



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Finance & Administration Council Committee

Tuesday, November 24, 2015

4:00 PM

Municipal Center

1. Call To Order

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2. Roll Call by City Clerk Donna Jackson

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Mayor Perrin was also in attendance.

Present 6 - Ann Williams; John Street; Darrel Dover; Charles Coleman; Todd Burton and Rennell Woods

3. Approval of minutes

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MIN-15:101

Minutes for the Finance Committee meeting on October 27, 2015

[play video](#)

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

A motion was made by Councilman John Street, seconded by Councilman Todd Burton, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 5 - Ann Williams; John Street; Charles Coleman; Todd Burton and Rennell Woods

MIN-15:105

Minutes for the special called Finance Committee meeting on November 3, 2015

[play video](#)

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

A motion was made by Councilman John Street, seconded by Councilman Todd Burton, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 5 - Ann Williams; John Street; Charles Coleman; Todd Burton and Rennell Woods

MIN-15:108

Minutes for the special called Finance Committee meeting on November 17, 2015

[play video](#)

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

A motion was made by Councilman John Street, seconded by Councilman Todd Burton, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 5 - Ann Williams;John Street;Charles Coleman;Todd Burton and Rennell Woods

4. New Business

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Ordinances To Be Introduced

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ORD-15:062

AN ORDINANCE TO WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND AUTHORIZE A CONTRACT WITH DELTA DENTAL TO PROVIDE INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR CITY EMPLOYEES FOR 2016

[play video](#)

Sponsors: Finance and Mayor's Office

Attachments: [Delta Dental Contract](#)

Chairman Dover clarified this is just for a renewal of services for 2016. Mayor Perrin agreed, adding there will be no increase in Delta Dental premiums.

A motion was made by Councilman John Street, seconded by Councilman Todd Burton, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 5 - Ann Williams;John Street;Charles Coleman;Todd Burton and Rennell Woods

ORD-15:063

AN ORDINANCE TO WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND AUTHORIZE A CONTRACT WITH ARKANSAS BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD TO PROVIDE INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR CITY EMPLOYEES FOR 2016

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Sponsors: Finance and Mayor's Office

Attachments: [Jonesboro Municipal Airport
COJ Contract
COJ Prescription Contract
JURHA Contract
Library Contract](#)

Mayor Perrin explained there was a 3% increase with Blue Cross Blue Shield. Councilman Woods asked what the 3% increase will bring premiums to. Mayor Perrin stated he did not have that information. Chairman Dover noted it will depend on what

type of coverage the employee has. Councilman Street asked if the city will be absorbing the 3% cost. Mayor Perrin answered the city will absorb 71% of the cost, with the employees picking up the rest.

A motion was made by Councilman John Street, seconded by Councilman Rennell Woods, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 5 - Ann Williams; John Street; Charles Coleman; Todd Burton and Rennell Woods

[ORD-15:064](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO PLACE THE PROPOSED JONESBORO PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE ON THE BALLOT FOR A VOTE OF THE CITIZENS OF JONESBORO ON MARCH 1, 2016 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

[play video](#)

Councilman Street thanked City Attorney Carol Duncan for working with him to research and put the ordinance together. City Attorney Duncan stated the Secretary of State has to approve the measure no later than December 17th in order for it to make the timeline to place the issue on the ballot for March. Due to that, the ordinance will have to be approved by the City Council at their meeting on December 1 in order to get it approved by the Secretary of State's office by the December 17.

Councilman Woods clarified that this is not a legal issue. Councilman Street explained the ordinance only allows the Council to place the issue on the ballot. The current ordinance on the Council agenda to approve the Property Maintenance Code would be postponed temporarily in order to place it on the ballot. This ordinance would eliminate the requirement of the Council having to vote on the issue; rather, it would be left to a vote of the people.

