



# City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center  
300 S. Church Street  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

## Meeting Minutes Finance & Administration Council Committee

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Tuesday, December 30, 2025

4:00 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER

### 2. ROLL CALL (ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE) CONFIRMED BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

**Present** 6 - Joe Hafner;Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain and Brian Emison

**Absent** 1 - Anthony Coleman

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[MIN-25:108](#) Minutes for the Special Called Finance Committee meeting on Friday, December 5, 2025.

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

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

**Aye:** 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - Anthony Coleman

[MIN-25:111](#) Minutes for the Finance Committee meeting on Tuesday, December 9, 2025.

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

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

**Aye:** 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - Anthony Coleman

### 4. NEW BUSINESS

#### *RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED*

[RES-25:202](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1617 RICH ROAD,

PARCEL 01-143252-25000, OWNED BY RANDOLPH & JUDITH REYNOLDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

Sponsors: Code Enforcement and Finance

Attachments: [01. 1617 Rich Rd\\_ Notice of Violation.pdf](#)  
[02. 1617 Rich Rd\\_ Billing Request.pdf](#)  
[03. 1617 Rich Rd\\_ Mowing Invoice.pdf](#)  
[05. 1617 Rich Rd\\_ Council Notice.pdf](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, 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 Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - Anthony Coleman

[RES-25:203](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2009 TIMBERIDGE DRIVE, PARCEL 01-143231-17200, OWNED BY BRIAN D. MONDSCHEIN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

Sponsors: Code Enforcement and Finance

Attachments: [01. 2009 Timberridge Dr\\_ Notice of Violation.pdf](#)  
[02. 2009 Timberridge Dr\\_ Billing Request.pdf](#)  
[03. 2009 Timberridge Dr\\_ Mowing Invoice.pdf](#)  
[04. 2009 Timberridge Dr\\_ Council Notice.pdf](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, 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 Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - Anthony Coleman

[RES-25:204](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3104 PARKWOOD, PARCEL 01-144281-23800, OWNED BY MICHAEL R. & SANDRA BEELER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

Sponsors: Code Enforcement and Finance

Attachments: [01. 3104 Parkwood\\_ Notice of Violation.pdf](#)  
[02. 3104 Parkwood\\_ Billing Request.pdf](#)  
[03. 3104 Parkwood\\_ Mowing Invoice.pdf](#)  
[04. 3104 Parkwood\\_ Council Notice.pdf](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, 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 Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - Anthony Coleman

[RES-25:205](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 01-144082-05020 ON GRAINGER, PARCEL 01-144082-05020, OWNED BY JERRY DELANY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

Sponsors: Code Enforcement and Finance

Attachments: [01. 01-144082-05020 on Granger\\_Note of Violation.pdf](#)  
[02. 01-144082-05020 on Granger\\_Billing Request.pdf](#)  
[03. 01-144082-05020 on Grainger\\_Mowing Invoice.pdf](#)  
[04. 01-144082-05020 Grainger\\_Council Notice.pdf](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, 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 Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - Anthony Coleman

[RES-25:206](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1400 MERRYWOOD, PARCEL 01-144203-16200, OWNED BY TONYA R. HINDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$315

Sponsors: Code Enforcement and Finance

Attachments: [01. 1400 Merrywood\\_Note of Violation.pdf](#)  
[02. 1400 Merrywood\\_Billing Request.pdf](#)  
[03. 1400 Merrywood\\_Mowing Invoice.pdf](#)  
[04. 1400 Merrywood\\_Council Notice.pdf](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, 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 Brian Emison

[RES-25:207](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2410 WESTACRE, PARCEL 01-144272-22100, OWNED BY MORE UNITS REAL ESTATE, LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$315

Sponsors: Code Enforcement and Finance

Attachments: [01. 2410 Westacre\\_Note of Violation.pdf](#)  
[02. 2410 Westacre\\_Billing Request.pdf](#)  
[03. 2410 Westacre\\_Mowing Invoice.pdf](#)  
[04. 2410 Westacre\\_Council Notice.pdf](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, 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 Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - Anthony Coleman

