



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Public Safety Council Committee

Tuesday, May 16, 2017

5:00 PM

Municipal Center

1. Call To Order

2. Roll Call by City Clerk Donna Jackson

Present 4 - Chris Gibson;Chris Moore;Mitch Johnson and David McClain

Absent 1 - Gene Vance

3. Approval of minutes

[MIN-17:045](#)

Minutes for the Public Safety Committee meeting on April 18, 2017

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

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

Aye: 3 - Chris Gibson;Chris Moore and David McClain

Absent: 1 - Gene Vance

4. New Business

Ordinances To Be Introduced

[ORD-17:026](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL AND ADOPT AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO TOWING SERVICES IN THE CITY OF JONESBORO

Sponsors: Mayor's Office

Councilman McClain asked if there's someone the city is contracted with right now that handles towing. Chairman Johnson answered they're on a rotation schedule that is called on from dispatch.

E-911 Director Jeff Presley explained they have about 18 services on their rotation. It's time to catch up with the state in terms of pay scale. They are working with the state board to meet that standard.

Councilman Gibson asked if that was the only change. Mr. Presley answered yes.

Councilman McClain then questioned how much the increase in rate will be. Mr. Presley stated the standard rate is \$125 and daily storage is going up to \$40. The

storage fee had been \$25 for many years. That is in line with the state. They had a meeting with the state directors, as well as the towing services to get it up to that level.

Chairman Johnson stated he has no problem with the increase, but sometimes the towing services don't pick up debris off the street and it sits there, yet the ordinance states they're supposed to take care of that. He wishes there was a way to enforce that a little better. Some companies are diligent about doing that, while others come, hook up and then they're gone.

A motion was made by Councilman Chris Gibson, seconded by Councilman Chris Moore, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 3 - Chris Gibson;Chris Moore and David McClain

Absent: 1 - Gene Vance

Resolutions To Be Introduced

RES-17:049

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS to condemn property located at 904 Belt, Owner: Charles Mabry, DBA Mabry Properties and Holdings LLC.

Attachments: [pic 1](#)
[pic 2](#)
[pic 3](#)
[pic 4](#)
[county data](#)
[Inspection report](#)
[Title search](#)

Councilman Gibson asked if there was anything out of the norm with this condemnation. Code Enforcement Officer Michael Tyner answered no. It's a vacant house with the floor and ceiling falling in.

A motion was made by Councilman Chris Gibson, seconded by Councilman Chris Moore, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 3 - Chris Gibson;Chris Moore and David McClain

Absent: 1 - Gene Vance

RES-17:057

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

Sponsors: Police Department, Streets and Engineering

Councilman Gibson asked for an update concerning the Share the Road and May Use Full Lane signs that were asked about a few weeks ago. Chairman Johnson noted he was told via email they were looking at some legalities. Chief Operations Officer Ed Tanner explained the Share the Road signs are advisory in nature. The May Use Full Lane signs are regulatory. Before something is provided to the committee, the Traffic Control Committee wanted to get a legal opinion from the city attorney's office first concerning any ramifications.

Councilman McClain clarified that with the May Use Full Lane signs a bicycle will be allowed to use a full lane of traffic. Mr. Tanner agreed. He added he thinks that's already in place, though, and that there is a three foot buffer. He's not sure if the signs are more advisory in nature. Councilman McClain stated he thinks that what the signs are for, more education for the public to watch for bicycles. Mr. Tanner noted those signs may not be the best option in some areas then. It may be more preferable to use the Share the Road signs because there is a difference between an advisory sign and a regulatory sign. They're just trying to get some more information from the city attorney's office.

A motion was made by Councilman Chris Gibson, seconded by Councilman Chris Moore, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 3 - Chris Gibson;Chris Moore and David McClain

Absent: 1 - Gene Vance

5. Pending Items

6. Other Business

Chairman Johnson stated they have three walk-ons - ORD-17:029, RES-17:059 and ORD-17:028. Councilman Gibson motioned, seconded by Councilman Moore, to suspend the rules and add those items to the agenda. No vote was taken.

RES-17:059

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH AXON CORPORATION FOR THE DEMONSTRATION AND USE OF BODY WORN CAMERAS AND THE ACCOMPANYING SOFTWARE FOR THOSE CAMERAS FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR

Sponsors: Police Department

Attachments: [AXON BWC, Field Trial Offer - Field Trial Agreement](#)

Police Chief Rick Elliott explained they are trying to get a test and evaluation period for a year for body cameras for the patrol division of the Police Department. Recently, Axon made a national offer of giving every officer in country a body camera to test and evaluate for a period of one year. He contacted the corporation, out of Scottsdale, Arizona, and fly a representative to Jonesboro from Scottsdale. There's no cost to the city for the test and evaluation period. The company will send in an engineer to work with the IT department to set up the infrastructure to accommodate the system. They will furnish all of the officers with a body camera and will provide a docking storage system so they can download all of the data into the cloud storage system they offer. The company has an outstanding software program that allows the department to do redaction in videos. When dealing with the news media, there are times a juvenile needs to be redacted out of a video. With the software, the redaction happens with a few keystrokes. Most body camera system across the country don't offer that feature. The year trial will begin from the time they receive the cameras. At the end of the test period, if the city can't afford to pay for the system then they can package everything up and send it back to the company.

