



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Public Safety Council Committee

Tuesday, July 15, 2025

5:00 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

Present 6 - David McClain; Brian Emison; Janice Porter; Chris Gibson; LJ Bryant and Kevin Miller
Absent 1 - Chris Moore

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[MIN-25:054](#)

Minutes for the Public Safety Committee meeting on Tuesday, June 17, 2025

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

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

Aye: 5 - David McClain; Janice Porter; Chris Gibson; LJ Bryant and Kevin Miller

Absent: 1 - Chris Moore

4. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED

[ORD-25:025](#)

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

Sponsors: Engineering

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

Aye: 5 - David McClain; Janice Porter; Chris Gibson; LJ Bryant and Kevin Miller

Absent: 1 - Chris Moore

5. PENDING ITEMS

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Chris Gibson said, just real quickly, as a reminder. Mr. Copenhaver sent out, I believe it's the last fourth of July around this time, that he would like for this group to start looking at the fireworks ordinance, and we have failed to do so at this point. I just happened to find it in my box today; is the only reason I remember it.

Councilmember David McClain said, what was it? I don't remember... City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I know a little bit about that if you want me to... Councilmember Chris Gibson said, if you don't mind. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I know that law enforcement had put out a request that the committee consider whether we want to make it... Right now, our ordinance says it's just illegal to shoot any fireworks in the city limits of Jonesboro ever period, unless you have a permit. Obviously, on days like the 4th of July, it's very difficult for law enforcement to enforce that. Sometimes it's juveniles that are involved, which makes it a whole other enforcement issue. And it puts a lot of stress on 9-1-1 and on the police department in the calls that they get. That's not to say if something's dangerous is going on, whether they're shooting them at cars or they're setting dumpsters on fire, which I think we had this year, that they would address those issues. But they wanted a consideration of whether we wanted to amend that ordinance to allow for fireworks to be, you know, used in the city limits just for that day or for one day prior and one day after, like whatever the parameters are. I think somebody even mentioned whether you would consider New Year's also, in that or if it would just be 4th of July. So, I think that's the basic discussion.

Councilmember Chris Gibson said, I think I recall something being in there about hours that you could shoot them as well. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, like, you have to end by 11 pm or something like that. I mean, something reasonable but that allows for what we know is probably happening anyways, which is people enjoying fireworks on their property, but eliminate some of the calls to the police department and 9-1-1 which ties them up when they're trying to deal with other issues.

Councilmember David McClain said, do you think you could, or who would have something in front of us or a rough draft that we could... City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I guess it depends on if you want to discuss that a little bit as a committee to say what you would want to consider. Councilmember David McClain said, I think we all know that people are going to pop fireworks whether we got a ordinance that says you can or can't. I mean, so we might as well either make it something where we got an hour or day. I think the hours on the day makes a lot of sense. End by this time. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, people that have concerns and, you know, PTSD issues and things like that, they know exactly... I mean, maybe by giving a... I think the theory is by giving an amount of time where it is legal, maybe it eliminates the randomness of a whole week of suffering for people that are or does it. I don't know. This is just something that was presented as an idea for y'all to consider from the police department. Councilmember David McClain said, I'll be... I would be... Chief, do you got any thoughts on that?

Police Department Chief Rick Elliot approached the podium and said, yeah, so, many years of law enforcement experience, this has always been a problem. It's one of these ordinances really, we can't enforce. Yes, we go to the calls that's something dangerous going on. They may come in as a shots fired call, so obviously we respond. But between that and everything else going on, it's just we're going call to call. And we've had this conversation, actually for several years, it's kind of like maybe, just maybe, if we set down some hours that, like Ms. Duncan said, we can kind of get the majority of it confined to set hours. And then after that give us a little bit more teeth to kind of bite into it hopefully. So, I think it's one of these deals that if we went forward with it

