

City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center 300 S. Church Street Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, May 6, 2025 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 (ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE) INITIATED AND CONFIRMED BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

Present 11 - Brian Emison; Chris Moore; Chris Gibson; David McClain; Joe Hafner; Kevin Miller; Anthony Coleman; John Street; Charles Coleman; LJ Bryant and Ann

Williams

Absent 1 - Janice Porter

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

COM-25:013

PRESENTATION OF A MOBILE EVENT SIGN COURTESY OF A DONATION BY JONESBORO UNLIMITED

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, we do have one other special presentation. Andy if you would like to come forward and do the honors? Andy Shatley said, I'll do it super fast. An evolving discussion with our connectivity committee over the last year has been creating an identity for the growing, active transportation network of our city. We were searching for a stamp, if you will, to brand the journey through town. We assembled a subcommittee to create a logo that was in essence, the cousin to the newly redesigned City of Jonesboro branding. The idea of a blank canvas that screamed Jonesboro that begged for creative liberties were born. After several meetings with local marketing and branding experts, we arrived at the final product, brand standards, and usage recommendations around town. Today, we are proud to present our work here today, in its mobile form, which can be loaned out for events to promote our great city. I need to make some acknowledgements, because there's some people that a whole lot of work on an ever evolving project. So, Sarah, J.D., come on up here. We are going to get some pictures. Craig, come on up here. Mark Young, I think he's around the corner. Mark, can you hear me? Yes, sir. All right. #connectJBR is the concept first described by Meg Gamble from Gearhead Outfitters and her manifesto, she penned for our committee in late 2023. Committee member J.D. Rainwater cast a vision of three simple call letters, assembled in a cool and hip fashion. I think that's what he said. That could be creatively customized throughout town. Local branding expert, Sarah Preston, with St. Bernard's, worked with Craig Rickard, Bennett, Jonesboro Unlimited, and Rob Gibson with Gibson's Sign Mart to bring to fruition what you see today. Our entire committee provided oversight and valuable guidance and are

extremely excited to see JBR signs pop up all over town with different themes, different materials, different locations, but united under one JBR standard. We predict many unique social media posts (I already made one this morning by the way.) And pics in the future, all with our great city's airport code. Just last week, the first JBR sign was planted on Washington Avenue, and soon to be lighted. The next JBR sign is slated for the newly constructed JBR Plaza and will tell an amazing story very soon. I cannot wait for you to see that the work has been on that. Soon we will connect all the JBR's across our great city with accessible routes for pedestrians, riders, and rollers. Special thanks goes to committee member Michael Givens, who's out of town, couldn't be here tonight, who oversaw the construction, and Jonesboro Unlimited's Mark Young, who sponsored funding and support for this mobile version you see here today. For inquiries to request the sign for your event, please reach out to Parks and Recreation Director Danny Kapales. Thank you to council, Mayor, for allocating time for this event, for our announcement, and thank you all for your continuing support of our committee, as we make Jonesboro more accessible for all. Mayor Copenhaver said, well, again, thank you so much to everybody in their efforts. And, again, it takes a community, it takes a village, right? And, so, we are creating a new outlook for the community and more importantly, I think you've already seen the sign if you've been down Washington. It really stands out, it's right next to our brand new trail as well another connector piece in Jonesboro. So, I'm excited about that.

Read

COM-25:014 PROCLAMATION FOR BUILDING SAFETY MONTH

Attachments: Building Safety Month.pdf

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, it's always a pleasure to stand before you, and this evening, we've got several things that I'd like to present to council as a whole. One of which we will go ahead and start off with. Tim Renshaw, if you would, please come forward. This is an proclamation on Building Safety Month and I couldn't think of a better person to represent that. So, I'll read some of this for council. Proclamation for Building Safety Month, Jonesboro, Arkansas is committed to recognizing our growth and strength, and it depends on the safety and the essential role of our homes, buildings, and infrastructure play, both in everyday life and when disaster strikes. And whereas these guardians are dedicated members of the Internal Code Council, a nonprofit that brings together local, state, territorial, and federal officials, who are experts in the build environment to create and implement the highest quality of codes and standards to protect us in the buildings where we live, learn, work, and play. Building Safety Month is sponsored by the Internal Code Council to remind the public about the critical role of our community's largely unknown protectors of public safety, are code officials, who assure us that we're all safe, sustainable, and we have affordable buildings that are essential to our prosperity. Game on is the theme for Building Safety Month in 2025. It encourages all to get involved and raise awareness about building safety, on personal, local, and global scale. So each year, in observance of Building Safety Month, people from all over the world are asked to consider the commitment to improve building safety, resilience of economic investment at home and in the community. And to acknowledge the essential service provided to us all by our local, state, territorial, and federal building safety and fire prevention departments in protecting our lives and property. So, I, therefore, Harold Copenhaver, Mayor of the City of Jonesboro, by the virtue of me, authority invested me in the state laws of Arkansas, do hereby declare May 25th, Building Safety Month. Thank you, Tim. Mr. Renshaw said, thank you.

