



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, December 21, 2021

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING AT 4:30 P.M.

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

SPECIAL CALLED NOMINATING & RULES COMMITTEE MEETING AT 5:20 P.M.

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

3. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

Present 11 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain and Brian Emison

Absent 1 - LJ Bryant

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Moore, seconded by Councilperson Chris Gibson, to Approve the Consent Agenda. The motioned PASSED

Aye: 11 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain and Brian Emison

Absent: 1 - LJ Bryant

[MIN-21:108](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON DECEMBER 7, 2021

Attachments: [CC Minutes 12072021](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-21:280](#) A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL RIGHT-OF-WAY AT 617 AND 621 CREATH AVENUE FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

Sponsors: Engineering

Attachments: [Offer and Acceptance - 617 and 621 Creath Avenue](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-21:281](#) A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL RIGHT-OF-WAY AT 1005 CREATH AVENUE FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

Sponsors: Engineering

Attachments: [Offer and Acceptance - 1005 Creath Avenue](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-21:282](#) A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL RIGHT-OF-WAY AT 1099 CREATH AVENUE FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

Sponsors: Engineering

Attachments: [Offer and Acceptance - 1099 Creath Avenue](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-21:283](#) A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL RIGHT-OF-WAY AT 1007 CREATH AVENUE FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

Sponsors: Engineering

Attachments: [Offer and Acceptance - 1007 Creath Avenue](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-21:292](#) RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, CERTIFYING LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENDORSEMENT OF BUSINESS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TAX BACK PROGRAM (AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 15-4-2706(d) OF THE CONSOLIDATED INCENTIVE ACT OF 2003).

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-21:293](#) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO ENTER INTO A TWO YEAR LEASE CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF A SANITATION KNUCKLEBOOM TRUCK

Sponsors: Sanitation and Finance

Attachments: [City of Jonesboro \(3\) 12.1.2021](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

RESOLUTIONS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

[RES-21:296](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO AMEND THE CITY SALARY AND ADMINISTRATION PLAN BY INCLUDING UPDATED PAY RANGES, JOB TITLES AND GRADES

Sponsors: Mayor's Office, Finance and Human Resources

Attachments: [2022 Job Titles by Grade](#)

Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road. Looking at the information that I have, it looks like that everybody's salary is going to be increasing from the minimum, midpoint, and maximum point. Today I was kind of looking at the salaries and I thought, I wonder what they will be increased by, I know that we have seen in the local paper that it's going to be by 4%, with the 2% step increase on that. I just took one position out, and I don't know whose position this is in the city, the position is the finance manager. My thoughts were I wondered what happened last year with this position and last year the finance manager went from a grade 116 to a 119 and received an increase. This person he or she started out at, say a minimum of \$41,000 to a maximum of \$61,000, but after last year with that increase he or she moved to a minimum of \$49,000 to a maximum of \$73,000. With the increase that we have here keeping it at the grade 119 this position now from last year, starting out at \$41,000 minimum goes to \$50,000 minimum with a maximum of \$75,000 with the maximum of last year being \$61,900. That is a pretty big increase for this position, and when I started looking at the newspaper and the articles about the budget, about how we need to have more police officers here, I looked at their salary too. The maximum for a police officer is \$52,000. My question to you is how do we justify the increase of a finance manager positions pay by approximately \$11,000 in one year, but we are having a problem keeping our police officers, getting more police officers and giving them enough pay that they stay here. I am conflicted on this, this person may be doing a great job, but is that job worth that much when I compare what a police officer makes, and that is where my concern is, and I think a lot of people are concerned about this. So, I was wondering if someone could just explain why this large of an increase is for overall? Mayor Copenhagen explained to Ms. Lack that this is a continued effort and I'll be addressing that later as we move forward. I'll just say here our due diligence within this new administration is to take an overview of the entire footprint of the city's employees. Number one we have to be competitive, there are a lot of services that benefits the employees as well. You have COLA, you have retirement, you have health insurance, ARPA funding, there are all types of resources, but as we move forward it's just not a salary sometimes, there's always overtime availability, there's other things that are available as well. The intent is to keep our employees, this is what we have done with this budget moving forward. This is the first time that every employee will get a 4% increase in salary. We can address this if you would like, Steve and I would be happy to get you a full item of each one of these, this is the system that was approved in 2016. We are also addressing Chief Miller and Chief Elliott's concerns. I provided them with an e-mail last week, and we are going to be addressing moving forward, looking at comparability structure on salaries for our first responders. Ms. Lack said, overall I know that the city, not just Jonesboro has been getting money for COVID relief, as

well as different types of grants, I also know that there was a grant that Jonesboro did not get. Kudo's to our city that we can give the 4% increase, but you never know what is going to happen next year, are we going to continue getting the money and is the money going to be there. Mayor Copenhaver said, so you have lead right into that, and that is the whole point we have to be fiscally conservative, we can only do it one step at a time, we just can't take that big step all at once, we can't use all of our resources at once. We all have been working together, all of the department heads are in agreeance with this budget, including both chiefs as well.

