



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, August 4, 2015

5:30 PM

Municipal Center

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

PUBLIC HEARING AT 5:20 P.M.

David Yates, 608 Melton Circle, spoke on behalf of the owners of the property near where the abandonment is being requested. The property he is speaking on behalf of consists of the Revenue Department and the Southwest Business Center. Mr. Yates is the administrator of the LLC that owns those properties. He stated the Revenue Department will be most affected by the abandonment. There are 120,000 customers that go to that office, not including those that are helped by the kiosk and the driver's control office that is located in the same building. They are concerned about the access to Highland Drive being closed, forcing customers to go in and out of the property solely off of Southwest Drive. Mr. Yates noted he found out about the abandonment from reading about it in the Jonesboro Sun. They were not asked about concurrence and do not concur with the abandonment.

Suzanne Hinson, 2604 Cottonwood, also spoke concerning the abandonment. Her parents own land next to Bennett's Nursery. The property is being rented and has rear access through the street that is being proposed for the abandonment. They already have very little access to the rear of their property due to the ditch washing out and needing to be cleaned.

John Perry, an engineer with Kimley-Horn, discussed the abandonment. He stated CVS Pharmacy is excited about entering the market in Jonesboro and he doesn't think it would be limited to just one store. There is a possibility for more than one store in the city. He noted the abandonment will only be for a portion of Madison Street and will not cut off access from Madison to Southwest Drive. The property was chosen because it is a good location with a lot of traffic. The building will run parallel to Highland Drive due to drainage issues that prevented them from running it parallel to Southwest Drive. He explained the ditch that they have discussed with the city the ditch Mrs. Hinson referred to. They plan to clean up the ditch and open it up some to satisfy detention requirements.

Councilman Street clarified that the northern portion of Madison Street will be totally closed off. Mr. Perry answered yes, the CVS store would lay across the right-of-way. Councilman Street asked if traffic counts have been done on that portion of Madison Street to see how many vehicles would be affected. Mr. Perry answered no.

Councilman Street then asked if they also own the Harp's Store property to the west of the abandonment. Mr. Perry answered yes. Councilman Street questioned whether CVS would be willing to open up that portion of the property to allow access from Highland Drive. Mr. Perry stated that would be a possibility.

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION**3. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK DONNA JACKSON**

Present 11 - Darrel Dover; Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Tim McCall; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Rennell Woods; Charles Coleman and Todd Burton

Absent 1 - Chris Moore

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

COM-15:035 Update from Executive Director Kristi Pulliam of the Foundation of Arts

Sponsors: Mayor's Office

Attachments: [Presentation](#)

Ms. Pulliam discussed the Foundation of Arts. She thanked the Mayor for allocating extra funding for improvements at the Forum this year. She also presented the Mayor with a drawing of the Forum Theater by one of their artists.

This item was Filed.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Councilman Chris Gibson, seconded by Councilman Rennell Woods, to Approve the Consent Agenda. The motioned PASSED

Aye: 11 - Darrel Dover; Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Tim McCall; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Rennell Woods; Charles Coleman and Todd Burton

Absent: 1 - Chris Moore

MIN-15:072 Minutes for the City Council meeting on July 21, 2015

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

MIN-15:073 Minutes for the special called City Council meeting on July 23, 2015

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

RES-15:106 A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH BANCORP SOUTH FOR SPONSORSHIP OF ONE SCOREBOARD SIGN AT SOUTHSIDE SOFTBALL COMPLEX

Sponsors: Parks & Recreation

Attachments: [Bancorp South.pdf](#)

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-099-2015

RES-15:107

A RESOLUTION TO REQUEST FREE UTILITIES AT GREENWAY SIGN

Sponsors: Parks & Recreation

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-100-2015

RES-15:108

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH JUNIOR AUXILIARY FOR SPONSORSHIP OF AN OUTFIELD SIGN AT SOUTHSIDE SOFTBALL COMPLEX

Sponsors: Parks & Recreation

Attachments: [Junior Auxiliary.pdf](#)

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-101-2015

RES-15:111

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR'S SALARY RECOMMENDATION FOR THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE SALARY SCHEDULE AND ADMINISTRATION POLICY

Sponsors: Mayor's Office

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-102-2015

RES-15:114

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO APPLY FOR THE FY 2016 PARKS AND TOURISM TRAILS FOR LIFE GRANT

Sponsors: Grants

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-103-2015

6. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

ORD-15:036

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO AMEND THE CONTRACT WITH THE NATIONWIDE DEFERRED COMPENSATION VOLUNTARY PLAN

Sponsors: Finance and Human Resources

Attachments: [Nationwide 457 \(b\) contract](#)

Councilman Dover offered the ordinance for first reading by title only.

Mayor Perrin explained the ordinance will allow the employees to hire an investment advisor through the company at the employee's expense. He added they sign up for the service when the company visits each year. The city has nothing to do with it; rather, the employees deal straight with the company.

Councilman Street asked if this was an urgent matter. Mayor Perrin answered no.

