



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Finance & Administration Council Committee

Tuesday, March 29, 2022

4:00 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

1. Call To Order

2. Roll Call by City Clerk April Leggett

Councilmember David McClain entered the meeting at 4:02 p.m. after roll call and after passage of the minutes, but before discussion of ORD-22:017.

Present 6 - Charles Coleman; Ann Williams; John Street; David McClain; LJ Bryant and Joe Hafner

Absent 1 - Brian Emison

3. Approval of minutes

[MIN-22:018](#)

MINUTES FOR THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING ON MARCH 8, 2022

Attachments: [FINANCE Minutes 03082022](#)

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: 4 - Charles Coleman; Ann Williams; John Street and LJ Bryant

Absent: 2 - David McClain and Brian Emison

4. New Business

ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED

[ORD-22:017](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF LICENSE PLATE RECOGNITION EQUIPMENT AND SOFTWARE FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Attachments: [Vigilant](#)

Councilmember John Street said, Mr. Chairman, before the meeting, I was asked to make an amendment on the recurring fee and change that to \$48,500 and then the one-time fee would result in a change to \$9,380 and the recurring fees are all of those that are highlighted and the remainder of those fees are what make up the one-time fee. Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember LJ Bryant, to amend ORD-22:017 to reflect the changes in fees from the recurring fees of \$57,080 to

\$48,500 and the one-time fee from \$8,580 to \$9,380. All voted aye.

Chairman Joe Hafner said, let the record reflect that Councilmember David McClain is now present.

Councilmember McClain asked, how many are we planning on? Does it say how many license plates? I see license plate recognition, other cameras, body worn cameras or they do all that, but we just need the license plate recognition? Police Chief Rick Elliott said, this is LPR technology, software to do analytics with and to run the systems we currently involved in. This particular brand is a Motorola product and it is used by our federal law enforcement partners and plus other major agencies around us and that has given us the capability to share information with them and they are also sharing information back through us with the same program. So, we are seeing the benefits already of this program. As far as the number of cameras, that project will grow from now. We are just limited to the money we have in hand and the money the council allocates down the road. We are getting up and running. We are probably at 400+ cameras right now throughout the city. We do nothing but plan on keep on having this project to grow. The good thing is other agencies or other cities around us have looked at what we have got and are looking to do the same thing and share their information back with us. So, that will make us in the law enforcement community more connected, better connected on investigative cases. You get people who flee Jonesboro and head back to say Memphis or north or south or whatever. This technology will help keep track of those vehicles. Councilmember McClain asked, is this mainly going on SkyCops or are we talking about intersections? Chief Elliott said, It's going on our major intersections. Some of the SkyCop cameras have them. And, then our next set of fleet cameras that's coming this summer with AXON, it's going in the police cars. They will have built in LPR technology also. So, that will give every car running around on the street, they will be scanning tags and if that tag is stolen, cars stolen, or silver alert, or amber alert, or whatever, that officer will get an immediate response on his screen. And, so, this technology last year alone, we have documented 170 cases that the video analyst helped make because of the technology we have implemented. So, no sooner than we have this up and running throughout the city, it's helped us many times proven. And, just this past weekend, we had a shooting down on Roy Street and this camera technology helped locate the suspect vehicle. So, it's paying off. I think it has been a great move for the city and we are doing something that most major cities do. But, the good thing is other towns around us have come and looked at what we are doing and it has got them excited. Especially, even with a GridSmart camera. I'm kind of getting off of the subject, but Brookland has looked at GridSmart cameras for their city so what we are doing, the excitement is spreading out. So, that is a good thing for Northeast Arkansas.

Councilmember LJ Bryant asked, will the officer's cameras in the cars go backwards too like if you are looking for a blue Honda from three days ago or something? Chief Elliott said, no. In that system, they won't. We can't search that one. They just tell you what is going live and what we have put in for investigative purposes. But, I will be able to access that car, camera feed, you know, from my desk as I can the body cams now. And, that officer's camera is live and if I want to see what is going on at the scene, I can access it from my computer or any of the supervisors can. So, our technology, not only with Axon, but with Motorola and what we are doing has brought us way ahead in the world.