Read

COM-25:015 RECOGNITION OF OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEES

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, now council, this is really a moment that I really enjoy every year. I was able to attend, this past Saturday, pinning ceremonies for our firefighters and their whole department and drivers, etc., on their promotions. But there's always a few that stand out each year above the rest, and they all do the job. But these few are recognized by their peers, for their accomplishments in that year. So, if you would please come forward when I call your name and then I'll have Chief Hamrick come up and say a few words and then we will get a picture together. I'd like to congratulate firefighter, Rookie of the Year, Kylan Cohen. If you would please come forward. Congratulations, good to see you. Firefighter of the Year. Dylan Vangilder. Officer of the Year, Captain Cody Nelson. Congratulations Cody. Fire Chief's, Award of Excellence. And there's a story behind this and I know Chief will fill you in. Captain Brittany Milligan. Fire Chief Marty Hamrick said, thank you council for letting us present these individuals here to you tonight. Like the Mayor was saying, they all were nominated by their peers for doing exceptional work. They make the city really look good when they are out doing their duties and when they are off duty as well. Our new award we had this year was the Fire Chief's Award of Excellence. We chose Captain Milligan for this award. There was a pretty big story about her and another firefighter over this last year where she donated a kidney to help one of her own. And that just exemplifies the family atmosphere that we have here in the department and the love we have for one another. So, we appreciate these folks for doing fine work. They make me and the city look good. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you so much.

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, now, before we're done, I'd like to move on and recognize one of our own on the fourth floor in the Grants Department. And the reason I'm doing this is because she has stood above and she has gone above and beyond in her role in the community of Jonesboro, Arkansas. Her name is Alejandra Morales. If you would please come forward Alejandra? You know, I think each year and we had it today, the annual, not awards, but the annual meeting with United Way of Jonesboro, and their commitment for the last 70 years in our community. And I think one of the challenges is to educate the community and more importantly, the city employees on what the United Way does and how they operate throughout our community for nonprofits. With this, we've had several employees since I've been Mayor, take a roll, but Alejandra has stepped up, and she increased, it's pretty incredible, I'll just put it this way, over 370% more in contributions to the United Way this year alone than we have ever done in the past. That means that there were over 100 plus employees that contributed from the city. And, you all are well aware the city employees don't have a lot to give, but that means they are giving from the heart. And, so, Alejandra, though, took the challenge and she met the challenge. And, so, we, as a community and city were recognized to be in the top 15 peers of the United Way, but I want to commend Alejandra on the work that she did, and you went above the call of duty for the community of Jonesboro and the City of Jonesboro. So, thank you, Alejandra. Here is a city medallion on our behalf.

Read

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

PASSED

Aye: 11 - Brian Emison; Chris Moore; Chris Gibson; David McClain; Joe Hafner; Kevin

Miller; Anthony Coleman; John Street; Charles Coleman; LJ Bryant and Ann

Williams

Absent: 1 - Janice Porter

MIN-25:032 MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON APRIL 15, 2025

Attachments: CC Minutes 04152025.pdf

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

RES-25:017 RESOLUTION BY THE JONESBORO CITY COUNCIL TO PURCHASE PROPERTY

LOCATED AT 1215 NORTH MAIN STREET FROM SWATEL 3601 LLC

<u>Attachments:</u> SIGNED Offer - Letter of Intent.pdf

Survey.pdf

Seller Signed - Purchase Contract.pdf

From Seller - 1215 N Main REPORT appraisal.pdf

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-053-2025

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS AS RECOMMENDED BY MAYOR HAROLD COPENHAVER

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-054-2025

RES-25:044 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ACCEPT THE

LOW BID AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH WILKINS ELECTRIC, LLC. FOR THE INSTALLATION OF STREETLIGHTS ON CREATH AVENUE (Bid 2025:15)