[RES-25:208](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3806 SCHOOL STREET, PARCEL 01-144272-16500, OWNED BY OLGA HERNANDEZ IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

**Sponsors:** Code Enforcement and Finance

**Attachments:** [01. 3806 School St\\_ Notice of Violation.pdf](#)  
[02. 3806 School St\\_ Billing Request.pdf](#)  
[03. 3806 School St\\_ Mowing Invoice.pdf](#)  
[04. 3806 School St\\_ Council Notice.pdf](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, 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 Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - Anthony Coleman

[RES-25:209](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 200 W. WOODROW, PARCEL 01-144073-23600, OWNED BY PRINCE MICHAEL BOBBITT & DONYA IN THE AMOUNT OF \$965

**Sponsors:** Code Enforcement and Finance

**Attachments:** [01. 200 W Woodrow\\_ Notice of Violation.pdf](#)  
[02. 200 W Woodrow\\_ Billing Request.pdf](#)  
[03. 200 W Woodrow\\_ Mowing Invoice.pdf](#)  
[04. 200 W Woodrow\\_ Council Notice.pdf](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, 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 Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - Anthony Coleman

[RES-25:210](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1317 HATHCOAT, PARCEL 01-143121-048000, OWNED BY JOSEPH CLARK AND HELENNNA SYKES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

**Sponsors:** Code Enforcement and Finance

**Attachments:** [01. 1317 Hathcoat Ln\\_ Notice of Violation.pdf](#)  
[02. 1317 Hathacoat\\_ Billing Request.pdf](#)  
[03. 1317 Hathcoat\\_ Mowing Invoice.pdf](#)  
[04. 1317 Hathcoat Ln\\_ Council Notice.pdf](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, 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 Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - Anthony Coleman

[RES-25:211](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2612 CRAWFORD, PARCEL 01-144273-02300, OWNED BY RANDY & ALEY CRAWFORD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

**Sponsors:** Code Enforcement and Finance

**Attachments:** [01. 2612 Crawford\\_Note of Violation.pdf](#)  
[02. 2612 Crawford\\_Billing Request.pdf](#)  
[03. 2612 Crawford\\_Mowing Invoice.pdf](#)  
[04. 2612 Crawford\\_Council Notice.pdf](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, 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 Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - Anthony Coleman

[RES-25:212](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2020 LATOURETTE DRIVE, PARCEL 01-144321-08500, OWNED BY PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION SERVICES OF JONESBORO IN THE AMOUNT OF \$465

**Sponsors:** Code Enforcement and Finance

**Attachments:** [01. 2020 Latourette\\_Note of Violation.pdf](#)  
[02. 2020 Latourette Dr\\_Billing Request.pdf](#)  
[04. 2020 Latourette Dr\\_Mowing Invoice.pdf](#)  
[05. 2020 Latourette Dr\\_Council Notice.pdf](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, 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 Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - Anthony Coleman

[RES-25:213](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2701 CURTVIEW, PARCEL 01-144273-04400, OWNED BY JESSY & JAMES HARRELL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

**Sponsors:** Code Enforcement and Finance

Attachments:

- [01. 2701 Curtview Notice of Violation.pdf](#)
- [02. 2701 Curtview Billing Request.pdf](#)
- [03. 2701 Curtview Mowing Invoice.pdf](#)
- [04. 2701 Curtview Council Notice.pdf](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, 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 Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - Anthony Coleman

[RES-25:214](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1821 BROOKHAVEN, PARCEL 01-143243-04700, OWNED BY REGIONS BANK DBA REGIONS MORTGAGE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

Sponsors: Code Enforcement and Finance

Attachments:

- [01. 1821 Brookhaven Notice of Violation.pdf](#)
- [02. 1821 Brookhaven Billing Request.pdf](#)
- [03. 1821 Brookhaven Mowing Invoice.pdf](#)
- [04. 1821 Brookhaven Council Notice.pdf](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, 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 Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - Anthony Coleman