and to see if it helps, if it doesn't help, we can go back and take it back away. I mean, we're doing what we've always done and we're not really getting the desired effect. Now, I'm looking at can we try something different we may all can kind of agree on and give it a whirl for a year or two. If it doesn't work, use the legislative body and we'll go back and change it. And if you want to stipulate that into whatever you're willing to write up as trial period or whatever. I don't know if that's doable or not, but... City Attorney Carol Duncan said, that would be confusing for the court. It would probably be better just to adopt it if you want to adopt it. And then change it later if you want to change it. Councilmember Chris Gibson said, so chief, could maybe you and Chief Hamrick get some bullet points together for us for our next meeting for conversation? Chief Rick Elliot said, yeah, I'd be glad to. I can just kind of show what call volume looks like and, you know, versus everything else. Looking at quick number... Councilmember Kevin Miller said, I don't think there's any doubt about the call volume and the calls you get. It's what would you like to try to see in the ordinance that we could kind of streamline it to be able to fit. But absolutely there's no doubt we need to do something. Chief Rick Elliot said, yeah, I think there'd be some areas of town that we would want to restrict it from. Like the downtown areas, some of the commercial property areas, some of the nursing home facilities. So, I think we need to impose some restrictions. Maybe, kind of, look at how we do zoning. Councilmember Kevin Miller said, yeah, and those are the kind of suggestions we'd like to get. Chief Rick Elliot said, I agree, I think that's a conversation, one, if y'all as a body wants to move forward with this, it sounds like we're going to entertain that idea, I think we can start bringing some things back and bounce it off each other. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I personally would want us to make it very clear that a burn ban would supersede our ability. You know, if a burn ban is in place, then all bets are off, and you can't shoot fireworks. Councilmember Kevin Miller said, yeah. And I think, obviously, there needs to be some kind of language in there that if you are shooting off fireworks and you do cause damage, you are still going to be held responsible for that. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, and maybe something about parents being present, or parents being responsible for the juveniles. I don't know. Something along those lines. We can look at language like that. Yeah. Chief Rick Elliot said, again, if it's something you're interested in, we can start researching other cities and see what they're doing. But I do think we need some restrictions on the areas. But, again, it's a will of the committee. If we want to start exploring that I'll be glad to get with Marty and we'll start those conversations. Chairman Brian Emison said, great. Thank you chief.

Councilmember David McClain said, I've got one more thing Mr. Chairman. Since we're talking about ordinances for Carol to work on a little bit. So, the attorney general just announced that, you know, there's a crackdown on loitering, especially at intersections. Is that something that we are ready to take up and go ahead and can we get the ball rolling on that too? City Attorney Carol Duncan said, no. There's not any law change in his statement. So, as far as I know, nothing has changed. I'm hoping for some guidance from the AML, based upon his statements, if there is anything that they think that we can do that's different from what we're already doing. I mean, essentially, what he said is, you can still enforce the parts of the loitering statute that the court didn't say we can't enforce. And we already had that ability. I understand the frustration, we all do. But, I mean, the police department currently can enforce if somebody's littering they can enforce that. If they're entering the roadway, they can enforce that. If they're harassing or threatening someone, they can enforce that. The problem is that none of that happens while the police are present, typically, right. If they see the police car, they're not going to enter the roadway and obstruct traffic. And secondly, the person giving them money that's stopped their car is not going to come complain about them entering the roadway. Or they may call and complain but they would have to do an affidavit for criminal charges. And they would have to call the

police while they're there and say I have witnessed this, it was this person, and we got to be able to identify them to press the criminal charges. Like, it's not, to my knowledge, they've not created a new channel that made it easier other than saying we'll back you if you decide to enforce this. I'm not sure what that means. I mean, I want more teeth in it, but I don't know that anything changed and what the court said. You know, so I'm hoping for some guidance if there's something else out there that they think helps us in that situation. I mean, I'm going to put in another request and say... But I assume all the cities are waiting to see if the AML comes out with anything to give us some guidance on how to move forward. But I mean, the tools that we had are the same tools, I think. I mean, chief and I discussed it briefly and reread what he said, and while we're appreciative that they'll back us if we get sued, I don't know that it changed any of the rules that we're currently following. Which is, violations of state law or violations of city ordinances as far as impeding traffic flow. I mean, obviously, if anybody's harassing or threatening, we want the public to call the police. Let the police come identify the person and be willing to come to court and testify that that was happening so that we can charge that person. I don't know that... I think that's probably more rare if, you know, what I observe just driving around town they're not really coming up knocking on your window or threatening you in any way. They're just standing there. Which is why we've tried to educate that, you know, we've got good charities in town that feed people and donate there. You know, I mean, if they're not getting a lot of money these people coming in from out of town will quit coming. But unless there's 10 of them on an island... I mean, the court case... Hot Springs tried to do it and the case was pretty specific on what you had to prove to get them off that street. Which was you had to show how many injury or fatality accidents had happened with pedestrians at that location to show that it was unsafe for them to be on that island. And that's kind of hard. I mean, in some places it might be easier, but that's kind of case by case. It's not a city-wide solution. You have to prove it street by street which really tied the hands of a lot of cities in their ability to... And that's why people have just kind of felt like the loitering statue didn't have any teeth in it. Now, certain parts of it do. It can't have anything to do with asking for money though. It has to do with their other activities at the intersection, because asking for money has been considered protected free speech by the court. So, we cannot limit... Councilmember Chris Gibson said, I know this may seem minute, but I have noticed an increase in the litter left behind at those intersections as well. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, it used to be worse, I think. I think it got better for a while and maybe it's getting worse again. I mean, if we can catch them littering, we can certainly cite them with a littering ticket. But I don't know that it gave us any extra tools that we didn't already have, and that we weren't already trying to implement as best we could. But yeah, I mean, if the public feels that they've been unsafe or threatened they need to call the police so that they can identify that person, because if you don't know who they are we can't charge them, and then come see us and we'll try to press charges on them. I mean, we can already do that. Or if they think there are enough of them there that they're obstructing their ability to see traffic, call the police and let them come out and deal with that on the spot and we can do that. We've already got those tools, and I think we're willing to do that. Councilmember David McClain said, so right now you're just waiting on AML to give us an opinion on... City Attorney Carol Duncan said, if there's any legal change, we can make to our ordinances that's more effective. Councilmember David McClain said, ok. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, but I don't know that there's anything that in that statement that gives us more teeth than what we already had. But if there is, I'll let you know that we can, and we'll work on an ordinance to strengthen that. Councilmember David McClain said, ok. Thank you.

[COM-25:024](#)

VECTOR MOSQUITO CONTROL REPORT FOR JUNE 2025

Attachments: [Jonesboro June 2025.pdf](#)

Councilmember David McClain said, I've got a quick question Mr. Chairman. The only reason I'm bringing it up; I was looking through that report and the amount of mosquitoes collected. Do we know how many traps they have out? Do we know, I mean, is that counting, it says, it looks like it was down, but I find it hard to believe but that's just me putting on my tinfoil hat. But I just think that surely there's... I'm just curious how they... How many traps they have? Where they have them? Where they collected, was that on the south side of town or on the north side? Where all do they have them? How many? Again, how many traps they have because I'm sure that number that's in that report I think I had that at my house last week. Chairman Brian Emison said, right. Yeah, in the report I noticed that they said that they had a total of 55 sites that were inspected. So, now, necessarily, where those are located, I haven't seen that on a map or anything. Councilmember David McClain said, maybe get Vector to give us that information. That would be good.

Chairman Brian Emison said, sure, right. And I did notice... Another question that I think that I would like answered by Vector. I noticed at this point we're still doing spraying. We haven't done any aerial applications, or at least I didn't see that reflected in the report. Do we know when we typically start doing our aerial applications? Chief Administrative Officer Brian Richardson approached the podium and said, generally, it's around this time of year. I can find out. You know, they'll send us an email just to kind of give us a heads up that air applications are starting, so we can inform the public for anybody that wants to cover their tomatoes or whatever that might be. So, whenever I reach out to them about these other questions, I'll ask them when their first planned aerial is. I mean, generally, they base it off, I guess, trap data whenever it shows that there'd be a high need. So, you know, I'm not an entomologist but I know talking with Dr. McKay, you know, there's just some environmental conditions sometimes that exist that just so happens when they run traps if it's been exceptionally dry or exceptionally rainy your numbers are going to be down by the next week they could blossom and be all over the place. Councilmember David McClain said, just curious, again, where they are and all that stuff. Brian Richardson said, Councilman Emerson, if you want, I guess, shoot me an email of the exact questions and David's question, and then I can definitely get that over to them and get them info on it. Chairman Brian Emison said, sure. Perfect. Thank you, Mr. Richardson.

Police Department Chief Rick Elliot approached the podium and said, point of clarification. They did spray the week of July 4th, because I was outside and they came over my house and I watched the path back and forth over Craighead Forest area. So, two days prior to the 4th they were doing aerial applications on the south end. That I saw myself. Chairman Brian Emison said, great. Thank you Chief.

Councilmember LJ Bryant said, Mr. Chairman, I've said this for years. I'm just underwhelmed by the reporting. I mean, they're a \$50,000,000 company that's owned by two Harvard MBAs, and their report looks like a third grader did it. I mean, so I just expect more from these people. I mean, they give us no benchmarks to compare us to anybody else, so I'm just... I mean, I know it's up for bid this year, but they need to step their game up. Chairman Brian Emison said, gotcha. Thank you, Councilman Bryant.

Filed[ORD-25:028](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO ADD SECTION 50-40 ENTITLED PARK RANGERS

Sponsors: Mayor's Office and Code Enforcement

Chairman Brian Emison said, we have a ordinance that has been presented before us to walk on to the Public Safety agenda for the evening, and I will entertain a motion to adopt that item onto our agenda.

Councilmember Chris Gibson motioned, seconded by Janice Porter, to Recommend to Council and walk onto the agenda, ORD-25:028. All voted aye.

Councilmember Chris Gibson said, so moved. Councilmember Janice Porter said, I'll second. Chairman Brian Emison said, ok. I have a first and a second to put ordinance 5040 on tonight's agenda. And since we are walking that on to the agenda, do we need to vote on that? Ok, gotcha. In that case, I will entertain a vote before I read the proposed ordinance. All in favor of adopting this item and placing it on tonight's agenda? Councilmember Chris Gibson said, just a point of clarification before we vote. It's ORD-25:028 not 5040. Chairman Brian Emison said, gotcha. Thank you, sir. Ok, all in favor of adopting this ordinance and placing it on tonight's agenda?

Councilmember Chris Gibson motioned, seconded by Councilmember Kevin Miller, to Recommend to Council, ORD-25:028. All voted aye.

Councilmember Chris Gibson said, do we need to walk that on tonight? Chairman Brian Emison said, no sir.

Councilmember David McClain said, one question that I was thinking about. So, with them being the park rangers will they also go to Joe Mack, I guess other parks, Parker Park or Alan Park? City Attorney Carol Duncan said, my understanding is yes. Councilmember David McClain said, ok. Code Enforcement Department Director Scott Roper approached the podium and said, it's my understanding that we have close to 30 parks throughout the city. And the idea is to be at places where people are, right. We want to engage the public whether it be volleyball, basketball, baseball, soccer, Craighead Forest. It just kind of depends on what the schedules are, right. And we're still in training right now. We're hoping to have them ready to go here in about two weeks. Week and a half or so. But yes, the idea is to have them, you know, have the ability to go to all the different parks. And they're actually, we should be covering seven days a week as well. Chairman Brian Emison said, thank you Mr. Roper.

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

Aye: 5 - David McClain;Janice Porter;Chris Gibson;LJ Bryant and Kevin Miller

Absent: 1 - Chris Moore

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 5 - David McClain;Janice Porter;Chris Gibson;LJ Bryant and Kevin Miller

Absent: 1 - Chris Moore