Attachments: Bid.pdf

Bid Tabulation.pdf

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-055-2025

6. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

ORD-25:010 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 Brian Emison to

suspend the rules and offer ORD-25:010 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

ORD-25:013

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 TO C-3 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3305 DAN AVENUE AS REQUESTED BY HORIZON LAND SURVEYING, LLC

Attachments: Application

Certified mail receipts

<u>Plat</u>

Rezoning Signs Posted

Staff Summary
MAPC Minutes
Publication Receipt

Councilmember John Street motioned seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison to suspend the rules and offer ORD-25:013 by title only. All voted aye.

Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road said, I meant to ask this at the MAPC when it was going through their process, but in the newspaper, on this property here is that it stated that through the zone residential, this property at Dan Avenue has been used several as different commercially uses over the years according to the property owners and has been vacant since to 2024. So, here it is a residential property and apparently at times it was being used for commercial uses. My question, and I don't know who to ask is that, was that owner of the property where they ever met by code enforcement? Was there any enforcement that that property was not supposed to be used for commercial property? Mayor Harold Copenhaver stated, we will get back with you on that. Ms. Lack asked, can you find that out? Mayor Copenhaver replied, yes. Ms. Lack said, I would appreciate that. Thank you.

Held at one reading

ORD-25:014

AN ORDINANCE FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR IMPROVING OTHERS, INC., D/B/A ABE'S PLACE, INC. TO BE LOCATED AT THE VILLAGE COMMONS, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

<u>Attachments:</u> Application Redacted

Publication Receipt

Councilmember John Street motioned seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison to suspend the rules and offer ORD-25:014 by title only. All voted aye.

James Elywn Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, said, we are already almost afloat. We almost have liquor to point that is worse than flooding that we had recently. At what point are we going to quit doing this? This is a dry county. We don't need liquor all over the place. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, thank you for your comments.

Held at one reading

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

ORD-25:011

AN ORDINANCE REZONING PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5905 E. JOHNSON AVENUE IN JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, FROM R-1 (RESIDENTIAL SINGLE-FAMILY) TO C-3 (GENERAL COMMERCIAL); AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Attachments: Application

Certified Mail Receipts

Deed Letter Plat

Rezoning Signs
Site Photos
Staff Summary
Receipt

MAPC Minutes

Held at second reading

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

ORD-25:009

AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE AND ABANDON A DRAINAGE EASEMENT LOCATED IN LOT 5R OF THE SECOND ADDITION OF BLOCK C, SOUTHERN HILLS, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS:

<u>Attachments:</u> OpinionLetter

DRAINAGE EASEMENT ABANDONMENT

SignedPetition
UtilityLetters
Receipt

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Moore, 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; Kevin

Miller;Anthony Coleman;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann

Williams

Absent: 1 - Janice Porter

Enactment No: O-EN-013-2025

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported on the following:

First of all, council, I want to really start off with a wonderful set of news, and we do have a council member that is not present with us this evening, and that's because she is enjoying her grandbaby set of twins. So, Councilmember Janice Porter, congratulations. On Monday, she had a set of twins, one is a boy and one is a girl and they are both healthy. So that's what we all pray for. So, congratulations, councilmember.

Good evening, as well. We have got a lot going on in Jonesboro. Just last weekend, our Sanitation and Code Enforcement Departments did another neighborhood cleanup for May and it was held at Scenic Hills neighborhood behind Annie Camp where they picked up more than 5 ½ tons of garbage and 37 mosquito incubating tires. Now, council, we are going to be doing a report for you all to give you an update of the cost efficiency of what we are doing with not only this program, but now providing that Sanitation has an almost 24, every day opportunity for those to dump off out at our site here on Dan Avenue. And, so, we are seeing a lot of garbage being done as well. So, the team is going to provide us poundage and then the cost savings to the community that we are doing with doing these monthly pickups.