[RES-25:215](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3707 ASHLEE COVE, PARCEL 01-134032-06600, OWNED BY SCOTT WOODS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

Sponsors: Code Enforcement and Finance

Attachments:

- [01. 3707 Ashlee Cv Notice of Violation.pdf](#)
- [02. 3707 Ashlee Cv Billing Request.pdf](#)
- [03. 3707 Ashlee Cv Mowing Invoice.pdf](#)
- [04. 3707 Ashlee Cv Council Notice.pdf](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, 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 Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - Anthony Coleman

[RES-25:217](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH AXON, INC. FOR PREPARED ASSIST COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES FOR JONESBORO EMERGENCY SERVICES

Sponsors: E911 and Finance

Attachments: [AXON Contract E911 Prepared Assist Communications Services.pdf](#)

*Chairman Joe Hafner said, I would like the record to reflect that Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman is now present. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman arrived at 4:11 p.m.*

*Councilmember David McClain said, the only question that I have, Mr. Chairman, I was just trying to get some clarity on, and since I'm not in this line of work. So, the translation is a feature, and then also just trying to understand this handling calls and radio traffic to ensure quality consistency. Can you just touch on a little bit about how it's different from now. I mean, obviously, the translation piece, but other than that. E-911 Director Ronnie Sturch approached the podium and said, absolutely, thank you so much Councilmember McClain. This is technology, AI technology, that I'll be honest with you, up until last year didn't exist. What it's going to do is handle all of our incoming non-emergency calls. It will take those calls, it will determine number one if those calls need to be rerouted to a different department or agency, and it will automatically reroute those calls. If it needs to go to the 9-1-1 dispatcher, some of the, what we call non-emergency calls that come in do translate into emergency calls. Ok, they're actually 9-1-1 calls and should be transferred to them. So, it will take those calls and route those straight to the dispatcher. This is not handling the 9-1-1 calls. It does not take those calls and reroute those. Those are still answered by a live 9-1-1 dispatcher. We receive, I can't remember the numbers exactly, approximately ninety something thousand non-emergency calls, and what this does, those calls are overwhelming our 9-1-1 dispatchers to the point that they have to answer those calls and sometimes it's just calls I need this rerouted, or I need to know about a warrant I have, or I need to talk to the jail. It's going to automatically take those calls. The dispatcher will never even hear those. It will answer 100% of those calls. We currently use a call tree, an automated answering system, that if you want to talk to the county jail press such and such. That works sometimes, but only about 40%. 30-40% of those that come in, they won't punch that number, they'll wait still and talk to a 9-1-1 dispatcher, and they'll say, well, we need to talk to the county jail and then our dispatcher has to handle that. What it's doing is taking those non-emergency calls and tying up dispatchers that should be handling emergency calls. That is one segment of it. That's just one feature that they provide. That's what we call the call taking assistive side of it.*

*There's also the translation side, that what we're faced with right now is our translation service, we do have a translation service. We timed one the other day just to see how long it takes. The dispatcher got the translator on the phone, took about 30 seconds, by the time that translator was trying to translate and get all the information back to the dispatcher, that call ended up taking nine minutes before the dispatcher got all the information they needed out of that translation service. What this does is real time automatically translates all those calls, and this includes 9-1-1 calls. Councilmember David McClain said, back and forth conversations or just on one side where the dispatcher can hear? Director Ronnie Sturch said, are you talking about this or... Councilmember David McClain said, this. How does it work, because I know some stuff is out there that you can, I can see it but the other person can't. I can't say anything back. Director Ronnie Sturch said, no this is real time for both ends. Councilmember David McClain said, ok. Director Ronnie Sturch said, someone calls dispatch, they speak a foreign language, as soon as they start speaking the system recognizes that language. I think it recognizes something like 80 something languages. So, it will recognize that language and the dispatcher will automatically see*

*it in a text format in front of them. It translates it for the dispatcher, real time. Not having to call a translator. But dispatcher is there, the call takers talking to them, they're seeing what they're saying, the dispatcher speaks back over the phone, and it translates their voice into text for that person in their language. So, it's all going on real time, so there's no delay based on the translation.*