Jimmy Shehorn, former president of the Scenic Hills Neighborhood Association, stated all he's heard is support for passing the Property Maintenance Code to stabilize neighborhoods and increase property values. He added he doesn't think anyone intended to place fright into the minds of the citizens by saying the city will go into your home, but it's there. He continued by saying no one can go into your home without your consent without it being an emergency or having a warrant from the court system to allow entry. The citizens will still have privacy in their homes and will be protected from unwarranted search and seizures. He doesn't see a downside to adopting the code because everyone will benefit from patches of the code. Mr. Shehorn noted he does take issue with the changing process to take the code to a vote when the City Council was elected to do the citizen's business. Chairman Dover clarified all the committee is doing today is voting on whether or not the ordinance should be presented to the full Council to decide whether or not there will be an election. The ordinance adopting the Property Maintenance Code is already on the floor of the full Council. He added this will just give the Council a third option – pass the code, deny the code, or send it to the ballot for a vote. Mr. Shehorn explained he thinks the third option is unnecessary. He asked the committee to consider not moving it on to Council.

Councilman Burton stated whether or not the ordinance passes Council he is in favor of it moving on to the full Council because it is such a big issue. They knew it was a big issue when it started. The Multi-family Moratorium Committee discussed the International Property Maintenance Code in relation to the external structures of multi-family. Then, it was going to be applied to the inside and outside of a structure for multi-family and then it was amended for it to apply to every structure in the city of Jonesboro. He further discussed the history of the code and how it was taken back to committee, then back to Council.

Councilman Street explained this code will affect every resident in the city, whether they own or rent. To put it to a vote would put it to bed forever.

Mr. Shehorn agreed, and added that the code is such a low standard that someone would have to reach a blighted standard before the code kicks in internally or externally. He thinks the code will enhance the quality of the city.

Darrel Cook, 3308 Lonoke Cove, asked the committee to please consider how important the code is to every citizen of Jonesboro. He then asked the committee to allow this ordinance to be considered by the City Council in order for the citizens to vote on it since it will affect them for as long as they live in Jonesboro. He added it's too great of a responsibility for twelve Council members to decide.

Jeb Spencer, 801 W. Matthews, stated he thinks people who are in support of the code will be at a disadvantage if the code is put on the ballot. He asked the Council to either let the Council vote on the code as it's presented or take out the interior portion. He asked them to not delay it further by taking it to an election. He discussed the Property Maintenance Code and how it enhances property rights. He stated there has been almost no opposition from most citizens. He added the Council's job is to protect the overwhelming majority of citizens not in attendance. He further discussed the need for the Property Maintenance Code. He noted some work has to be done in the relationships between tenants and landlords. He asked the committee to not be swayed by the apparent opposition to the code. Mr. Spencer then asked the committee to put the ordinance before Council so it can be approved without further delay. He noted it will take time before the positive effects of the code can be realized.

Councilman Street asked why Mr. Spencer is against taking the code to a vote of the public. He explained he is not trying to scare anybody, but a lot of people don't want the code to go to a vote because they know it won't pass. The public won't stand for an ordinance such as this code because it is excessive over-reach. He noted it issue should go to a vote of the public and be put to bed forever. And, if the code is as great as they say it is, then they should welcome a vote so the public can see how great the code is. Councilman Street explained if the Council was trying to be negative about it, then they could've voted on it when it was brought before them before. But, they didn't; rather, they sent it back to the committee. Mr. Shehorn stated he is afraid that it would be voted down and he is in support of the code, so why shouldn't he be opposed to the code going to a vote. Councilman Street noted that he shouldn't be afraid to send something to a vote since this is a city of 70,000 people and they should all have a chance to vote on it. He added the code does drastically affect the citizens. He explained the majority of the city takes care of their property, so the whole city shouldn't be affected by a code due to a few citizens who don't take care of their property.

Councilman Coleman explained his problem is if the residents have done what they are supposed to do, then they don't have to worry about the code. He noted he has seen a lot of scaring from both sides. They should either do it right or leave it alone. He does have an issue with taking the code to the general public.

Susan Hall, 1304 W. Jefferson, noted this could've been asked to be put on a ballot back in June when it was kicked back to the Council. She questioned the process for the ordinance that is already on the Council agenda. City Attorney Duncan explained the current Property Maintenance Code ordinance is on second reading at the City Council, but this ordinance will need to be approved by the Secretary of State by December 17th in order to put the code on the ballot.

