



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, June 1, 2021

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING AT 5:00 P.M.

PUBLIC HEARING AT 5:25 P.M.

PUBLIC HEARING AT 5:25 P.M. REGARDING ABANDONING AND VACATING A UTILITY EASEMENT IN A PART OF LOT 2 OF STATON MINOR PLAT ON WOOD STREET AS REQUESTED BY MICHAEL BOGGS FROM TRALAN ENGINEERING ON BEHALF OF C3, LLC

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

Mayor Harold Copenhaver stated that he would need to leave at around the 6:00 p.m. mark due to needing to attend a funeral. President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore stated that he would take over when the Mayor needed to leave.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

3. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

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

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road, said, I was wondering if Mark Young is going to be talking about resolution 21:083, the resolution giving money to the Chamber of Commerce? Councilmember Joe Hafner stated that he asked that Mark Young from the Chamber of Commerce give a report to the Council at the June 15th meeting, not this meeting, the next meeting. Ms. Lack said, I just want to comment that until the concerns that were raised from the Finance meeting are addressed, shouldn't this resolution be tabled until that is answered because I know that the contract does not start until the end of this month. Councilmember Bobby long asked, which resolution is it? City Attorney Carol Duncan said, it is resolution 21:083. Councilmember Hafner said, we asked him to provide an update at the next meeting on their efforts. It wasn't necessarily anything that should hold us down approving this resolution. It is entirely up to the council, but that was not the intent in the Finance meeting. If any of the other Finance Committee members would like to comment on this feel free to do so. Councilmember Chris Moore explained that this is the same agreement that we have

had with them for years. Councilmember Hafner explained that he believed the question from the Finance meeting was, "When are we going to get the next update?" Mr. Young said that he would come to the June 15th meeting. Chief Operating Officer Tony Thomas said, that is correct. I will also add that we are not obligated to make payment to anything that is approved tonight until after his presentation to the Council. By passing a contract, that does not necessarily obligate to us to fund them if there are any questions. Councilmember Moore said, as a point of order, we are discussing an item that was not pulled from the Consent Agenda. So, before us, we have a motion and a second to adopt the Consent Agenda and unless there is a further motion, I say that we call the roll.

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: 9 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner and Brian Emison

Absent: 3 - Mitch Johnson; David McClain and LJ Bryant

[MIN-21:044](#) Minutes for the City Council meeting on May 18, 2021.

Attachments: [CC Minutes 05182021](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-21:076](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO APPROVE CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FOR THE ANIMAL CONTROL RENOVATIONS PROJECT (2021:02)

Sponsors: Animal Control and Engineering

Attachments: [05.18.2021 Animal Control Change Order #1](#)

This matter was Passed by consent rollcall

[RES-21:077](#) A RESOLUTION TO RENEW A 5 YEAR CONTRACT WITH AT&T FOR E-911 EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES.

Sponsors: E911

Attachments: [2020 City of Jonesboro 7 POS Hosted Quote](#)
[2021 AT&T Craighead SOW](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-21:079](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONTRACT WITH CENTENNIAL BANK FOR SPONSORSHIP OF ONE ATHLETIC FIELD AT THE JOE MACK CAMPBELL SPORTS COMPLEX AND ONE OUTFIELD SIGN AT SOUTHSIDE SOFTBALL COMPLEX

Sponsors: Parks & Recreation and Finance

Attachments: [Centennial Bank Joe Mack21](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-21:081](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION WITH THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA) FOR THE FY18 COMPETITIVE FUNDING GRANT FOR BUSES AND BUS FACILITY PROGRAM

Sponsors: Grants and JETS

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-21:082](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE--BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE (BJA) FOR THE FY21 BULLET PROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT

Sponsors: Grants and Police Department

Attachments: [05.25.2021 Bullet Proof Vest FY2021 Budget](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-21:083](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NORTHEAST ARKANSAS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (NEAIDC) FOR FUNDING OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Sponsors: Mayor's Office, City Council and Finance

Attachments: [Contract City-NAIDC 2020](#)

[NAIDC Report 2020](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-21:084](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ACCEPT THE LOW BID AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH RICHARD BAUGHN CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR THE CRAIGHEAD TECHNOLOGY PARK INDUSTRIAL LEAD RAIL EXPANSION PROJECT - SECTION I SUBGRADE WORK (2021:21)

Sponsors: Engineering

Attachments: [05.25.2021 Richard Baughn - Contract Documents - Section I](#)