A motion was made by Councilperson John Street, seconded by Councilperson LJ Bryant, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 5 - Charles Coleman; Ann Williams; John Street; David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Brian Emison

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

[RES-22:058](#)

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE FY22 RAISE GRANT FOR THE UPPER HALF OF THE JONESBORO QUALITY OF LIFE AND CONNECTIVITY MASTER PLAN

Chief Administrative Officer Brian Richardson said, I am obviously happy to discuss this further at council, but I just wanted to kind of bring the Finance Committee up to date with this. We did have our debriefing call with the Department of Transportation, I don't know, probably about a month ago when they had some recommended changes and improvements that we could make to the grant to make it or give it a better chance of being improved. We did receive high marks in several areas of our past application. And, it did qualify and it was recommended for funding, but we didn't get the highly recommended. There were over 700 grant applications sent in last year. I think that we were in the top 150 or something along those lines. I can't remember the exact number. If Regina is listening, she could correct me on that. But, they did have a lot of positives and they did see a need. They just needed to see a little bit more clarification on some of the things that we were asking for and why.

Councilmember David McClain asked, are they looking for as far as I guess favorability, things that make us more favorable, do they want to see a percentage of our overall plan completed or is it just shoot and see what happens? Mr. Richardson said, with any grant, the people that are offering to fund that are going to look at what have you done with past grant allocations. And this will be considered over the summer, and then as you kind of go into the fall and at that point, I think we have three right-of-ways that we are working on closing out on Creath Street and then there's some utility relocation drawings that are being worked on and so I really hope that can go to work pretty quick on that. From the city side, we are going to be funding some adjustments down Monroe to show for some pedestrian investments. So, I do think that starting to work on those projects will help with showing that we are ready to move on this. You know, it is just a struggle of having to get the right-of-ways to be able to put this through. But, I think that we are just about over that hill so we can actually get to work moving some dirt. Councilmember McClain asked, is that on Creath? I see University Heights mentioned. Is that including that or is that just on Creath as far as projects that we have got moving and actually moving dirt? Mr. Richardson said, the Creath trail will be the first one that goes to actual construction. Right now, they are beginning to do some right-of-way assessments and some environmental studies on the Aggie portion of the trail which is still not fully funded, but it's funded enough to where we can go ahead and start some of the processes of doing some of the legwork so whenever we do receive additional funding, we can hopefully move that faster to construction than anything from concept.

Councilmember LJ Bryant said, I know this is a bigger discussion than to have here today because there are a thousand pieces to it, but I know congressional earmarks are back. So, I'm sure you all are looking at that and such and I know everybody probably wants some money, the airport and us and everybody else so, I don't know. I'm sure you all are working on that. I know it will be difficult to come up with what our strategy, what is our ask, and I know it is not our decision to make. It is the members

of Congress, but, anyway, I'm sure those things are happening. I know there is a lot to discuss with all of that. Mr. Richardson said, yeah, and you don't get what you don't ask for most of the time. So, we are constantly putting in requests and asking consideration and we welcome any of those ideas from finance and from council and from the general public on the things that they would like to see.

A motion was made by Councilperson John Street, seconded by Councilperson LJ Bryant, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Brian Emison

[RES-22:059](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2215 Wood Street, PARCEL 01-143251-07200, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY INGRAM WILLA TRUST

Attachments: [2215 Wood](#)

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

Aye: 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Brian Emison

[RES-22:060](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3016 HWY 141 N, PARCEL 01-154311-00800, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY RKC INVESTMENTS, LLC.

Attachments: [3016 HWY 141 N](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson John Street, seconded by Councilperson LJ Bryant, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Brian Emison

[RES-22:061](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO,ARKANSAS TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH THE BLUE AND YOU FOUNDATION 2022 TO RECEIVE FIVE MINI GRANTS

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

Aye: 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Brian Emison

[RES-22:062](#)

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO UTILIZE FEDERAL-AID RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM FUNDS

AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE FY22 RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM (RTP) FROM THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Councilmember John Street asked, Danny, is this a redo of the interior 2.3 miles around the lake? Parks and Recreation Director Danny Kapales said, yes sir. This is actually redoing the chat trail that runs along the shore line. If you haven't been out there lately, a lot of it is really low lying close to the waterway and it gets a lot of drainage and it's washed out. So, this will give us an opportunity to raise a lot of that up, put new drainage in and make that current asset that we have a much more valuable asset. Councilmember Street asked, is it going to be chat again? Mr. Kapales said, it will be. We want to keep it. Councilmember Street said, will it be smaller chat? That stuff is hard to walk on. Mr. Kapales said, along with this, we will actually go with recommendations. We will go with what is required for a soft surface trail and that way it is fitting to what the current guidelines are for a soft surface trail. Councilmember Street said, I walk it a lot. I walk the outside one too, but it is really hard and the drainage is just kind of like you and I went out there with a shovel and put a pipe in and shoveled dirt on it and it is actually humped. If we are going to do that, I would hope it would be professionally engineered where those won't wash out every time we get a heavy rain. And, at least, if it has got to be chat or some other surface that can be smaller where you can actually maybe even put some wood along the sides to contain it where it is not just going to wash off everywhere and it is really walkable because it's a shame. It is beautiful and that is why I walk it even though it's harder on my ankles and stuff. It is a beautiful trail around there. It's just so tough sometimes to walk. Mr. Kapales said, it is. And, absolutely, it is the asset out there and we want to make sure that it is a trail that everybody enjoys. And, being soft surface, that is a lot of folks want to make sure that they have a trail that is easier to walk soft surface at times. And, as long as we have a lot of it built up, as you said, a way to keep it from washing out that is what we are looking for because there are locations out there that flood. If we get a lot of heavy rain, it may be six inches of water sitting on top of some of that trail so we want to get it up and out of the water and that way you can go out there and walk right after the rain. Councilmember Street said, I think over the years, the Parks Department has probably rebuilt that thing a truck full of chat at a time going down. Mr. Kapales said, every year, we have a little bit on budget each year to put chat out there and it is just a constant refill. Councilmember Street said, I appreciate it. It is a nice trail. I love it.

Councilmember Ann Williams asked, on the soft surface trails, that is where mountain bikes and wider tire right or generally is that? Mr. Kapales said, soft surface just means that it is not asphalt or concrete. So, this will be for walkers. This soft surface is for walkers. Councilmember Williams said, that is what I was going to ask is there overlap between the bikers and hikers on some of these soft surface trails? Mr. Kapales said, on this trail, there won't be. This trail runs along the edge of the shoreline. This is strictly for walkers. No bikes are allowed on this section of the trail. But, as far as the overall park, we are still looking at different areas out there in the park, like this will be just for walkers. There is going to be locations out there that are going to be shared use. There are going to be locations that are just for bikers. That is one of the things that we are moving toward is how do we get the correct signage out there and make sure everybody knows what trails to be on and just make that park a little bit safer and more usable for everyone.

Councilmember LJ Bryant asked, if we got the grant, what do you think the timeframe is on getting this done? Mr. Kapales said, that I wish I could actually answer. Obviously, engineering is going to be the first thing. And, as Mr. Street had said, we

want to make sure that we do it right. So, the first phase would be the engineering process. And, I would say that is going to be at least a six month process to go in, do all of the measurements, design, and then, from there, you know, our process of getting the construction company because that is not going to be an in-house job. So, you know, at the minimum, I would say, you know, we are looking at getting this grant this year, designed through 2023. So, we are probably talking build at the end of 2023 through 2024.

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

Aye: 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Brian Emison

5. Pending Items

6. Other Business

7. Public Comments

8. Adjournment

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

Aye: 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Brian Emison