Councilman McClain questioned how many cameras will be needed. Police Chief Elliott answered he requested 130 cameras. That will cover everybody in patrol and they will have a few extras.

Councilman Gibson asked how these cameras compare in costs to other systems out

there. Police Chief Elliott answered camera to camera, it's about the same. Axon offers multiple packages. They offer a lease program that include cloud storage. The premiere packages include replacement cameras every two years free of charge and replacement Tasers every five years also free of charge. So, if the city goes with the ultimate package the city will get 130 cameras and Tasers. With the cameras, if you can get two and half years out of them before the internal battery starts failing then you're doing good. Cost per camera is about \$500, which is about what you'd pay for with anybody else. For the city, the software is the key selling point. He can buy cheap cameras all day long. But, it would take hiring someone to take care of the video. With this system, it's easier. The trial period allows time for the Council to see the technology, so in a year's time when it's time to purchase the equipment the city has done its due diligence. Right now, they've tested 13 difference camera companies since he's been chief. They tested this camera system with this company about two years ago, but in that time their system and software has improved greatly.

Councilman McClain asked how long it will take the city to receive the cameras if the resolution is forwarded. Police Chief Elliott answered, that is the key. There's a lot of agencies taking advantage of the offer. The company representative is flying into Arkansas next week to meet with West Memphis. If the contract can be approved soon and put into the process, the company would like Jonesboro to be deployed by September. Councilman Gibson clarified the resolution needs to be walked on to tonight's Council agenda. Police Chief Elliott answered yes. The longer we wait, the more opportunity other cities have to get ahead of us. There's also some pre-work that has to be done before anything can be shipped. Their IT guys have to communicate with our IT department. Cabling has to be run. It won't burden the city's servers since they will be using the company's servers for cloud service. Their cloud service is complaint with federal standards.

Councilman Moore asked who will own the content of the videos during the one year trial. Police Chief Elliott answered the city will. At the end of the contract, the data can be downloaded back to a city server. They will set the data up so that it works like other data in that it's kept for a certain amount of days and then is dumped off the system. Critical information is kept longer than just contact with an individual.

A motion was made by Councilman Chris Gibson, seconded by Councilman David McClain, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Chris Gibson;Chris Moore and David McClain

Absent: 1 - Gene Vance

ORD-17:028

AN ORDINANCE TO WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT RIFLES FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Sponsors: Police Department

Police Chief Elliott explained this is a purchase of rifles that exceed the allowed \$20,000 purchase, which is why it is being presented to the City Council. He is using drug seizure money to buy the rifles. Taxpayer money is not being used. It will supplement the department's rifle inventory. They have been dealing with this company for several years and the rifles have finally become available. The rifles are currently on hold for a limited time. There's a limited number and the company won't have more imported until after the first of the year. He asked if this could be walked on to the City Council agenda tonight. This purchase will not affect his budget since it's coming out of federal asset money.

Councilman Moore asked what kind of rifles they are. Police Chief Elliott answered

they are fully automatic FN Scars with a 223 caliber. They are piston driven, which is typically more reliable. They are a little more expensive than the AR platform, but they're more compact, more serviceable and more reliable. The sole source bid is due to there being only one vendor for this brand in this part of the country. He can't go to another FN dealer in another part of the country because it's proprietary to the region.

A motion was made by Councilman Chris Gibson, seconded by Councilman Chris Moore, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Chris Gibson;Chris Moore and David McClain

Absent: 1 - Gene Vance

ORD-17:029

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO AMEND THE 2017 E911 FUND BUDGET IN ORDER TO UPGRADE THE CURRENT MAPPING LICENSE FOR PUBLIC SAFETY DISPATCHING & FIELD UNITS

Sponsors: E911

Mr. Presley explained this is the integration they use to dispatch police, fire and medical. It ties in with their automatic vehicle locating system. They reached their limitations this year with the existing license. In order to add imagery with the police cars and have the integration, they are going to upgrade to an enterprise license which will be for the field units and E-911.

Councilman Moore asked if it was a budgeted item for 2017. Mr. Presley answered no. At the beginning of the year, they weren't aware they had reached their limit with the license. In order to upgrade the software, they will have to upgrade the license.

Councilman McClain questioned whether this has anything to do with cell phones. Mr. Presley answered yes, it will add the capabilities throughout the existing GIS centerlines, street files, address point files to the dispatch console and will be shared with police cars and fire trucks. Right now, they just have a straight-line map and when they dispatch the closest unit it's just as the crow flies. So they're not having a true closet unit dispatch. This system will outline the closet route, best route for what unit is responding along with the address point file. Councilman Moore asked if that will also include the ambulance services. Mr. Presley answered yes.

Chairman Johnson stated this should decrease response time by giving more accurate routes. Mr. Presley agreed. It will help the field units a lot and be a great tool for the citizens. They can cross-reference cell phone coordinates and get the closest police car, fire truck or ambulance. Right now they don't have that capability.

A motion was made by Councilman Chris Moore, seconded by Councilman Chris Gibson, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Chris Gibson;Chris Moore and David McClain

Absent: 1 - Gene Vance

7. Public Comments

8. Adjournment

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

Aye: 3 - Chris Gibson;Chris Moore and David McClain

Absent: 1 - Gene Vance