[05.25.2021 Richard Baughn - Bid Tabs](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-21:085](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ACCEPT THE LOW BID AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH TRAC-WORK, INC. FOR THE CRAIGHEAD TECHNOLOGY PARK INDUSTRIAL LEAD RAIL EXPANSION PROJECT - SECTION II TRACK CONSTRUCTION (2021:21)

Sponsors: Engineering

Attachments: [05.25.2021 Trac-Work - Contract Documents - Section II](#)
 [05.25.2021 Trac-Work - Bid Tabs](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

6. NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

[RES-21:087](#)

A RESOLUTION TO FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM FOR JERRY REECE ON THE BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENTS

Sponsors: Planning

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: 9 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner and Brian Emison

Absent: 3 - Mitch Johnson; David McClain and LJ Bryant

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-21:021](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR IMPROVING LIVES, INC. d/b/a THE SOCIAL OF JONESBORO TO BE LOCATED AT 1004 CHANCERY LANE, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

Attachments: [The Social Improving Lives Private Club Application_Redacted](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Charles Frierson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-21:021 by title only. All voted aye.

Councilmember John Street asked that ORD-21:021 be read at three meetings.

Held at one reading

[ORD-21:022](#)

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 Joe Hafner commented that the last time we had one of these on the agenda we actually read it so that the public would know where the locations were. Councilmember John Street said, there are quite a few places on here. I would ask that it also be held for the three readings. Councilmember Bobby Long explained that he had a resident call and he had asked that Hickory Lane not be changed to a 25 MPH speed zone. I think his concern was that the reason it was being changed was to try to reduce the speeding because people fly down that street anyway. I told him that my question would be is this consistent with similarly situated properties or neighborhoods like this. And, if it is consistent, then we need to go ahead and do it. But, I did tell him that I would clarify that but, it was for the sole purpose of slowing

traffic down? City Engineer, Craig Light explained that the 25 MPH speed limit is consistent with other residential streets in Jonesboro. Mayor Copenhaver also stated, with this ordinance we are taking note of the safety concerns that go with speeding in the city as well as with our officers in the community and I appreciate the public's input.

Held at one reading

[ORD-21:023](#)

AN ORDINANCE REGARDING ABANDONING AND VACATING A UTILITY EASEMENT IN A PART OF LOT 2 OF STATON MINOR PLAT ON WOOD STREET AS REQUESTED BY MICHAEL BOGGS FROM TRALAN ENGINEERING ON BEHALF OF C3, LLC

Attachments: [Petition](#)
[RESOLUTION](#)
[ORDINANCE](#)
[utilities](#)
[Utility Easement_Eng&Plan](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Bobby Long, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-21:023 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

[ORD-21:024](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF A BLOWER FAN FOR THE CITY INCINERATOR FOR THE SANITATION DEPARTMENT

Sponsors: Sanitation and Finance

Attachments: [05.25.2021 incinerator Blower Fan RGB Quote](#)
[05.25.2021 incinerator Blower Fan other pricing](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-21:024 by title only. All voted aye.

Councilmember Chris Moore motioned, seconded by Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman, to suspend the rules and waive the second and third readings. All voted aye.

Councilmember Joe Hafner motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore, to adopt the emergency clause. A roll call vote for the adoption of the emergency clause was taken and all voted aye.

Councilmember Chris Moore explained as Mr. Hafner pointed out to me, there is an emergency clause on this ordinance. That is because the main blower for the incinerator is out and it is estimated that it will take six to eight weeks from the time that we approve this before we have it. We are about to move into the summer season which is extremely busy out there. Building Maintenance Director Ronnie Shaver explained that the incinerator is over ten years old and with the heat and stuff that has been on that engine, we are lucky that it has lasted this long. We went through the process of trying to get bids on this and there is only one company in town that would give us a turnkey quote. Everybody would sell us parts, but the company we are dealing with would have to be the one to install it. Councilmember John Street stated that since we purchased the incinerator it has saved us a lot of money in tipping fees. It is a valuable asset for the city and all of the citizens that use it. Mayor Copenhaver stated, we are also looking at ways of using alternative fuels for cleaner and more

efficient burning.

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

Aye: 9 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner and Brian Emison

Absent: 3 - Mitch Johnson; David McClain and LJ Bryant

[ORD-21:025](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE JONESBORO CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 2 ARTICLE 3, ENTITLED CITY COUNCIL, ESTABLISHING CITY COUNCIL RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR 2021

Sponsors: City Council, City Clerk, City Attorney's Office and Mayor's Office

Attachments: [Council Rules Updated 2021 - Exhibit A_05252021](#)
[Citizen Comments ORD-21-025](#)

Councilmember Chris Gibson requested that ORD-21:025 be read at three readings.