*The transcription side of it provides live transcription of all those, what happened on that call, what was said, so that can be posted right into the records and documented. The dispatcher assistive side of it actually takes all of the radio traffic and transcribes that in front of the dispatcher. Sometimes officers will be out there in a windy condition or whatever, they're talking to us, the dispatcher is having difficulty understanding what they're saying. It's transcribing it in real time right in front of the dispatcher, so they're getting that information. I could go on and on and on. There's so many features that exist with this, and again, this is technology that didn't exist. It's very impressive if you ever watch the demos, it's just so impressive to see. And it will save our dispatchers a lot of time and let them focus on what they need to focus on which are 9-1-1 calls. Councilmember David McClain said, thank you.*

*Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I have another question kind of different from that. Director Ronnie Sturch said, yes sir. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, your power system, what happens if your power system goes down? What kind of backup power system do we have? Director Ronnie Sturch said, at the dispatch center? Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, yeah for you guys. Director Ronnie Sturch said, there's two things that happen. First of all, we're on a UPS system, uninterrupted power supply, that instantly, and I mean in a fraction of a second, if the power does down within a fraction of a second all of our systems are still running. It stays up, that UPS system holds that and keeps it up, I think, up to like 30 minutes until our... our generator kicks on within, generally, within 15 seconds, 10 to 15 seconds, but even faster than that actually. But the UPS system holds it and doesn't let it go down until we make sure that generator is kicked on and powering the center. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I guess the other part of that question, just because I've never heard in the relationship of keeping that power system up financial wise. How do we handle that? Director Ronnie Sturch said, how do we pay for it? It's budgeted in every year. The UPS system was a system that was purchased... the system we that we put in now powers the entire equipment, the entire center basically, all the equipment. I think that was put into the budget year before last when we installed that. That ran through the IT Department. And what we utilized up until that time was small UPS boxes at each system. Like each radio had one, the phone system, they had all these small little UPS systems that we've incorporated into one system that powers it all now. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, that's good. I just wanted to know. That had always bothered me. If something goes down, an emergency or tornado or... Director Ronnie Sturch said, absolutely and we're prepared for that. That's one of the main things we look at. If it goes down the power of the UPS system kicks in, it's up and running, and then the generator kicks in and it's up and running. We test those systems all the time, the generator and the UPS system. We have to make sure we don't go down. We can't go down in our business. Great question. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I appreciate that.*

*Chairman Joe Hafner said, Dr. Anthony Coleman had something first Brian.*

*Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, real quick, real quick. I'm going back to piggy back off of Councilmembers David McClain's question, software, well it's not software, but that program is quite impressive just hearing about it. But I do have a question. You said 100%, and so I'm into numbers, so when you said 100%, I want to*

know how, just give me in layman's terms, if I call how would that system know that I'm non-emergent? Director Ronnie Sturch said, well, the number you call in on. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, oh it's based on the number. If I call 9-1-1... Director Ronnie Sturch said, right. We have several non-emergency lines that come into the center, and if you call one of those lines... Actually, by law we have to publish a number that's a non-emergency number that comes into the center so that people can call the 9-1-1 center for an non-emergency. Also, to that point, all of our alarm companies, the monitoring companies, well, if you have an alarm at your house, let's say it's an ADT security system and it's monitored. That doesn't happen in Jonesboro. That monitoring system, like for ADT may come from Denver, Colorado. Well, if they call 9-1-1 it's going to go to Denver, Colorado, it's not going to come here. So, they have to be provided those not emergency numbers that they call in on and so forth. But it handles 100% of all calls coming into the center. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, great, thank you.

