



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, April 4, 2023

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

PUBLIC WORKS COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING AT 5:00 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 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Absent 1 - Ann Williams

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 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

[MIN-23:028](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MARCH 21, 2023

Attachments: [CC Minutes 03212023](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

[RES-23:062](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXECUTION AND MAINTENANCE OF A LETTER OF CREDIT TO BE ISSUED TO THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT, DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (DEQ)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-079-2023

[RES-23:063](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO APPLY FOR THE FY2023 BODY-WORN CAMERA POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM TO SUPPORT LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES THROUGH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-080-2023

[RES-23:064](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FY23 BUSES AND BUS FACILITIES GRANT PROGRAM.

Attachments: [FY23 Bus Stop Budget](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-081-2023

[RES-23:065](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FY23 LOW OR NO EMISSION GRANT PROGRAM.

Attachments: [FY23 Low-No Budget](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-082-2023

6. NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS NOT ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

[RES-23:067](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO ACQUIRE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 101 WEST FORREST FROM THE PROPERTY OWNER, TOM GAMBILL

Attachments: [101 W. Forrest & 100-102 W. Woodrow - Appraisal](#)
[Donation Application - Signed](#)
[Donation Properties Location](#)
[Land Bank Minutes - November 8, 2022](#)

Councilmember Chris Moore asked, is that adjoining the other city property that we own? Senior Planner Monica Pearcy said, this property and the two following are adjoined, but they are separate from any other city properties. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, thank you.

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

Aye: 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

Enactment No: R-EN-083-2023

[RES-23:068](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO ACQUIRE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 102 WOODROW FROM THE PROPERTY OWNER, TOM GAMBILL

Attachments: [101 W. Forrest & 100-102 W. Woodrow - Appraisal](#)
 [Donation Application - Signed](#)
 [Donation Properties Location](#)
 [Land Bank Minutes - November 8, 2022](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Gibson, seconded by Councilperson Brian Emison, that this matter be Passed. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

Enactment No: R-EN-084-2023

[RES-23:069](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO ACQUIRE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 100 WOODROW FROM THE PROPERTY OWNER, TOM GAMBILL

Attachments: [101 W. Forrest & 100-102 W. Woodrow - Appraisal](#)
 [Donation Application - Signed](#)
 [Donation Properties Location](#)
 [Land Bank Minutes - November 8, 2022](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Gibson, seconded by Councilperson Brian Emison, that this matter be Passed. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

Enactment No: R-EN-085-2023

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-23:010](#)

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

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-23:010 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[ORD-23:011](#) AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE AND ABANDON OF A PORTION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY ALONG JUDY STREET AS REQUESTED BY HALSEY REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS, LLC AND MCP INVESTMENTS, LLC.

Attachments: [Petition](#)
[Plat](#)
[Letters](#)
[Resolution](#)

Held at second reading

[ORD-23:013](#) AN ORDINANCE FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR UNBREAKABLE, INC., d/b/a CASA BLANCA MEXICAN GRILL TO BE LOCATED AT 3410 EAST JOHNSON AVE., SUITE C, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

Attachments: [Unbreakable, Inc Application Redacted](#)

James Elwin Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, said, I want to ask a question. I don't expect you all to answer out loud. Do you all know where 3410 E. Johnson is? For anybody that does not know, it is where Highway 351 also known as Old Greensboro Road connects with U.S. 49. That is a highly problem traffic area. There's some things doing widening there on Old Greensboro Road and hopefully the bypass. But, folks, that is one of our traffic problem areas in Jonesboro. And, it is not wise to put liquor in that location. By the way, I have a question to ask. Have you all ever considered as a requirement for approving private club permits to ask those clubs to present their minutes and attendance records for their past, say six months, to see if these clubs even exist because I think most of you know these private clubs or most of them are legal fiction. They don't actually exist anywhere except on the paperwork. Mayor Copenhaver said, I appreciate your comments.