Messy, colorful fun was in the air on the Ninth Annual Color Me Dare Run on Saturday, April 26, 2025. It was free and it was family friendly. It even brought hundreds of residents together for a high energy two mile color run in the support of the Jonesboro Police Department's DARE program. They had bounce houses, face painting, food trucks, and clouds of powder. The morning was packed for all ages, connecting our city's children to the JPD Dare program. We are incredibly proud of our JPD officers for their continued efforts to continue with our youth and promote safety and drug free lifestyles through DARE, and were grateful to our community for showing up in full support. So, a huge thank you, Chief, for your officers and also to the sponsors that made that event wonderful.

Another popular event was the Kids Touch-a-Truck. How many in this room attended that? It was held May 1, 2025. It's an unforgettable experience for kids of all ages, from climbing into the driver's seat of fire trucks, police cruisers, and checking out helicopters, tractors, and more. But it's all about the hands-on fun and learning for our youth in this community. As you attend the event, every year it just seems to grow. I think they add 3,000- 4,000 youth out there. But I would say, and I brag on our city because the majority of the trucks from the City of Jonesboro and City, Water, and Light, and our partners. But, what I see is the joy from the city employees that they get from doing this every year to brag on the job that they do for our community. So, I commend them and I appreciate the directors for involving the city employees in that event. Thank you to Nettleton High School's East Program for organizing a fantastic event and to everyone that brought their vehicles out and made it a wonderful day for them as well.

Last weekend was the Oasis Fest, fun for adults and kids, too, featuring local artists, delicious food and music all over Main Street. We had an opportunity to show off one of our trolleys, and though we weren't taking rides on it, the vehicle had many admirers, and we look forward for them climbing on board soon.

Speaking of Main Street, Meet Me on Main will be held Thursday from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Main Street will be closed off from 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and the reason is for a celebration in just a few days away, now depending on whether I won't give you the exact day or time at this point, but we plan if everything goes well to open Main Street up, hopefully this weekend. So, there will be a ribbon cutting and a celebration back for a community as it becomes opened up.

I would say that I do want to finish up here, and I was in a meeting this morning with JEDC, and that's Jonesboro Economic Development Council. And in that meeting, I had a retired superintendent, soon to be a retired superintendent. She brought into light a picture of our community, and she said, you know, I've spent many years in my job and role. And she said, sometimes I get disillusioned by the fact of what we really have in Jonesboro, and what she meant by that was she spent a lot of time in her role

and what she did, her and her husband both working hard. But now that it's come full cycle, that she has grandchildren, she said, I can't keep up with the activities that we're doing. The quality of life in Jonesboro is amazing. And now she is seeing it, although she's been working here, all those years, she's now able to enjoy it and see what we have going on in the City of Jonesboro. She said, It's something to brag about and we all should be proud of that, and sometimes we take that for granted. So, I commend us all for working together. We've got to continue to push that. We've got to go to Destination 100K and getting there, and then beyond that. So these are our goals, but quality of life means so many things to different people. It means a lot of things, but unification is key. So, I want to commend everybody for that.

COM-25:010 FEBRUARY 2025 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

<u>Attachments:</u> February 2025 Financials.pdf

Filed

COM-25:012 JONESBORO AIRPO

JONESBORO AIRPORT COMMISSION FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE MONTHS OF JUNE 2024 THROUGH DECEMBER 2024 AND JANUARY 2025