Eugene Holloway, 408 Marshall Street, explained about a month ago he submitted an article to the Jonesboro Sun regarding Big Brother. He made it specific, in that article, that this code and its right of entry is not going to affect the public the way they are receiving it. He is not against the code going to a vote of the public, but he would like the public to make sure they know what the code is about before they vote. The public needs to understand the code before it goes to a vote. He asked that the Council just make sure they understand the essence of the code.

Donnie Swindle, 4118 Peachtree Avenue, stated he is a registered voter. His neighbor bought 3 acres beside him for \$95,000 and built a \$200,000 home on the property. The home was then flipped for \$450,000. Mr. Swindle pointed out that his 1959 model mobile home did not devalue his neighbor's property one dime.

Bill Smith, 314 Main, explained he is concerned about procedure. He explained once again the Council will wave two readings of an ordinance and have an emergency clause so this ordinance can be rushed to the state to meet ballot deadlines. He expressed concern about the citizens not having a good conception about the code. He suggested putting the code on the general ballot in November regular election.

Judy Casteel, 1902 West End Cove, noted the West End Association is not the only organization that supports the code. The Scenic Hills Association also supports it, as well as others around the city.

After denial of the ordinance, Councilman Street asked if the ordinance could still be taken to the full Council. City Attorney Duncan explained he would need a 2/3 vote.

A motion was made by Councilman John Street, seconded by Councilman Todd Burton, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion FAILED with the following vote.

Aye: 2 - John Street and Todd Burton

Nay: 3 - Ann Williams; Charles Coleman and Rennell Woods

Resolutions To Be Introduced

[play video](#)

RES-15:166

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF AN OJJDP-INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN SUBAWARD (NO. ICAC13-C2-07) FROM THE ARKANSAS STATE POLICE (ASP)

[play video](#)

Sponsors: Grants and Police Department

Attachments: [ICAC13 2nd Continuation Subgrant Award Letter-Jonesboro PD](#)
[ICAC13-C2-07 Subgrant Agreement-Jonesboro PD](#)
[ICAC13 2nd Continuation Subgrant Special Conditions](#)
[Approved ICAC13-C2-07 Budget Detail Worksheet -Jonesboro PD \(2\)](#)
[FY 2015 ICAC MOU](#)

A motion was made by Councilman Charles Coleman, seconded by Councilman John Street, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Ann Williams;John Street;Charles Coleman;Todd Burton and Rennell Woods

5. Pending Items

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6. Other Business

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RES-15:170

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO APPLY FOR THE 2016 GENERAL IMPROVEMENT FUNDS (GIF) THROUGH EAST ARKANSAS PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (EAPPD)

Sponsors: Grants, Fire Department and Parks & Recreation

Attachments: [GIF Funds - 12032015 - Miracle League](#)
[GIF Funds - 12032015 - Opticom GPS System](#)

No motion was made to add this item to the agenda.

Councilman Burton asked if there was a time constraint. Mayor Perrin answered yes.

Mayor Perrin explained this is a grant through the EAPPD. They have met with all of the legislators. There are two items legislators would like to help fund for the city, as explained in the resolution.

A motion was made by Councilman John Street, seconded by Councilwoman Ann Williams, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Ann Williams;John Street;Charles Coleman;Todd Burton and Rennell Woods

7. Public Comments

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Jonathan Harris, a resident of the city and a landlord, stated the one of the things that is fought for is the right to vote on items. If there is that much confusion in the room and on the committee, then people should get to vote on it. The code will affect everyone in the city. He further discussed the code being put on the ballot and his role as a landlord. He added a lot of the exterior stuff he is in support of, but he questioned the way some of the interior stuff is worded.

8. Adjournment

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A motion was made by Councilman Charles Coleman, seconded by Councilman John Street, that this meeting be Adjourned . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 5 - Ann Williams;John Street;Charles Coleman;Todd Burton and Rennell Woods