A motion was made by Councilman Darrel Dover, seconded by Councilman Chris Gibson, to Waive Second Reading . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 11 - Darrel Dover; Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Tim McCall; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Rennell Woods; Charles Coleman and Todd Burton

Absent: 1 - Chris Moore

ORD-15:037

AN ORDINANCE ABANDONING AND VACATING A PORTION OF MADISON STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY LOCATED IN:

Commencing at the recognized and accepted Northeast corner of the Northwest Quarter of Section 30, Township 14 North, Range 4 East, City of Jonesboro, Craighead County, Arkansas; thence West a distance of 604.33 feet to a point; thence South 39.16 feet to a point in the proposed south line of West Highland Avenue (40 feet from centerline) said point being in the east line of Madison Street and being the true point of beginning; thence South 00 degrees 55 minutes 23 seconds West with the east line of Madison Street and the west line of the Porter property as described in Book 278 Page 164 and Book 227 Page 86 a distance of 246.92 feet to a point; thence North 89 degrees 04 minutes 37 seconds West a distance of 60.00 feet to a point in the east line of the Harp's Food Stores, Inc. property as described in Instrument JB2011R 018805 and being the west line of Madison Street; thence North 00 degrees 55 minutes 23 seconds East with the east line of Harp's Food Stores, Inc. property a distance of 246.36 feet to a point in the proposed south line of West Highland Avenue; thence South 89 degrees 36 minutes 45 seconds east with the south line of proposed West Highland Avenue a distance of 60.00 feet to the point of beginning and containing 14,798 square feet

Attachments: [Plat](#)
[Petitions](#)
[Utility Letters](#)
[Engineering & Planning Letter](#)

Councilman Gibson offered the ordinance for first reading by title only.

Councilman Street asked that the ordinance be held at one reading so the company can get a traffic count done on Madison Street. He also would like to know if the company would consider moving the street as an alternative because he doesn't think the city can afford to shut the street off. Mayor Perrin stated the Engineering Department will do the traffic count on Madison.

John Perry, an engineer from Kimley-Horn, stated a representative of the developers is also in attendance. They discussed rerouting the street and are concerned about

the financial feasibility of rerouting Madison Street. But, they will wait on the traffic count results.

This ordinance was Held at one reading.

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

RES-15:124

RESOLUTION TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE ABANDONMENT OF A PORTION OF AN EXISTING DRAINAGE EASEMENT EAST OF THE PROPERTY LINE OF LOT 1 OF THE VILLAGE AT SAGE MEADOWS PHASE II MINOR PLAT AS REQUESTED BY DAVID ONSTEAD

Attachments: [Plat](#)
 [Utility Letters](#)
 [Petition](#)
 [Engineering & Planning Dept. Letter](#)

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

Aye: 11 - Darrel Dover;Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Tim McCall;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Rennell Woods;Charles Coleman and Todd Burton

Absent: 1 - Chris Moore

Enactment No: R-EN-104-2015

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Perrin reported on the following items:

Mayor Perrin commended the efforts of the Fire Department for their work at the recent fire on Union Street. He expressed appreciation for being able to save other properties near the burned building.

The Fire Marshal is looking at the building that was involved in the fire. They have put up a fence around the property and have opened Union Street again. A structural engineer from Nationwide is looking at the property. They are trying to determine how to safely perform a demolition on the property while protecting the nearby buildings.

The World Series at Joe Mack Campbell Park will start this weekend. Opening ceremonies will be Friday night. Eight to ten states will be represented in the tournament. He thanked the Parks Department and Street Departments for their work to get Joe Mack ready.

\$24 million worth of building permits were issued in June. 82% was in commercial, while the remaining was residential.

The city has overlayed over 6.85 miles year to date. They have also striped 112 miles with a goal of 250 miles.

They received a letter commending Officer Owens in the Animal Control Department.

They also received a letter from a property owner on Johnson Avenue thanking the Sanitation Department for their help collecting their trash.

First United Methodist Church thanked Sgt. Larry Rogers for showing their congregation around the Animal Control Department. The city will be working with this regarding dog obedience school.

Last week the congressional delegation did not fix the Highway Department funding problem. They just offered a fix for 90 days and will look at the issue after their recess. Mayor Perrin anticipates a three-year plan with three-year funding. But, they did bill the city for the city's portion of the roundabout project. He does not anticipate getting any more bills.

Roundabout construction will start in September after school starts. They will try to get the project done as soon as possible.

The Caraway Bridge project is moving forward. They will be moving traffic to the new bridge. They estimate being totally complete with the project in September.

Mayor Perrin discussed the recent loses in personnel by the city. He noted Chief Financial Officer Ben Barylske will be leaving to take a position with NEA Baptist. That is in addition to the recent resignation of Grants Administrator Heather Clark. Mayor Perrin stated a process is in place to keep things going and the next people to step into those positions will have it easier than Mr. Barylske and Mrs. Clark had it when they started. He thanked them for their work for the city. Over 20 applicants applied for the grants administrator position which was then narrowed down to six. They hope to announce a new grants administrator within the next week. The chief financial officer position advertisement will start tomorrow.

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

The Council members thanked Mr. Barylske for his service to the city.

Councilman Gibson noted the City Council has completed the portion of the policy audit that dealt with policy changes. They will be meeting again to ensure everything is covered before presenting it to the Council. They are anticipating an October deadline.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Barylske thanked the Council members for the opportunity to work for the city.

11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Mitch Johnson, seconded by Councilman Darrel Dover, that this meeting be Adjourned . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 11 - Darrel Dover; Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Tim McCall; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Rennell Woods; Charles Coleman and Todd Burton

Absent: 1 - Chris Moore

_____ Date: _____

Harold Perrin, Mayor

Attest:

_____ Date: _____

Donna Jackson, City Clerk