Councilmember Brian Emison said, Mr. Sturch, I had a quick question for you. The current translation service that we're currently using, how long do you think that we're going to keep that on the books after we get this system put into place? Director Ronnie Sturch said, we're told what we're looking at, and I asked that question, how long is it going to take to implement this program. And that's one of the reasons we have tried this, y'all just approved this in budget for 2026, so we got this resolution to get it for the mayor to get signed. We are actually going to be the first in the state of Arkansas that implements this entire package. There are a couple of agencies utilizing AI. North Little Rock just put it in their 2026 budget, for the entire package. So, I want to get it on the books first because I want to be the first. I want those bragging rights. Anyway, that's the reason we put it out here. But to answer your question, I talked to our representative from Prepared, he says the call taking assistive side of it generally takes about, he said it can run anywhere from 30 to 60 days for them. They'll send a team of technicians in here, their support team, and they will start getting a lot of information from us as to this type call who do we want to route it to, and so forth and so forth. He said about 30 to 60 days that they will have that set up. And to that point, the money that's paid for this system, when it's all fully implemented, now it's going to take a little while to fully implement everything, all the features, but the goal is we will do away with that translation service that we're paying fees to every month. We can do away with our text to 9-1-1 service that we're paying fees to every month. So, there's a lot of things that is incorporated into this one that we will be able to eliminate and narrow down to this one system. So, there's a lot of savings that will come along with this system too from the annual budget. Councilmember Brian Emison said, thank you sir.

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

**Aye:** 6 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

## 5. PENDING ITEMS

[RES-25:198](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE JONESBORO CITY COUNCIL TO ACCEPT AN OFFER AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO PURCHASE PROPERTY, AND END DUAL LITIGATION EFFORTS BETWEEN THE CITY OF JONESBORO AND LAUREL PARK, LLC

Sponsors: Mayor's Office

Attachments:

[Main - Washington property survey comprehensive.pdf](#)  
[12.5.25 - FE REC - Citizens - Laurel Park LLC.pdf](#)  
[100 W. Washington Ave. Jonesboro AR - Appraisal - City of Jonesboro.pdf](#)

*Chairman Joe Hafner said, obviously, this was sent back by the Council at the last City Council meeting. You know, the time has already passed for the agreement, so I think today we're just going to kind of get an update from Mr. Richardson about what our next steps might be. I don't know if Carol's got anything to add. But I can say my viewpoint is I think we need to end the litigation and get moving on so someone can sell it.*

*Chief Administrative Officer Brian Richardson approached the podium and said, yeah, obviously, the offer that was outlined by this resolution is effectively expired. I think technically it expires tomorrow, but there's no way to actually perfect that and close that. So really, I guess our next steps are, I believe, that the last time we kind of laid out the steps which were proceed with the lien, settle the lien or buy the property and then the lien. So obviously, the latter, unless the Finance and City Council wants to make a counteroffer and I don't know how successful that would be, but that's certainly an option we could entertain. The others would be to possibly either negotiate out a settlement and end all the litigation or just carry on and attempt to perfect the lien and eventually foreclose on the lien but that would be several years. I think it's just a continued discussion that we need to have, because I get it it's really confusing for the public, and for me, and for everybody trying to follow, it's pretty complicated. So obviously, the more we can talk about it in here hopefully the better the public can understand how their tax dollars are affected one way or the other with this.*

*Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I guess my question and it might be silly, when is it done?*

*Chairman Joe Hafner said, does there need to be a motion on this? It's more just discussion. We're not sending it back to full Council. We'll get Carol's opinion. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I mean, it was sent back to you so eventually you'll need a motion, whether that's to postpone indefinitely or whether that's to vote it up or down.*

*Chairman Joe Hafner said, there's no discussion on that? Councilmember David McClain said, no, you can have it as long as we got... If it was days, if we said 30 days, 60 days, 90 days, from what I gather, it's no discussion but if it's indefinitely, I believe we can still have discussion.*

*Chairman Joe Hafner said, all right, so now there is a motion and now we can have discussion. Go ahead Charles. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, (inaudible) I'm done.*