Councilmember Joe Hafner asked if he could make a comment on this as well. I haven't had time to go back and read them in detail just yet. The one that Ms. Lack just happened to pick, (finance manager) was something that was discussed at the Finance meeting on December 29, 2020. There is some discussion in the minutes on that, about the Finance Director and how duties have changed within that position. I did not read it in detail, I'm sure if I looked at the next council meeting minutes in January of 2021, there would probably be additional information on that position that she just happened to pick. If I remember correctly that was one that got regraded because the change in job duties to that position and the performance. I would just recommend that you look at those minutes, it provides more detail.

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

Aye: 11 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and Brian Emison

Absent: 1 - LJ Bryant

[RES-21:297](#)

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF A BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, FOR THE TWELVE (12) MONTHS BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2022 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022, APPROPRIATING MONEY FOR EACH ITEM OF EXPENDITURE THEREIN PROVIDED FOR; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Sponsors: Mayor's Office and Finance

Attachments: [2022 Budget](#)
[Jonesboro Budget 2022 Revised \[Read-Only\]](#)

Mayor Harold Copenhaver commented that this has been a trying first year, it's been exciting, we've had a lot of issues go on in the community, from weather, and other things. I think that we've handled it extremely well, and that is because of the quality of people we have working in the city. What you have before you is the budget resolution. This is a product of months of hard work, a lot of due diligence has been put into this. It's a thoughtful presentation, our offices worked diligently with the finance department director, he is a caring individual, he takes pride in his work and I am proud to call him our CFO. I am also proud to say that this is a balanced budget, it's a transparent budget and it is a budget that invest in all of our employees, who work tirelessly every day to provide city services. It is a budget that invest in much needed equipment to improve our city's efficiency, and it is a transparent itemized budget, a reader friendly budget, that provides extensive detail of the city's use of tax payer's dollars. You as a city council earlier in the year passed ARPA funding for almost \$2,000,000, and with that we have been able to relieve stresses and invest in the police, fire and e-911 departments and we continue to do so with this budget. These are long time needed provisions that we need for our city employees, a quality of place investment for the

city of Jonesboro and the residents. We continue to dedicate funding to projects that we created in the past years, but we've got to see those through to completion. We are tripling sidewalk funding, doubling street overlay investment, and increasing funding for needed street and drainage projects from \$100,000 in 2020 to \$750,000 in this budget. I will say that no department received all of what they ask for, and no reasonable budget can solve every issue, But, I am proud of our department leaders for identifying the needs that they needed as their priorities. They highlighted by their number one commitment to the safety and quality of being here in Jonesboro. Investing in our city assets and equipment is key to continue to provide services to a first class city. We have to provide our services for, and above and beyond for our residents because they've now come to expect those services. In an effort to increase further transparency we have included an item by item fixed asset of a capital improvement schedule in your budget. This document represents a budgeting philosophy that large projects requiring significant investment should be considered on their own merit. Among the list of priority projects that may merit council approval might be a new fire station, caraway road expansion to fox meadow, and a shooting sports complex clubhouse, a citywide comprehensive planning departmental study, and broadband infrastructure.

Further clarity of the ARPA funding, State appropriations as well, additional grant opportunities and revenue bonds may also be a source for funding these projects. I feel that this approach will allow for more accurate cost forecasting and better project detail input resulting in further positive stewardship of the tax payer dollars. I would like to thank our exemplary city staff, department heads, finance department, and my administrative team for their shared vision, effort, and dedication in reflecting my fiscally conservative principals in management of tax payer dollars. I would also like to thank you, the city council, for carefully helping manage city funds to allow for these types of critical investments in our city equipment and providing the financial ability to hire the finest employees, officers and firefighters in the State of Arkansas. By continuing to work together I have no doubt that Jonesboro's future is both bright and exciting. It is my honor and duty this evening to present to you our 2022 budget, and I hope that you will appreciate the thoughtful dedication by all of the departments that created a purposeful, and reasonable budget.

Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road, Jonesboro. Earlier today I sent all of the councilmembers an e-mail requesting one thing. I gave a time-line of my face-book 280-page about the process of the budget. I stated that there were two working session meetings, one was a special called finance meeting that I was unable to attend, and now this meeting here with you giving your presentation tonight. One thing that I would like to ask of all of you is to table this for two weeks, because right now we are in the holiday season, and you can tell by the number of people here. I think it's only fair to the people that they have the time to look at the budget and if it is reader friendly it will be appreciated because it makes it so much easier for people to understand. I was talking to Councilmember John Street before the meeting, talking about how people have access to the budget on legistar, and on social media, and that is true, but not a lot of people go to legistar or use social media. The thing is we have to make this thing available to as many people as possible, so we can see it also too. With that being said I hope that we can table it for two-weeks, we know that it doesn't have to be passed until the end of January. I agree with Mr. Street when he said that we elected all of you to make the correct decisions. But, we the citizens need that opportunity to see what the budget is.

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

Aye: 11 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and Brian Emison

Absent: 1 - LJ Bryant

6. NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION TO BE INTRODUCED

[RES-21:301](#)

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO REQUESTING APPROVAL OF THE BUDGET FOR THE CRAIGHEAD COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL AUTHORITY (CCSWDA) AS OUTLINED IN ACT 677 OF 2021

Sponsors: City Council

Attachments: [12.21.2021 CCSWDA Judge And Mayors 2022 Budget to approve HB1688](#)

Councilmember Joe Hafner stated that he understood this to be a new state law. The city and county will review and accept the Craighead County Solid Waste Disposal Authority's budget in which their Board as already approved. Councilmember Long really didn't understand the logic of this either.

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

Aye: 11 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and Brian Emison

Absent: 1 - LJ Bryant

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-21:053](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND DIVISION 3 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES TO CORRECT AND CLARIFY THE DUTIES OF THE CITY CLERK

Sponsors: City Clerk

Attachments: [city clerk ord changes 2021](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-21:053 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

[ORD-21:055](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM I-2 TO I-1 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED ON NEIL CIRCLE

- Attachments:** [Neil Circle - Staff Summary - City Council Application](#)
[Neil Circle Rezoning](#)
[Rezoning Plat 20211112](#)
[Rezoning Plat](#)
[Certified Mail Receipt](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-21:055 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

[ORD-21:056](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 209 BETTIE DRIVE

- Attachments:** [Staff Summary - Bettie Drive - City Council](#)
[Sample Floor Plans, Elevations](#)
[Boundary Sketch](#)
[Boundary Survey](#)
[Site Plan](#)
[Traffic Study Report](#)
[Utility Information](#)
[Application](#)
[Material Book](#)
[Neighborhood Meeting Flyer 12.3.2021](#)
[Neighborhood Meeting Minutes](#)
[ReZone Application 11.30.2021](#)
[Agenda 12.10.2021](#)

Councilmember Bobby Long motioned, seconded by Councilmember Joe Hafner, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-21:056 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[ORD-21:049](#)

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

Sponsors: Engineering

Held at second reading

ITEMS THAT HAVE BEEN HELD IN COUNCIL

[RES-21:272](#)

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CONDITIONAL USE REQUEST FOR RIVER ADVERTISING, 2701 PAULA DRIVE, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

Attachments: [Letter of Request for Appeal Hearing on CU Application](#)
[Narrative](#)
[Site Plan](#)
[Staff Summary - 2701 Paula Drive](#)
[Aerial View](#)
[Photo - Current View from East](#)
[Photo - Current View from West](#)
[Photo - Location](#)
[Adjoining Property Owner Notification](#)
[Certified Mail Receipt](#)
[Minutes for 10-26-21](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Joe Hafner, seconded by Councilperson Chris Moore, that this matter be Postponed Indefinitely . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 11 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and Brian Emison

Absent: 1 - LJ Bryant

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

I'm proud to say that as of today two people have been placed in the Veteran's Village. I want to commend the hard work that Regina Burkett and her staff have done. This was a moving day, this is a project that we really didn't know how it would end, and today, again, with the help of the grants department as well as other departments within the city it came to fruition. This provides opportunities for those who sacrificed much of their time for our country.

I want to say "thank you" to all of the community, from the contractor's to the personal residents, and to the businesses who also helped on this project as well. We have been talking about all of the good things that have been done by the Youth Council. The word empower was a word that I used to impress upon our Youth Council for the City of Jonesboro. Due to the recent storms we had, they empowered themselves and raised funds and organized two food relief missions for tornado victims and first responders. After hearing of their efforts Good Morning America contacted our office and we are in the process of arranging an interview and you will see that interview between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. in the morning. I can't say enough about our first responders here in the city, I had met with them earlier in the day today, even though our city was not impacted by the tornado's that devastated neighboring towns, they mobilized in minutes after the storm and provided immediate relief for those towns emergency employees. Again, I commend them for their bravery and commitment.

We received word today that our Airports Commission request for flights to Nashville have been approved and will be subsidized by more than two-million dollars a year for the next four years. Starting in March we will have twelve roundtrip flights to St. Louis and six to Nashville each week. That is progress, and it is important that we use these flights because this is how we keep Air Choice-1 here and we expect to add future services in our community.

Christmas at the Park and Winter Wonderland has been a great success again, and this year we had the biggest turnout for Joy Fest, I think our winter celebration is only the beginning of what we can do in the future.

[COM-21:057](#)

JONESBORO AIRPORT COMMISSION FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE MONTH ENDING OCTOBER 31, 2021

Sponsors: Municipal Airport Commission

Attachments: [JAC Jonesboro Airport Financials 10_21](#)

Filed

[COM-21:058](#)

OCTOBER 2021 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Sponsors: Finance

Attachments: [Sales Tax Report \(Combined\) October 2021](#)
[Schedule of Changes in F.B. and Required Reserve Report October 2021](#)
[Schedule of Fixed Asset and Cap. Imp. Detail October 2021](#)
[Schedule of O&M Departmental Overview October 2021](#)
[Schedule of Revenue vs. Expense October 2021](#)
[State Turnback Report \(Combined\) October 2021](#)
[Deposit Collateralization Report October 2021](#)
[Financials Overview October 2021](#)
[Highway Sales Tax Report October 2021](#)

Filed

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember John Street stated that he would just like to thank Mayor Copenhaver for his hard work and dedication, I know that you have put in a lot of hard hours, and I'll echo what you said about the city staff, I don't think there is a city anywhere in this state that they couldn't stand up to. I am very proud of the work they do for everyone here in the city.

Councilmember Mitch Johnson echoed Mr. Streets in stating that he appreciates working with all of the councilmembers and all of the employees.

Councilmember Joe Hafner wished everyone a Merry Christmas. I think we have made progress, but there are still some areas that we need to improve upon and hopefully each year we will continue to make strides of improvement.

Councilmember Bobby Long commented, we have a community that we should be extremely proud of and he also wished everyone a Merry Christmas. Even though we may not always agree on things I am very pleased to serve on this council with each and every one on it.

Councilmember Chris Moore also commented on Air Choice-1. I'm not a flyer, I don't like to fly. But, I have flown on Air Choice-1 to St. Louis and that is the most convenient trip, it's affordable and I assume it will be the same flying to Nashville. I'm excited to hear that there are two people staying at the Veteran's Village. Who is the contact person for the Veteran's Village, this is something that we need to publicize so that people know how or who to contact.

Community Development Coordinator Regina Burkett said that Linda Nash with the BECK Pride Center will be screening Veterans who need placement at the Veteran's Village. They can also contact me for her information. Councilmember Moore asked for that information to be placed on the City's web-site.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman thanked the city employees who donated to the children in our community. We stuffed a lot of gift boxes with toys and had a very successful Sunday giveaway for a number of families in our community. If my numbers are correct we had about 142-vehicles that showed up, and we gave up to 350 individual toys to those in need. Mayor Copenhaver thanked Dr. Coleman for his dedication.

Councilmember Brian Emison stated that it's a great day to be in Jonesboro. Everything that I have heard here tonight echo's that. It's great because of everyone here in this room and because of all of the citizens too. I am so excited to hear more about the Youth Council in the upcoming year and being key members of our society. I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and look forward to Jonesboro having even more success in 2022.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

David Stout, 923 Park Avenue, Jonesboro. I just wanted to bring up a couple of points. I want to tell the council and the Mayor and all of his staff that I appreciate the work that has gone into the budget. Like I mentioned in the Finance Committee I applaud you all for having a balanced budget, it is a very, very difficult task especially in these times, I appreciate the work that has gone into it. I want to congratulate the Veterans Village also, I, being a Veteran I fully appreciate what they have done, I know all of the people that have been involved in it and they have worked very, very hard. It is also great news for our Airport and I hope they add more places to the list in the future. As far as the salaries and the stuff that you had talked about coming up for the new year, I appreciate the fact that we are going to do that and I appreciate you going on record tonight about that as well as the e-mails that you sent out to all of the chiefs, that was forwarded to the department about going forward with that. I applaud you going on record for that and stating that salaries will be addressed in the New Year. I look forward to working for the city in 2022, you all know that I work for the Police Department, I have been here for 14-years and I am not planning on going anywhere for at least six years because I love my job, and the citizens of Jonesboro.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 11 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and Brian Emison

Absent: 1 - LJ Bryant

_____ Date: _____

Harold Copenhaver, Mayor

Attest:

_____ Date: _____

April Leggett, City Clerk