Councilmember Chris Moore's question to the committee was if we could change it to where the council meeting, in case an emergency is declared by the Mayor or the Governor, could be held strictly audio and not the requirement for audio and video as it may be impossible to have video feed at that time. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, what we had discussed, and I'm not sure if it has gone into effect yet, but the Legislature actually passed a bill that speaks to that issue if the Governor declares an emergency. It does not say anything about if the Mayor declares one. So, we would be kind of setting our own rules on if the Mayor declares an emergency. But, the Governor's emergency already accounts for an open public meeting through electronic means, including without limitations, telephone, video conference calls, or video broadcast. But, it does require that the meeting still be open to the public and if it is done by electronic means that there be a way for the public to be present electronically or by telephone and it still has the requirement that those meetings be recorded whether it is a sound only recording, a video recording with sound and picture, or digital or analog broadcast capable of being recorded. So, what it basically did is give the Governor that authority if he declares an emergency. And, maybe the Mayor can speak to this. I think that the theory behind the Mayor having the authority to call an emergency meeting is the idea that we may need to have a special called meeting because of an emergency or declaration of an emergency where one or more councilmembers may not be able to attend in person and giving the Mayor the authority to allow them to appear electronically. The majority of the council would still be present in person, but allowing in case of an emergency, one or two members to appear virtually if needed. I don't know that necessarily accounts for the tornado like we experienced last year. I think the idea of a conference call council meeting is not allowable under FOIA unless there is a way to give public notice and have the public on the call. Which might not be feasible in an emergency situation like you were describing. So, I think what this accomplishes is that it requires you to be seen on camera so the public knows who is voting and how. They can see your face and hear your vote. I think if we get into a situation where we need an emergency meeting, that we need a telephone meeting, then different rules might apply. And, in an emergency situations, you take emergency measures and you have council approve things later. An example of that was after the tornado the stop lights was down and we made a decision to go ahead and get another light put up and the cost of that was something council would need to approve, but because of public health and safety, the Mayor made the decision to go ahead and get that done and then council approved it after the

fact. I think there was an Attorney General opinion, we talked about that, I don't have it with me, where a city had done something similar they had made an emergency decision and then later council retroactively approved that emergency expenditure along with an emergency clause and the Attorney General said that was acceptable. It's not preference that it be done, but in a true emergency it was acceptable to do. Councilmember Moore stated that he would yield to the rest of the council. Councilmember Chris Gibson explained that the rest of the changes that were made were simply housekeeping changes, but I would ask that this be held to three readings.

Held at one reading

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[ORD-21:020](#)

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 MEDIUM DENSITY DISTRICT TO C-3 GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT - LIMITED USE OVERLAY FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 7201 E. HIGHLAND DRIVE, JONESBORO, AR AS REQUESTED BY JOSHUA NEELY ON BEHALF OF JEREMY BALTZ

Attachments: [City Council Staff Summary](#)
[Rezoning Plat](#)
[Application](#)
[Deed](#)
[Pictures of Area](#)
[USPS Receipts](#)

Mayor Harold Copenhaver left the meeting at approximately 6:01 p.m. and President Pro-Tempore Chris Moore took over the remainder of the meeting.

Held at second reading

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-21:015](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE AND ABANDON A 12' ALLEY LOCATED AT 101 SOUTH CHURCH AS REQUESTED BY HTHREG, LLC

Attachments: [4.5.2021 Resolution - Alley Abandonment - 101 S Church](#)
[SOUTH CHURCH ABAND](#)

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

Aye: 9 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner and Brian Emison

Absent: 3 - Mitch Johnson;David McClain and LJ Bryant

[ORD-21:016](#)

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

Sponsors: Engineering

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: 9 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner and Brian Emison

Absent: 3 - Mitch Johnson;David McClain and LJ Bryant

[ORD-21:019](#)

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 I-1 LIMITED INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 6515 C.W. POST ROAD, JONESBORO, AR AS REQUESTED BY JOHN STUCKEY.

Attachments: [Staff Summary - City Council](#)
[Rezoning Plat](#)
[Application](#)
[Conceptual layout](#)
[Nettleton School Email](#)
[Rezoning Sign Pictures](#)

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

Aye: 9 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner and Brian Emison

Absent: 3 - Mitch Johnson;David McClain and LJ Bryant

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Chief Operations Officer Tony Thomas gave the Mayor's Report.

Mr. Thomas reported on behalf of Mayor Harold Copenhaver because he needed to attend a funeral visitation service. Mr. Thomas explained that the administration team had met with Lindsey Wingo and the Downtown Jonesboro Alliance group. The Mayor has pledged to make downtown more pedestrian friendly and will soon be announcing some adjustments to how we handle traffic on Main and Union streets. It is rare, but we have had pedestrians struck by vehicles and the Mayor deemed that as unacceptable. So expect at least some measure of change in the upcoming weeks.

The city's pool complex opened this past weekend for the summer and lots of people especially youngsters have a lot of pent up energy. The Mayor appreciates the Parks Department and the nearby Fire Department that occasionally gets called over in the case of accidents or emergencies. We appreciate every city staffer who helps provide nice things for the safety and security of our residents.

The Jonesboro Police Department has hired ten new police officers that have been hired in the past two weeks. That is bound to be comforting to all of the JPD staff. We

do understand that they have worked a significant amount of overtime because of the low numbers of officers. These are difficult times to be a police officer, but the recent track record shows that JPD Officers have handled themselves among some of the best in the nation at a delicate time in our history. We want everyone to know that JPD is here to protect and serve to ensure the safety of Jonesboro. Please support them in every way you can, as well as all of our First Responders. It seems an appropriate time to mention that we are continuing to dedicate overtime for police and our parks system. What we are seeing not just in Jonesboro, but across the country is a degree of aggressiveness as the world transitions out of hopefully what is the worst of a once in a lifetime pandemic in our nation. I think people are better behaved in Jonesboro than in most places. But, everyone is ready to get out and go. We are too. We just have to remember to do it with graciousness and respect for those who worked the hardest during the COVID pandemic and in many cases are working hard to get life back to a normal pace and speed. Please be patient, be thoughtful of your neighbors, be kind to those that are not as comfortable as you are at this point. We are all one community and we can take care of one another.

The Northeast Arkansas Mayors Caucus met this morning in Paragould and Mayor Copenhaver was elected as Chair of the Coalition that represents dozens of mayors from seven counties. Walnut Ridge's Mayor Charles Snapp was elected as vice-chair, and Blytheville's Mayor James Sanders was elected as treasurer. We are eager to see what can be done when we all work together for the good of our region.

Litter pickups continue to take place on Spring Saturday's and a handful of Neighborhood Associations have joined with our Code Enforcement Officers, Sanitation Crews, and Police Officers to get rid of tons of upon tons of garbage and old items that they no longer want.

More than six tons of refuse was collected three weekends ago at the Fisher Street Northside cleanup and we appreciated Dr. Coleman and his efforts in that neighborhood. Weekend before last, the Scenic Hills cleanup resulted in eleven tons of garbage. We also want to thank Judy Casteel for helping lead the Scenic Hills cleanup event. Code Enforcement is busy reaching out to other neighborhood associations because we would like to see these efforts continue. Not only in the areas they currently are in, but other places throughout our city. We are continuing to cleanup Jonesboro. I see it every day and I hope that those in our community are noticing that too.

Councilmember Chris Moore asked Mr. Thomas if it is the next council meeting that we are planning to be back to full operation. Mr. Thomas explained that we would be back to business as usual, as it was pre-pandemic. Councilmember Moore said, so we are asking that people that have items on the agenda are welcome to attend those meetings. Mr. Thomas said, correct we are ceasing the call-in line and individuals who wish to attend the meetings may do so without restrictions or limitations at this particular point of time. We look forward to welcoming the public back to fully open chambers. Councilmember Moore asked that Communications Director Bill Campbell to please prepare a press release to that effect. Mr. Thomas said, yes. We can do that and we also know that City Clerk April Leggett always works with us to make sure that is disseminated to the public as well as all of our press partners.

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember John Street stated, I just want to second something that Mr. Thomas said. There are a lot of kids out there with the school year coming to a close. They are

going to be in the streets, going up and down the sidewalks, and in and out of neighborhoods. It's always a concern for safety in residential areas. So, please be aware of kids who will now be present in the streets and playing. Drive a little slower through the residential neighborhoods and be on alert as we go through the summer.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said he just had one item and that is on June the 19th, we will have another cleanup planned. It will stretch from Fisher Street all the way over to Culberhouse.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 9 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner and Brian Emison

Absent: 3 - Mitch Johnson;David McClain and LJ Bryant

_____ **Date:** _____

Harold Copenhaver, Mayor

Attest:

_____ **Date:** _____

April Leggett, City Clerk