Held at second reading

[ORD-23:014](#) AN ORDINANCE FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR ELM STREET CENTER, INC., d/b/a ELM STREET SPORTS CLUB TO BE LOCATED AT FIRST NATIONAL BANK ARENA, 217 OLYMPIC DR., JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

Attachments: [Elm Street Center, Inc. Application Redacted](#)
[Publication Receipt](#)

Held at second reading

[ORD-23:015](#) AN ORDINANCE FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR AGGIE ROAD CENTER, INC., d/b/a AGGIE ROAD SPORTS CLUB TO BE LOCATED AT TOMLINSON STADIUM, 208 OLYMPIC DR., JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

Attachments: [Aggie Road Center, Inc. Application Redacted](#)
[Publication Receipt](#)

Held at second reading*ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING*[ORD-23:006](#)

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

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

Aye: 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

Enactment No: O-EN-010-2023

[ORD-23:007](#)

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

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

Aye: 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

Enactment No: O-EN-011-2023

[ORD-23:009](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE JONESBORO CODE OF ORDINANCES TO UPDATE ADMINISTRATIVE FEES CHARGED BY THE CITY IN THE CORRECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL DEFICIENCIES IN THE CITY OF JONESBORO

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

Aye: 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

Enactment No: O-EN-012-2023

[ORD-23:012](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL AND C-3 GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT TO CR-1 COMMERCIAL RESIDENCE MIXED USE DISTRICT FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4902 AND 4904 E. HIGHLAND DRIVE, JONESBORO, AR AS REQUESTED BY JEREMY BEVILL WITH FISHER ARNOLD ON BEHALF OF BRETT STROBBE

Attachments: [Rezoning Plat](#)
[Staff Summary - C.C.](#)
[Cover Letter - Rezoning](#)
[Rezoning Application Signed](#)
[Certified Mail Receipts](#)

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 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

Enactment No: O-EN-013-2023

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported on the following:

I would like to have three or four people come and stand at the podium, Chief Hamrick, Chief Elliott, Regina Burkett, and Steve Tippitt. I appreciate you all. Council, I just want to say, you know, the devastation this past Friday evening, the City of Jonesboro was prepared in so many ways and we had multiple meetings, several hours of which we went over protocol. We went over our resources. We went over how we were going to handle a situation, but you never know until that situation occurs how all that's going to take place. What I want to say before you Council is that the City of Jonesboro was prepared and always possible, but what was more impressive was the fact that we were able to use our resources once we considered the instance that it wouldn't hit our community, we were able to deploy to Wynne that evening. And, I would say that I saw, I went as well and I saw everyone in action. We had development. Ms. Burkett had set FEMA plans of action in place that we were able to assist and to provide to the City of Wynne immediately. Chief Hamrick took control. They have an experienced fireman, but he had only been in that office for three or four months and you could see the experience come through of what the City of Jonesboro had. Chief Elliott had SWAT and many others there in the rescue. And, then, Mr. Tippitt and his Street Department, they were fully ready to go. We had nine vehicles loaded up and we were assisted. I called City Water and Light and Sunbelt and other entities to provide lighting services for the City of Wynne. I just want to say to you that I am proud and this community needs to be proud of the individuals that we have working and supporting the city on all standards. When they were called into action, they were at the highest level and it made ease for the City of Wynne in so many regards. I am very proud. There are many more to say thank you to, but these were the ones that were the boots on the ground and we lead a team as we went down. I can tell you that it made me proud and I know you all are proud as well. I think we owe them a round of applause truly. Thank you so much. So, in saying that, I just want to say to all of the Jonesboro team, thank you. I watched this and I will say that Northeast Arkansas is one community and it's our experience is very helpful of what we have gone through, but we were able to provide services for a community that was hurting in a lot of ways and they would provide those to us if the role was reversed. And, so, our prayers go out to that community and I am very pleased that we were able to help in every way and will continue to do so and are continuing to do so.

I was very pleased as well by the good news, a couple of weeks ago, that we received from the Corps of Engineers. The Corp has been awarded \$10 million of federal government for drainage improvement. As we all know, this is going to affect the eastern side of Jonesboro in a lot of ways. This will make a big difference in the southeastern part of the city. So, for years, we have suffered due to flooding of water leaving our city, but it becomes blocked and then backed up and it comes back into our community. This money will help clean that creek beyond our county and carry the floodwater far away from our community.

Sanitation and Code Enforcement held their cleanup last weekend and it was the first time in Valley View. They picked up 9.34 tons of items that residents wanted to get rid of and that was in addition to 26 tires. You can imagine how many mosquitoes all those tires can hold as well. Every tire that we get rid of is less mosquitoes in our community.

Work is underway on the soft trails at Craighead Forest, a refresh of existing trails and creation of new ones that will provide another good ride for mountain bikers. And, if you were watching the news last evening, they did a report and it is pretty incredible. They are moving very quickly on these soft surface trails as they call them around Craighead Forest and that will add many more miles of happiness for young families in our community. Also, the new multipurpose path down Culberhouse has started. I grew up around that area and it has been needed for years. So, yesterday, I just drove by and saw a young woman running along the street and now she won't have to once that is completed. So, literally, she was in the center of the road running and so this is adding safety to our community. So, I think the trail going there is going to please a lot of people. Now, that is a connection from Southwest Drive basically all the way to Jonesboro High School.

Animal Control held an Easter egg hunt and it had nearly 300 participants last weekend. We appreciate every day the hard work of Larry Rogers and the Animal Control team.

Meanwhile, DARE had a color run this past weekend and raised money that will benefit fifth graders all around Jonesboro.

We are deeply sadden by the loss of one of own Lezle Wilson who just recently retired about a month ago at 911, a dispatcher. She had been there 32 years. The entire city and the City of Jonesboro owes Lezle a debt of gratitude for her dedication and we send condolences to her family and friends during this difficult time.

So, there are several things that I would like to close on. On a happy note, Jennifer Tyner is Employee of the Month. Jennifer began working in IT in 2019 and assisted Code Enforcement. In January of 2021, she moved to the City Clerk's office. In August of last year, she was promoted to Senior Deputy Clerk. So, I want to say a big congratulations to Jennifer and a big thank you to First Security Bank which sponsors our Employee of the Month programs.

I would also like to mention that this weekend, April 8th, the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council Spring Fair will be free to the public. It is going to be at Northside Park. I would love to see, hopefully Council, you can attend from 12:00-4:00 p.m. There will be live music, vendors, arts, crafts, games, giant inflatables and many more. KLEK Radio will also be present there doing DJ services. So, we are excited to see that our community, our youth is getting involved in our community and especially in north Jonesboro. That is the end of my comments.

Attachments: [December 2022 Financials](#)

Filed

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember L.J. Bryant said, thank you. Tony Thomas and I get to see each other every night. We don't get to talk to one another, but we see one another. So, I'll say every day, I don't know, I'll probably run at Craighead Forest every morning and at ASU every night. I could probably give ASU a list, of you need to paint this door, you don't need to paint this door. I could probably do the same thing at Craighead Forest. And, I'll say to your point Mayor, those guys are working. I mean at 6:30 a.m. in the morning, they are working. I guess they get paid by the job and they are ready to get out of here. But, I'll say this too and I understand this discussion happened sometime in the past and so I have been on the Council long enough to know what has happened, not long enough to know every discussion and why something didn't happen, but being out there, I mean I was thinking about Winter Wonderland being one way. Folks go through Winter Wonderland one way and they look at the lights and they go out. And, certainly, there are public safety elements to what I am about to say that have to be considered. But, what if our loop at Craighead Forest was one way and you made the other half bike-ped? And so, anyway, just maybe, that's something I know it has been a discussion in the past and maybe there's some major cons as to why we didn't do it, but if that's something that maybe could be discussed with us and make us understand why that is a good or bad idea. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, thank you for your comments.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said, I will be brief. I had a citizen Robert Speer reach out to me today and he wanted me to pass along his thanks. He wanted to brag on Drew Hannah for very quickly taking care of a situation at a recent soccer match. Like I said, Robert couldn't be here, but he wanted to make sure that Drew was recognized and thanked for a job well done in Robert's view. So, thanks.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, I will be brief as well. I want to also say thank you to Mr. Thomas, Tony Thomas for handling a street situation that I had. I was able to call or email him and they responded quickly so I appreciate you Mayor and your administration who is responding quickly. I do want to also piggyback off of you Mayor when you were appreciating our team, city officials and others that went down to Wynne. Personally, my father pastored in Wynne for, well, he still pastors, but he has been there for over 43 years. So, that community, I know it very well. I was there on Saturday morning helping and literally the church where my father pastored was probably 30 feet from the line of the tornado. And, so, it was quite depressing just to go down there and see all that happened. But, we definitely want to continue to keep them in our thoughts and prayers. But, also, this kind of leads to discussions. A couple of citizens asked me via email and called me. They said that they appreciate and they saw the signs across town or down here in the Main area about the panhandling and other things. But, they posed a question to me and they asked well, if they don't do this, where do they go? And, of course, that is one of my passions is really to talk about homelessness and in that regard. So, I don't know what all we have done in the past, but if there is some kind of committee that you have or ad hoc committee that you have already formed, I would like to be a part of it. If not, I would definitely like to have discussions on how we can have those moving forward. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, as you know, my office is always open for those discussions, yes sir. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, yes sir, thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, I would like to echo the Mayor's comments also. I am proud to live in a community that can go and help our neighbors. Three years ago that was us. And, if the mall hadn't been closed, we could have had multiple casualties ourselves. So, I am very thankful that we live in a community to help. Thank you Mayor. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, thank you.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Marilyn Copeland, 1602 Honeysuckle, said, good evening Council. I am here tonight to bring you some good news. I am the Chairman of the Jonesboro Urban Forestry Council. I have been on the Parks and Recreation Committee also for probably 15 or more years. Many years ago through our Parks and Recreation had a designation of being a Tree City USA. Well, we lost that designation over the years and we feel like that's very important for our community especially with our Parks and Recreation and what we are wanting for our community. We all love going down a beautiful tree lined avenue and it gives us a lot of comfort as well as it is very good for our community as far as prosperity and environmental. So, we reorganized this committee. Danny Kapales, Brandon Shrader, and our Parks and Recreation have worked very closely with us. We appreciate it. But, we have worked about 15 months turning in an application to Tree City USA and we were awarded February 3rd, that now Jonesboro is officially a Tree City USA and we are real thrilled about that information, but it also means that we have got to keep working or we will lose it again. So, we have a very good committee that have worked very hard like I say we have been looking at ordinances. In other words, if a builder is going in, what are they going to do to maybe make or keep the land attractive? How can we preserve those trees? What can we look at as a city to make sure? We hope to encourage our community as far as an education and the importance of trees. We have City Water and Light on our committee as well and they do an excellent job of how they go out and trim our trees. That is very important. We can actually ruin a lot of trees by not trimming them. I'm learning a lot that I didn't know about trees by having these people on our committee. And, we want to have a big kick-off event at the end of the month on April 28th, we are going to have a tree giveaway at the Earl Bell Community Center from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This will be our first. People can pick up native trees at the Earl Bell and we hope to promote that in our community. This is in partnership with the Arkansas Department of Agriculture. I just want to quickly say that I just want to read you our mission statement. I know I have got five minutes and I'll be very careful here. But, we want to improve and sustain Jonesboro's Urban Forest by fostering a safe, healthy, and diverse tree canopy that will enhance the area's natural beauty and foster the prosperity of Jonesboro. We hope to inspire people to plant, to nurture, and to celebrate our trees. So, thank you. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, thank you so much for your comments.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

_____ Date: _____

Harold Copenhaver, Mayor

Attest:

_____ Date: _____

April Leggett, City Clerk