*Chairman Joe Hafner said, well, I was just going to say if I remember correctly, I think the appraised value was somewhere around \$300,000. So, if it's \$300,000 then the most we can expect to get back would be \$300,000. If you add a \$3,600,000 lien to that, that property's probably not going to move. Our litigation, our attorney fees, are going to be no telling how much. I just think... When we did this, as we've said many times, it was a public safety issue. It was never like we're not going to do this unless we're going to get our money back. I mean, we had to do something. Unfortunately, it fell on our shoulders. But I just think, in my opinion, if the mayor continues discussions with Laurel Park and see what kind of offer can be brought back to Finance or maybe the Council. I think in my opinion that might be our best next move.*

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I just had to show when I made the statement I'm done, you know it's like we keep throwing money. You know, when are we going to get this settled or how long? Maybe that's from a litigation standpoint maybe it's going to take a little bit longer. But I just don't think we need to be out anymore money dealing with this issue. Brian Richardson said, to Dr. Coleman's point, and Councilman Hafner, there's no way to estimate the time period and the money that's going to be involved to defend this lien. It's not going to be cheap. That's what we know, it's not going to be cheap and it's not going to be fast. At the end of the day what you've got is a lien that's on that one parcel of property where the tower was. And in three or four years, if that sells for \$350,000 the city, I guess, could go after the \$350,000, but the real question is the unknown of how much it's going to cost us to get to a point where we can collect \$350,000. I do think that there's interest from Laurel Part to potentially settle this for obviously way less than \$3,200,000. But at the end of the day, if you're comparing what is the most efficient and beneficial use to the taxpayers, again, we're not getting back the \$3,250,000 we spent to tear down that building. I mean, I don't know how to be any more clearer than that and that's been discussed from the get-go. That money is not coming back through a conventional lien recovery. Through economic development over time, maybe. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, (inaudible) not that either. Brian Richardson said, yeah, well, so what we are happy to do, in the city administration, is we can continue negotiating a possible settlement or we can work with city attorneys and continue legal proceedings and hiring outside counsel. That's really where we're at right now. Again, what you win in the end, if you win, I don't know that it's a whole lot. If you can settle it for a reasonable amount it's probably more money in your pocket from a profit standpoint over fighting litigation.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I guess the confusing part for me, and it is confusing. Say the city bought it do we have any more litigation anywhere period? Ok, or if the city bought it do we still have other obligations and legal entities that's involved? And I think that's why I made the statement, to me it needs to be done. If we're going to buy it and no other legal aspects of going to court and all that, that's more probable to me than to keep going and putting more money into it. Then you add in the \$3,500,000 we've already spent. That's insane. That's taking tax people's money and just throwing it around as far as I'm concerned. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I can answer the litigation part of that Dr. Coleman. If we had purchased the property that would have ended our part of the litigation. Because there is still currently pending litigation between Laurel Park and One Main, and that is on appeal. But that litigation is basically money. It's over the building that's no longer there, so that is One Main owed money because the building was that type. It's between those two entities. We're not a party to that at this time. So, the answer to that, as far as if we had purchased it, it would be no, there would be no more litigation. And the litigation that's pending right now is they've appealed our placement of the lien. They have a right to do that under our code, appeal it to Circuit Court. Our answer's due on February 1.

Councilmember David McClain said, Mr. Chairman, one of the things I was just thinking about, Brian I know you guys are negotiating, I'd love to see us come away with something to recover some money for our taxpayers. I don't know what that number is. I know what my number would be, but at the same time, would love to see us either a... Well, let me ask you this, have we countered? Brian Richardson said, so on the initial property purchase the owner was asked multiple times if that was pretty much their final offer. Again, the offer to purchase it is currently up for discussion about tabling right now. As a part of trying to make this a transparent process as possible Council was presented what we were presented, and there wasn't just a whole

