to cut off any access to Wofford in consideration to some of the neighbors concerns. So, the Dittas have tried to listen to the neighbors and have listened to the neighbors and have addressed every concern that was raised. I will have more to say at the third reading. I certainly can answer any questions if anybody has any right now.

Ms. Duncan said, I think Jim submitted something. Mayor Perrin said, I think he submitted something. Carol, if you will just check your notes there for a moment. Councilmember Moore said, Mr. Mayor, I also spoke at that meeting and as a person that was on the council in 2007 and I don't have an explanation for the wording of that ordinance, but the intent with that lot was to prevent a fast food restaurant or a convenience store that operated 24/7 with a drive-thru lane from being built on that corner lot. And, that was the primary objection of Ann Peeler, Marsha Patton, and several other people in that neighborhood at that time. So, the intent was not to prohibit any other future development of that lot, but to prevent a fast food restaurant or a convenience store with 24/7 operation in that neighborhood. Mayor Perrin said, thank you for your comment Councilmember Moore. Carol, do you have any other comments? Ms. Duncan said, I have the email where Jim submitted comments, Mr. Gramling, but I don't have the actual comments. Do we have those somewhere else? Councilmember McClain said, Mayor, if I may, let me ask this question. We just postponed one. Do we feel that it would be best to postpone this one since again, as it was pointed out, that comments can be made at the third reading? Would it be best to postpone this also until the meeting in June? Ms. Duncan said, I will say that the person who said that they would reserve their comments was the attorney representing the Dittas and I believe he was comfortable with this format for the meeting. I do know that he commented that. Councilmember Moore said, I would point out that the primary difference between this and Rickey Jackson's rezoning is the number of objections. I have not received an objection to this rezoning whereas Dr. Coleman and I have received numerous objections and most of them are over the age of 60 who are not tech savvy and that was one of the reasons for the postponement of the previous ordinance. Councilmember Mitch Johnson said, I agree. Councilmember Chris Gibson said, I agree. Councilmember Bobby Long said, I agree. Mayor Perrin said, I will say that I did speak with Mr. Gramling who represents the Ditta family. I do concur with what the City Attorney said. He had no problem with our format this evening and obviously, you just heard some of the comments that were made. I agree also with Councilmember Moore saying that the whole reason for the other one was that there

were a lot of objections to that on the Rickey Jackson rezoning. In this case, I don't see any. They have not come through Facebook. There has been none through the phone. It would be the desire of the council on what you want to do. It is on the third reading. So, what is the desire of the council? Councilmember Johnson said there is already a motion on the floor. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, I know Carol was looking for the letter from Mr. Gramling. I printed it out when I got the email this afternoon. Ms. Duncan asked, do you want to read that? Mayor Perrin said, could you read that please. Councilmember Hafner said, if you want me to read it, I will. Ms. Duncan said, sure. Councilmember Hafner asked, do you want me to read it? Mayor Perrin said, yes, please.

Dated: April 7, 2020; The Honorable Harold Perrin and The Jonesboro City Council; Regarding Ordinance-20-011; Dear Sirs and Madams: I represent Ditta Enterprises in this request to rezone the vacant parcel at 400 E. Highland Drive, adjacent to Farmers & Merchants Bank, from C-4 L.U.O to C-3 L.U.O. The purpose of this rezoning request is to put in a neighborhood hardware store. This entire property (including the lot where the bank sits) was rezoned in 2007 with a unique stipulation that the lot could never be subdivided and if sold, could only be used as a bank. During the 13 years since that time, the parcel we are seeking to rezone has remained vacant. We had a neighborhood meeting on December 19, 2019. In an effort to be fully transparent and inclusive, we notified everyone within 400 feet rather than the usual 200 feet. Many people attended, and lots of concerns were raised, specifically regarding buffering between the property to the north and access to Wofford. The Dittas listened to those concerns and made changes. They reoriented the building on the lot, adding more green space, so that there would now be more than 200 feet between the north wall of the store and the neighbors to the north. They agreed to add additional buffering to what already exists at the property. They agreed to not have access to Wofford. And they agreed to build a covered bus stop at the end of Wofford Street near Highland. Again in an effort to be a good neighbor and have the nearby residents involved, we had a second neighborhood meeting on January 15, 2020. The attendees were shown the revised rendering that is part of our application along with the proposed changes in buffering and the bus stop. The general consensus was that it is a good compromise. You can see the letter of support from the closest neighbors, Shirl and Jean Strauser (as well as many other letters of support) on the Legistar entry. Based on the feedback from the neighbors, the Dittas filed this application with a limited-use overlay. As you can see from the ordinance, the overlay is extremely restrictive, and would not allow a restaurant, convenience store, or anything that would operate after normal business hours and possibly cause disturbance to the neighbors. The proposed store would be a small neighborhood hardware store. The renderings are part of the Legistar entry. There is an Advanced Auto Parts store due west, a bank to the east, and churches to the south. This area is a moderate intensity growth sector and neighborhood retail is appropriate for this area. Early on some concerns regarding traffic were raised. The Dittas plan to have between 4 and 5 employees in the store at any given time. Under the Institute for Transportation Engineering's Trip Generation Manual, peak trips for Saturday at noon are 11.6 per employee, so approximately 72 trips per hour. That is still well below the threshold for a traffic study under the new ordinance which this council is considering tonight. For weekdays, the numbers are 4 or 5 trips per employee, and for morning times (when traffic is heaviest on Highland) it's a mere 1.1 per employee. The Dittas have deep roots in Jonesboro and own several businesses here. This property is in their neighborhood, as they live down the street off Highland, less than half a mile away. They want to provide an amenity for the neighborhood that will grow our tax base, provide jobs, and utilize this land to its highest and best use while still being sensitive to the concerns of surrounding neighbors. Two more brief points: to the extent our opponents may argue it will reduce property values, the study

we attached to our application (available on Legistar) shows that not to be the case. That study used data from more than 600,000 transactions and found that after a couple of years the value of homes very near retail development actually increases in value versus comparables. The final point concerns the existing ordinance. An ordinance is not a contract with an individual property owner. It is a statement of the council's judgment as to what is best for the city at that given time. Councilman Moore has stated that he believes the purpose of the conditions at the time was to ensure that no restaurant went on this property, which we have addressed with the limited-use overlay. This request serves the neighbors by significantly limiting the use, while serving the city by increasing our tax base and creating jobs. I urge the council to approve this request. Thank you and best regards. Sincerely, James Gramling, Gramling Law Firm.

Councilmember John Street said, Mayor, I was on the council too. If you will remember the church across the street had grave concerns about the kids who were there for different events going back and forth across a four-lane street, Highland, to a convenience store. Some of the neighbors rejected due to the light, pollution, and noise pollution to something that was going to be open 24 hours a day. I don't think this is in any way anything like what they were objecting to and would probably be in character with the development there now. In my opinion, a 200 ft. buffer is very generous and should not cause anybody adjoining that property any kind of a problem. Councilmember Chris Gibson said, agreed. Ms. Duncan said, we have a couple of comments Mayor. Mayor Perrin said, we have a couple of comments.

Director of Communications Bill Campbell, said, we have a couple of comments from Facebook.

Mr. Jim Gramling wrote, please do not postpone this. I am fine with you voting.

Carolyn Ponce wrote, as someone who lives on Wilkins, I would love to have a hardware store on Highland nearby.

Chief of Staff Mike Downing said, I have a caller on the phone.

This is Carolyn Ponce, 1812 Wilkins. I live on Wilkins and my comment was read, but I will tell you that I think it is wonderful that Jonesboro is trying to bring more small businesses to the town and not big box stores. I would absolutely love to see a smaller home business like this in the Highland area. Thank you.

Mayor Perrin said, thank you for your comments. I think we have heard all of the comments we received from Facebook, the City Attorney, as well as the one that came through on the phone.

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

Aye: 11 - Ann Williams;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Charles Frierson

Enactment No: O-EN-015-2020

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Perrin reported on the following items:

Mayor Perrin said, you can see two under there. One is the Airport Financials which every one of you all have received. Also, the February Financials that you all have been sent out. In fact, I should be reviewing the March Financials tomorrow and we will get those out to you all.

So far this year, we are still in a positive figure on our Operations & Maintenance (O&M), revenue exceeds expenses. But, I will say to you that based on the tornado and Covid-19, we are watching this very closely on our financials.

Also, I have got just a few other comments.

Number one, we did receive, got notified, but have not received the paperwork, but from HUD for \$362,524 for the CARE Act that Community Development Director Regina Burkett will be handling.

Also, as you all know, we were able to get a hold of Director Becky Keough with ADEQ, which I think is now the Department of Environmental Services. They gave an order, very quickly, to open up our old landfill on Strawfloor and that has been done. That is where the city, the county, ARDOT, and non-profits that are on our list that are working with the debris will be taking it there rather than Legacy Landfill which will save the city a great deal of money overall. And, we can keep up with that so we can have FEMA reimbursement. Also, there are a few homes on one section of the tornado area that did not have insurance on their homes and we will be picking that debris up as well for public safety, peace, and health.

Also, when they get ready to build and come back on that, there will be no fee on the permits to get going on the properties. So, that is good.

I had mentioned the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursement. As you know, an emergency goes through the county through the Craighead County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) office. Judge Marvin Day and I have worked very closely with them, as well as, Chief Elliott and others. So, that has been sent to Dallas, TX, in Region 6 to make sure we get our federal reimbursement. That would take it from \$0.35 to \$0.75. So, we feel very comfortable that we will have enough money to reach that threshold with some of the losses we may have as well as others.

The other thing is that I talked to Arkansas Economic Development Commission (AEDC) this week, Secretary of Commerce Mike Preston. AEDC received \$7.8 million on emergency services and I asked Mr. Preston and his staff to look at us very closely because we have had not only the Covid-19, but we have also had the tornado.

The other item is that I have met, along with Finance Director Steve Purtee, with the Arkansas Municipal League (AML) on some of their adjusters on all of the things that we had insured for the City of Jonesboro. As you know, we had a total loss on our flight station building. Also, we had traffic signals that were totally destroyed. We had a few other items. We had some vehicles at the FAA building as well. I will tell you that I am pleased to tell you that under the AML, we have a business continuation section up to \$500,000. We have had to rent a facility now just month to month. I will bring you that lease when it is drafted because we had to put these people into operation very quickly. The other thing is that we also have a tax revenue loss under our policy with the AML. Some of those have deductibles. Steve Purtee is working very quickly with John Wells who is over all of the insurance at the Arkansas Municipal League. As we

proceed on this, I will give you all a report even before the council meeting to keep you involved on everything that we have got on every item, what we had it insured for and etc. We will keep you abreast on that.

The last thing, and I know it has been kind of difficult the way that we have done it tonight, but we asked the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) to do a study on Highway 1B near 3509 Harrisburg Road. On that, I just received a letter back from District 10 Engineer Brad Smithee and they have recommended not lowering that speed limit and keeping it at the current 45 mph.

Basically, that is all I have on the Mayor's Report, other than saying thank you. I understand that this is somewhat awkward the way we have done it tonight and I really appreciate you all working with us on this council meeting.

I think that we have a Metropolitan Area Planning Commission (MAPC) meeting scheduled for next week, I believe. Chief of Staff Mike Downing said, the 28th. Mayor Perrin said, the 28th of this month. Okay. That is all of my Mayor's Report. If you all have any questions, I will be glad to answer them.

[COM-20:010](#)

JONESBORO AIRPORT COMMISSION FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ENDING FEBRUARY 29, 2020

Attachments: [JAC Jonesboro Airport Financials 02_20](#)

Read

[COM-20:013](#)

FEBRUARY 2020 FINANCIAL REPORTS

Attachments: [Observations Regarding February 2020 Financial Statements](#)
[Statement of Changes in FB, Required Reserve and Stip Balances February](#)
[Cash Deposit Collateralization Report February 2020](#)
[Revenue Report February 2020](#)
[Expenditure Report February 2020](#)
[Combined Sales Tax Report February 2020.xlsx](#)
[Combined State Turnback Report February 2020](#)

Read

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember John Street said, Mayor, I just want to commend you and the staff, the Police Department, the Fire Department, all of the city workers for doing an excellent job during the tornado. I know Mr. Hafner and I worked with the JPD in the aftermath of the tornado patrolling some of the bad areas. The response from our neighbors in northeast Arkansas was just unbelievable, overwhelming. In the spirit of the people in this city is not to be matched anywhere. I can't believe that we were so fortunate to have no severe injuries and deaths. The hand of God was definitely on this city. You have done a great job. You, Marvin Day, everybody, I just want to commend you personally because I think you have done over and above to make it the best you can with the circumstances. Mayor Perrin said, thank you for your comments.

Councilmember Mitch Johnson said, maybe more of a request, it is apparent from sitting here that we do have some audio issues within the council chambers on the

microphone system. I know that the one that was replaced on mine has never functioned correctly ever since it has been replaced. I don't know where Ms. Duncan is speaking from, I think she mentioned Councilmember Frierson's spot, but that audio is not working very well either. So, if you could just ask the staff there if it can be corrected if there are issues. Mayor Perrin said, so noted and we will get IT to look into it. Thank you, sir.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said, I would kind of like to echo what Mr. Street said. It was amazing to see the response after the tornado hit. I think there were people here from as far as Conway, Little Rock that evening so just the response from first responders and other citizens wanting to help in any way that they could was remarkable and people say that Covid-19 saved lives, but there were people still at home in some of those houses that people walked away from. I don't know how that happened besides the hand of God. We are lucky. It is a tough time right now, but we will get through it. We are resilient people so everybody hang in there. Mayor Perrin said, thank you Councilmember Hafner.

Councilmember Bobby Long said, I just want to echo what everyone has said. We are definitely a blessed people in this area and in this city. I think it just goes to show that it has gotten national attention. I was out that Sunday morning helping board up windows and doors and roofs and everything in three different areas of my ward. The response from the people of Jonesboro just did my heart good. It was incredible. I will never forget it. It was great. People were helping people that they didn't even know. And, they are still doing that today. We are far from seeing the end of it, but we are well on our way. I just want to commend the people of Jonesboro for being who they are and for being the neighbor and citizen that they are. It was tremendous and I couldn't be prouder. Mayor Perrin said, thank you Councilmember Long.

Councilmember David McClain said, I have got a couple of items real quick. Nominating and Rules met earlier.

Councilmember David McClain motioned, seconded by Councilmember John Street, to suspend the rules and walk-on ORD-20:013. All voted aye.

[ORD-20:013](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 26-21 TO ALLOW THE MAYOR TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY CURFEW PURSUANT TO STATE LAW AND TO REMOVE THE REQUIREMENT OF CITY COUNCIL VOTE TO EXTEND WITHIN 48 HOURS

Councilmember David McClain motioned, seconded by Councilmember John Street, to suspend the rules and walk-on ORD-20:013. All voted aye.

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Ann Williams, to suspend the rules and waive the second and third readings of ORD-20:013. All voted aye.

Councilmember Chris Gibson motioned, seconded by Councilmember Ann Williams, to adopt ORD-20:013. All voted aye.

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore, to adopt the emergency clause on ORD-20:013. All voted aye.

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

Aye: 11 - Ann Williams;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Charles Frierson

Enactment No: O-EN-016-2020

Councilmember David McClain said, the last thing I have got Mayor is that the Saturday that the tornado hit, our neighborhood was affected drastically. I am truly thankful for everything you have helped us with as far as getting extra patrols out here. Whatever we asked, you helped make us feel safe and so I want to say thank you from myself as well as the rest of my neighbors. It has felt as though we have been invaded both by the tornado as well as everyone. It is nice to have that safety and making sure that we can look out the window and see officers driving by making sure no homes are looted or things of that nature. So, we really appreciate that. I wanted to pass that along to you. We would love to at some point work on something else, but we can get to that at a later date. The response by JPD, JFD, everyone involved, I truly appreciate it. I am one of the fortunate ones, I can still be in my home. I have some neighbors who are not as fortunate. It is truly amazing that they walked out without a scratch on them. And, so, we are truly thankful for that, but I appreciate you and the job that they are doing to clean-up. Mike Tyner and Steve Tippitt and everybody helping out. If I don't know you and you are helping out, we appreciate you and it means a lot to us. Mayor Perrin said, thank you very much for your kind comments.

Councilmember Chris Gibson said, I just want to echo the sentiment that the other side of the council chambers shared about their resilience of this city and all of the hard work that has gone into surviving these two natural disasters that have hit us at one time.

Councilmember Ann Williams said, I would also like to commend the KAIT8 channel 8 team. I think they did a great job warning everyone, the weather team at channel 8, KAIT8.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, I would just like to echo John Street's comments and thank the Mayor and the staff. I would also like to thank the County Judge Marvin Day and all of the Sheriff's Deputies. They all turned out and they all participated just along side of the city staff and that is all I have Mr. Mayor. Mayor Perrin said, thank you.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I also want to thank the Mayor and the Police Department and all the people and the doctors and nurses fighting this virus. They are all doing a great job. I have one other thing. I have been approached several times during the year, but even lately over on 403 Main Street where that tire company is. They are parking trucks and tires galore everywhere. A gentleman approached me at Lowe's the other day and even showed me a picture that he had taken and said that he had talked to the gentleman over there about all of the trucks parked across the people's lawns and stuff. And, the gentleman made the statement that there wasn't going to be anybody to do anything about it. So, I just want to go on record to make sure that I report it to the city and I ask the gentleman to talk to Mike Tyner about getting that checked out because it is bad. It just stays looking bad over there. I would appreciate if someone would go over there and look at it and see what they can

do. Mayor Perrin said, okay. We have got the address. We will check that out tomorrow. Councilmember Coleman said, thank you.

Councilmember Gene Vance said, I am not going to repeat what everyone said, but I am thankful for the actions and reactions that we have seen in the last weeks. I would like to ask the Mayor to do one thing and that is to see if we might get a postmortem on this meeting by Mr. Downing or Mr. Campbell. I feel like we are going to have at least one if not more meetings like this if we keep meeting on schedule. I think there are several improvements that can be made. And, I think we need to do that not only for our benefit of dealing with each other, but for the public's benefit too. I am told by Mr. Campbell that Facebook has real good volume, but I will be honest with you, I can't hear. I have got my volume turned all the way up. I have got a set of headphones on and my hearing aid is turned up to 100% and it is still difficult for me to hear you, you three at the city council chambers. Mayor Perrin said, okay, thank you, so noted. In fact, that ties back into someone else's comments on these mics and we will definitely check that and make sure that it is clear at the next meeting.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Communications Director Bill Campbell said, Mayor, we have got several comments:

Scott McDaniel – I appreciate that the city is continuing to operate in this fashion. Different and dark times require creative solutions – keep it up.

Paul Vellozo – I am a physician and support the measures proposed by the mayor and city council to combat covid 19. If anything they should be tougher. Masks for all grocery and food service workers and healthcare workers. Masks for all when in public.

Billy Holland – Great plan.

Donna Matt Puryear – Including teenagers, who should really be in their yard instead of walking the streets.

Billy Holland – Thank you Mayor and Council for adopting MSP.

Dereck Turner – Why is park exercise equipment open at park and basketball courts?

Donna Matt Puryear – So proud to call Jonesboro my home!

Andy Shatley – Outstanding job this evening under difficult circumstances. Bravo to IT dept.

Donna Matt Puryear – Is there a curfew now?
(Mr. Campbell asked if we want to address that? Mayor Perrin said, again, I can, yes. The ordinance was just passed a few minutes ago. My plan as the Mayor of this city is to get with Dr. Shane Speights tomorrow and to discuss all phases of any type of curfew, age restrictions, whatever that we need to put in there. I will also be counseling with our city attorney as well and our police chief and of course, my chief of staff. I would say that a curfew would be coming very soon.)

SL Robinson – Thank you for your response to the tornado and love the way that you are not only practicing social distancing, but making sure that the citizens are involved tonight.

Brent Walker, NEABC President - This is Brent Walker on behalf of the Northeast Arkansas Bicycle Coalition - Due to the number of people staying home as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic and the increased desire to go outdoors due to the warmer weather, the number of individuals engaging in walking, running, bicycling, and other such activities has increased significantly in the last few weeks and will continue to do so. The NEABC would like to ask that the City of Jonesboro increase public outreach to make drivers are aware that they may encounter increasing numbers of pedestrians and people on bicycles and will likely encounter them in areas where they are not accustomed to seeing such road users. Additionally, we would like to request a zero-tolerance policy on speeding, unsafe passing, and other such dangerous behaviors in residential areas where pedestrians and people on bicycles are present. The NEABC acknowledges that pedestrians and people on bicycles are also responsible for following all applicable laws and regulations to ensure their safety and we encourage JPD to equally enforce the laws for all road users and will gladly partner with JPD to assist in providing public outreach and education for all sharing the road. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Leslie Yates – My name is Leslie Yates. I am concerned about the church Awaken. You have told everyone to stay inside unless you need to buy groceries, pharmacy, work, or doctor's appointments and we have a church right here in Jonesboro that refuses to close its doors. I have muscular dystrophy, fibromyalgia, arthritis and gastroparesis. My digestive system doesn't work properly anymore. I was supposed to go to UAMS in Little Rock, AR to have a feeding tube put in and have had to cancel because of the coronavirus. I refuse to go to the hot zone and now, I have to worry about catching the coronavirus here in Jonesboro, my home, because people refuse to protect themselves, let alone, anyone else. I have to go out and buy groceries, pharmacy. I am terrified now to go anywhere. I am pleading with you to shut down every church in Jonesboro to protect the rest of Jonesboro. Please cancel all church events and get together as one city did to protect our family and our friends. I don't want to die because I went to Walmart or Kroger to buy groceries. I do my part and wear a mask and gloves and I only get out when I have to. Thank you for your time.

Brian & Angie Dickson - Thank you all for the excellent job you are doing. We appreciate our Jonesboro City Council and Mayor Harold Perrin for their leadership in keeping our COVID-19 numbers low, as well as immediately responding to the devastation caused by the recent tornado. Your planning, organization and execution made recovery efforts as safe as possible. Thank you for meeting all of the challenges our city has faced with strength, resilience and care.

Rebekah Evans - I'd like to thank Mayor Perrin and his staff for their leadership during the tornado and ongoing COVID-19 crisis. I also want to encourage all Jonesboro residents to stay at home, wear masks when leaving home, and follow social distancing guidelines scrupulously. We have to work together to flatten the curve and slow the outbreak of this disease. Our doctors, nurses, and healthcare professionals are risking their lives to care for us. We must all do our part and stay at home.

City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I have three emails that we received on our citizen comment, council comments email.

4/3/2020 - (Taylor) Rhiannon Fortenberry, M.A, BCBA - I'm glad you all are having a meeting over COVID-19. People in Jonesboro are not taking the social distancing seriously. Drive around places in Jonesboro, and look at how people are behaving. My biggest concern is why childcare and DDS centers remain open with hundreds of employees and children. Services provided at these centers can be provided through

telehealth now. It may be inconveniencing some parents to have these centers closed, but this whole pandemic is "inconvenient" but we're social distancing and closing places to save lives. Having hundreds of employees and children mingling together is not okay, and it's not social distancing; it's scary. There are multiple facilities like this just in NEA. Now, they are offering outpatient services to school-aged children and bringing even more people into these facilities. Please, please close these facilities in NEA. Public schools are closed; why aren't these childcare centers?

4/7/2020 - Dr. Paul Vellozo, 3811 Wolf Chase Ln, Jonesboro, AR 72404 - Dear Mayor Perrin and City Council members: I am a physician living in Jonesboro and working in a hospital and clinic at Walnut Ridge. I strongly support the social distancing as recommended by the Mayor. I wish that the measures were stricter. Specifically I would like people to wear masks in public as recommended by the CDC, including in healthcare facilities. I also support requiring food service workers and grocery store workers to wear masks. Thank you for your efforts and being appropriately proactive in addressing the pandemic. Stay safe.

4/7/2020 - Shauna Wood - I know of a factory worker with a high risk child and husband who was threatened if they missed they would be fired and is scared she may bring this home to her family. On the same note is forced to leave her small children with grandparents. If assistance for women with daycare or babies of certain age is available like paid leave why wouldn't high risk children out of school qualify for same paid time off?

Brian Richardson – thank you to you Mayor Perrin and the police and fire departments and all of our local medical staff, doctors and nurses and thanks council too.

Mayor Perrin said, thank you. I think that will probably cover all of our public comments. We have read those that came in through email, none through the phone, and also those you just heard from Mr. Campbell on the Facebook.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 11 - Ann Williams;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Charles Frierson

_____ Date: _____

Harold Perrin, Mayor

Attest:

_____ Date: _____

Donna Jackson, City Clerk