THROUGH MARCH 2025

Attachments: JAC Jonesboro Airport Financials 06 24.pdf

JAC Jonesboro Airport Financials 07 24.pdf
JAC Jonesboro Airport Financials 08 24.pdf
JAC Jonesboro Airport Financials 09 24.pdf
JAC Jonesboro Airport Financials 10 24.pdf
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9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember John Street said, I just want to say I had a granddaughter graduate from Valley View High School last Sunday, and there was 227 graduates in her class. Jonesboro graduated and Nettleton. I just want to congratulate all of the high school graduates. We got a bunch of very talented young people here, and I know big chunk of them are headed to ASU, some Dartmouth. I mean, they are going all over the country, but they excel. We have an excellent education program in all our schools here. And with ASU, we're very blessed in that respect as well. But, I just wanted to recognize the graduates and ASU's graduates as well and wish them well. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you councilman and well said.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said, Yes, I have one quick thing. In conjunction with the proposed capital improvement revenue bond and based upon the recommendation of our bond attorney, I make the motion that we hold to the required public hearing at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 to be followed immediately by our City Council meeting. Councilmember John Street seconded the motion. All voted aye. Councilmember Hafner said, thank you.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, I would just like to say, this is also and thank you, John, for saying that, but this is also National Teacher Appreciation Week and I want for all of our educators being a former educator. I know how tough it is dealing with those kids and all ages, but I want to appreciate all of our educators and thank them for the job that they are doing. Thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Patti Lack, 4018 Forest Hill Road, said, I am going to read this to you just to make sure that I don't miss anything. I would like to speak on something that is concerning to me and to many others that attend sports games here in Jonesboro to either watch their kids or their grandkids. Many of these people have expressed to me that they would like to go to a mostly cashless system when it comes time to collecting fees for sports games at most of our facilities. I remember way back when my son played at Joe Mack. There was either a charge to get into the park or at the gate or both of them, but to be honest with you, I do not really remember ever getting a ticket or getting stamped after I paid the fee. So, from what I hear, it's the same thing that's been going on since then. So, let me share with you some of the situations that these people have told me. Many of these people have shared that when they pay to get in the park that there are individuals collecting the money, and at times they have so much money that it's difficult to hold all the money. There's no receipt, no ticket given after they pay their fee, and there's not even a clicker that they see counting the number of visitors that are paying to go into our park. So, the question that I have been asked is how does the city account for the exact money or the amount of money, with not keeping up with the number of people that have entered our parks to have better accounting? They say that some of them have season passes and I've heard that season passes are available, but on the season passes that I've seen do not have a number on them. So, the question there would be, how do we know how many season passes have been sold throughout the year? Last week, some of my grandparents' friends went to watch their granddaughter play volleyball at Allen Park. They paid \$3 each to get into the facility. They did not get a receipt from the two young girls that were collecting the money, and they thought that maybe that they would mark down on a piece of paper how many people have entered the facility to count the number of people using it, but they did not see that. My question right there is I don't know how the city pays the people that collect the tickets, or I don't know if they are volunteers. There's lots of questions to be answered. So, on that one is that how many visitors did we have at Allen Park? And I don't know if there is an answer to that, but we need to know. I know that Danny Kapales tells us many times how many teams come to Jonesboro, and I think all of us are just encouraged by the number of them. But it's also beneficial and important to know the number of visitors that enter and pay to that come into our parks, because how can you have an accurate budget if you do not know how many people are using our parks? Southside Ballpark. I don't know if this ballpark operates the same as Joe Mack when they have games and tournaments there. I did not get a lot of people giving me information about that. The concession stands, that's always a big money maker, I think, for the city and that you have. But how do they account for the money getting collected? You know, do they have a register to ring up orders? Or does an individual take inventory before and after the games to make sure what we're having, to see what we have brought in. We just need more accurate accounting system. Many expressed that we go to mostly cashless system. One would be setting up a season pass on a city website. I know we've got a lot of really intelligent people that work on computers that could do this, but also too, I know that the best system is looking into having passes too so we can take

advantage of that. The people that are collecting money at the facilities our park facilities, they could use a handheld debit or credit swipe card to release some of the money that we have. Using QR codes is becoming much more popular these days. Many of them requested to get a discount for grandparents because they say that it's too expensive to have to pay for each one of the games that we have, so I don't know if that is something that we can work on, because what has happened is that they have decided that they can't go to every single one of their grandkids functions. You can't eliminate cash all the way because a lot of people don't have charge cards. So, with that, is that each individual collecting cash could sign out for a certain amount of tickets and after its done, they could return that cash so we have the exact amount of accountability. And I want to let you guys know, I'm not making accusations about anybody, but I think the city needs to be more responsible in knowing how many number of people are entering our city facilities and then also to, to have more accountability of how much money is being collected. And I think I've had a lot of people coming to me asking these questions, and I do not know the answers. So, whether we go to mostly cashless systems, we need to make sure that we are more responsible and more accountability, and I hope that there can be more conversations about this because I think that's the way that it's going because if you look at most businesses, you know, very rarely do people pay for things with cash. So, I hope we can address this some other time and work on it. Thank you.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 11 - Brian Emison; Chris Moore; Chris Gibson; David McClain; Joe Hafner; Kevin Miller; Anthony Coleman; John Street; Charles Coleman; LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent: 1 - Janice Porter

	Date:	
Harold Copenhaver, Mayor		
Attest:		
	_ Date:	
April Leggett, City Clerk		