*lot of back and forth other than just ok here's your terms this is how much money you want and is this the final offer, and that was the final offer. There wasn't any interest in going any lower by the owner. When it comes to negotiating on a possible lien, obviously, there's some back and forth. I think we'd all like to see as much money as possible, but the property owner obviously is under no obligation to sell. That's his choice. I would say... Councilmember David McClain said, not to sell. I'm not asking if we were to sell. Brian Richardson said, or even to settle. Councilmember David McClain said, yeah, I mean if we settle our lien have we gone back and said hey this is the number we'll take. Because I think we should if we're going to settle it, and try to avoid legal costs for years then I think we should definitely go back and say ok here's a number we feel comfortable with. And obviously, you guys bring it back to us and we get to decide. But have we done that or no? Brian Richardson said, well, and that was kind of what Councilman Hafner and I briefly kind of discussed as far as do we use this meeting to discuss or use this motion to discuss what kind of range of settlement that we might want to look at, and obviously we're not asking to pass a resolution to approve a settlement. But I mean, I would anticipate that you're not going to get a \$300,000 settlement out of this, but we can start there if you would like.*

*Chairman Joe Hafner said, I don't think we need to set the range. I think you all need to negotiate and bring back to us what you think is an acceptable offer. Brian Richardson said, well we'll bring back what the owner would agree with. Chairman Joe Hafner said, yeah. Brian Richardson said, and we're happy to do that, and I'm sure that we can probably have that for the next Finance Committee meeting. One way or the other we need to be able to move on to higher outside counsel to answer a lawsuit. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, so my only point of caution is that the next Finance meeting is on the 13th. Let me look at a calendar. Brian Richardson said, yeah it would be the 13th. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, and if something is approved by committee, it would then go to Council on the 20th, which would then be within a week and a half of when our answer is due as far as hiring outside legal counsel and giving them the opportunity to get that filed. So, you know, if we had something sooner, you may have a Special Called Finance meeting requested so that it could potentially go on the Council meeting on the 13th and give at least a little more time for litigation to be prepared for if they were going to. Chairman Joe Hafner said, you mean on the... City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I mean on the 6th, yeah. Which is really close. Chairman Joe Hafner said, yeah. Brian Richardson said, well, if there is a... \*\*Someone on the seat made a inaudible statement. Brian Richardson said, yeah, if there is a worthwhile offer to consider, I think that would happen pretty quick. I mean, there have been continuing discussions with the representatives from Laurel Park about what a realistic settlement amount could possibly be. Chairman Joe Hafner said, yeah, and I was going to say, depending on what the timeline is we could... if they don't have something in a week, I mean, that's not very far out to the next Council meeting, but we could always do a Special Called Council meeting too couldn't we? City Attorney Carol Duncan said, if we had to and could get a quorum. Chairman Joe Hafner said, yeah. Brian Richardson said, so do we want to set, I guess, Monday, try to have some information back by Monday for consideration for a potential special called meeting on Tuesday? Chairman Joe Hafner said, sounds good to me. Brian Richardson said, I guess the worst we can do is hear a no. City Attorney Carold Duncan said, right. I mean, that would be my recommendation just to give you time to go ahead and get counsel hired and get an answer filed. Timely. Because they gave us an extension just so y'all are aware. During the discussions of the offer to sell part of our negotiation was they had amended their appeal complaint. I accepted service on behalf of you guys for that, so they didn't have to expend more money serving everyone. The exchange for that was I agreed to accept that service in exchange for them extending our time to file an answer to February 1, so that we had time to deal with all of this with the holidays*

*and everything like crunching in right there together. Our answer would have already been due. So, they agreed to extend to February 1 to give us time to work through all of that.*

*Councilmember Brian Emison said, just out of curiosity, I mean, could we run this thing concurrently as if a deal wasn't coming down the pipeline. We could proceed with outside counsel, I don't know what the dollar amount would necessarily be on that. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I don't know either. You can you just incur legal expenses at that point. Councilmember Brian Emison said, at this point. Personally, I'd rather not throw good money at bad money. If there was a deal to be made, would much rather do that. But I also realize that they've kicked this thing for 30 days to go through and look at this deal. However, I don't know if they'd give us another 30 days to try to mediate between settling or... City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I would not count on that based upon my discussions. We can always ask, but I would not expect that. I pushed really hard to get February 1 instead of January 1. Councilmember Brian Emison said, thank you for your efforts.*

*Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, I would like to say this, I think it's a great discussion, but on the same token, I do want to save our taxpayers money, obviously. But I also don't want to waste money either. So, even if it takes a few more days then I'd rather take a few more days than just throw something up. Now, I was intrigued by what Councilmember Moore said the other week. Was about having this lien, I don't know how that works because all of this is very confusing, but to have this... but to have this type... When he was mentioning because we have the lien then we can kind of help navigate who purchases and all of that kind of stuff. So, I don't know if that's in this part? City Attorney Carol Duncan said, no, that was only if we purchased the property that we would have control over how it was developed and who we sold it to. Chairman Joe Hafner said, I think if we purchased what was in this we still don't own every parcel there. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, the offer to purchase was for his additional parcels, but not for the ones on Halsey. Chairman Joe Hafner said, right.*

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by David McClain, that this matter be Postponed Indefinitely . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 6 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

## **6. OTHER BUSINESS**

*Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, yes sir. I would like to mention or ask. I talked about this in, I don't know, Public Works, Public Service, I forget those names, but the timing is really tough as far as the four o'clock meetings. Have we ever had a discussion on moving this closer to City Council time or whatever? Chairman Joe Hafner said, the issue we have is we have MAPC that starts at 5:30, or 5:00, 5:30. So if we moved it back to 5:00 we would only give ourselves a 30-minute window. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, and I will say on the last meeting where it ran over, it takes a while for the system to reboot. We started MAPC like 30 minutes late, because the system has to go down, and I don't know. I don't know how that works, but they have to pull up the next meeting and get it rebooted and ready for them to vote. So I'm not sure exactly what that entails. That would be maybe an IT or maybe a you (April) question. I don't know. But I just know it took a while and we started late because the Finance meeting had ran late before. Chairman Joe Hafner said, I mean, I guess an option would be if MAPC wanted to flip spots with us but that a...*

*\*\*someone on the seat made an inaudible statement. City Clerk April Leggett said, it takes more time, I believe, for them in the back to reset than it does to reset this*

computer. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, right. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, so there are no options? Ok. Alright, I hear you. That was sarcastic. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, by the way, Councilmember Dr. Anthony, that's not the first time that's come up and still no options. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, I got you.

#### 7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road, approached the podium and said, a couple of months ago I brought up the idea of the city of Jonesboro going cashless or mostly cashless, and I think it's about time that we start implementing that in a lot of our parks and facilities. I don't know how it's done. It can't be too too hard because I think you look at, like First National Bank, is. They had their little quirks on all that for a couple of weeks, but they've got that fixed already. And I know that in the newspaper or I saw a write-up that it was when Jonesboro was taking over City Stars that one of the things was, is that they wanted them to go cashless. So I don't know if that situation with City Stars is cashless or not. But there's plenty of options that we have. You look at the high schools they do, like the Go Fans page. There's also another system that's called Core that you can have, and then also two how that can tie in to maybe to the city buses. But I think it's about time and I think the situation that the city is in right now that we look to going, maybe not totally cashless, but I think it's important that we start doing that. Especially when there's not a lot of sports being played right now, it's kind of a slow time, that maybe the IT or maybe that there's someone from the outside that can help us implement. Or we can get ideas from whoever did the First National Bank. But I think it's about time that we go because I think there's so many companies now that are doing that. So, I hope you guys can look into it. I don't know who that person is, but just to put that for the last thing for the year. And I wish you guys Happy New Year. Thank you. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I just want to say that what I've learned about sports is there's apparently never a slow season. I don't know if y'all knew that, but like there's four things going on now, I think. I thought that too Patti. I thought oh well this is a slow time we'll be able to figure all this out, but I don't think there ever is one over there. But I do know the discussions have been ongoing about that. Chairman Joe Hafner said, there's really no such thing as an off-season anymore. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I don't think so. There's so many sports now that it's all year round, is what they're telling me.

#### 8. ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 6 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman