



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

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

PUBLIC SAFETY 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;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent 1 - Chris Gibson

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, thank you council and again I appreciate Councilmember Moore last week for stepping into my presence. It was much needed time away and I appreciate every one of you all giving me that comfort.

[COM-23:028](#)

PROCLAMATION HONORING THE NETTLETON TRACK AND FIELD TEAM

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, I stand before you all here today in celebration. We have some individuals in the room and if you would please come forward. I think we have Miss Douglas and KJ Word. Would you please come forward? Okay, if you don't mind, just stand right up there. So, I thought it would be important as we always do is recognize outstanding young individuals, young standouts in our community because not only do you stand out athletically, academically as well and that is key. That is what will pursue your careers through life. So, I want to read this proclamation honoring the Nettleton High School track and field state champions. Whereas two Nettleton High School athletes won state championships in individual competitions last month, Junior Donna Douglas won the Meet of State Champs overall state crown in the girl's shotput and discus setting a new meet record with a discus toss of 147 and 11 inches. It broke the previous record by more than 7 feet and this is a Junior. Her shotput of 44 feet 1.5 inches also beat the meet record. And, Senior KJ Word won the state class A 300 meter hurdles in the time of 40.42. He later finished fourth in the meet of Champions, the best of the best. The athletic success of these two high school students show the drive and dedication that embodies their school and indeed, all of Jonesboro. And, we wish you the continued success and that the hard work and the discipline that created these championships will lead you through life. So, I, there now

for, Mayor Harold Copenhaver, by the city invested in me, the abilities invested in me by the State of the laws of Arkansas do hereby proclaim Donna Douglas and KJ Word honored citizens of the City of Jonesboro, Arkansas. Truly, thank you. We give this to you.

Read

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

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

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

[MIN-23:053](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON JUNE 6, 2023

Attachments: [CC Minutes 06062023](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

[RES-23:083](#)

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL RIGHT-OF-WAY AT 2301 OAKBROOK FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

Attachments: [Offer and Acceptance - 2301 Oakbrook Drive](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-123-2023

RESOLUTIONS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

[RES-23:091](#)

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING FREE UTILITY SERVICES FROM CITY WATER AND LIGHT FOR CITY-OWNED PROPERTY

Councilmember John Street asked to be recused because of his position on the Board of City Water and Light. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, duly noted.

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

Aye: 10 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

Abstain: 1 - John Street

Enactment No: R-EN-124-2023

[RES-23:092](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 305 Airport Road, Jonesboro, AR 72401; Parcel 01-144153-00600, OWNER: I & C Rentals Inc.

Attachments: [305 Airport Inspection Report](#)
[305 Airport Map](#)
[305 Airport Precondemnation Notice Affidavit](#)
[305 Airport Precondemnation Notice Returned Sig Card](#)
[WIN_20220926_11_08_41_Pro](#)
[WIN_20220926_11_09_03_Pro](#)
[WIN_20220926_11_09_16_Pro](#)
[WIN_20220926_11_18_23_Pro](#)
[WIN_20220926_11_18_43_Pro](#)
[WIN_20220926_11_19_02_Pro](#)
[WIN_20220926_11_20_32_Pro](#)

Code Enforcement Director Scott Roper said, Mayor, Council, we have seen significant improvements on removing this property. If you have been by there, it is the old Diamond Grill. We would like for it to be tabled for three months. We believe in three months it will, probably sooner than that, be completely removed prior to that. Councilmember Chris Moore asked, Mr. Roper, how long is this time period if we continue? Doesn't he have 45 days to complete cleanup. Mr. Roper said, yes sir, but, I mean, there is still, I mean, most of the structures, there is only metal basically left, but I think three months gives them a little bit of leeway. You know, David Cooley has been working closely with them I think and we would like to suggest three months. Obviously, I'm sure. I think we believe it will be done sooner than that. Councilmember Moore said, well, I mean if he needs 90 days and he gets 45 with us continuing here, what about, I mean we have the discretion if you come back in 45 and ask for a continuation, we can do that for you. Mr. Roper said, sure. Councilmember Moore said, so why don't you keep an eye on him or them and if you think they are making significant progress within that 45 day time period, come back and then we can consider an extension at that point. Mr. Roper said, okay.

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;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

Enactment No: R-EN-125-2023

[RES-23:093](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 309 Mockingbird Cove, Jonesboro, AR 72401; Parcel: 01-144303-28100, OWNER: Gateway Mortgage Group, LLC.

Attachments: [309 Mockingbird Inspection Report](#)
[309 Mockingbird Map](#)
[309 Mockingbird Precondemnation Notice Affidavit](#)
[309 Mockingbird Precondemnation Returned Sig Card](#)
[WIN 20220712 15 06 54 Pro](#)
[WIN 20220712 15 07 09 Pro](#)
[WIN 20220712 15 10 12 Pro](#)
[WIN 20220712 15 11 13 Pro](#)
[WIN 20220712 15 12 45 Pro](#)
[WIN 20220712 15 16 01 Pro](#)
[WIN 20220712 15 16 27 Pro](#)
[WIN 20220712 15 16 47 Pro](#)
[WIN 20220712 15 17 05 Pro](#)

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;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

Enactment No: R-EN-126-2023

[RES-23:094](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 812 Sweetheart Lane, Jonesboro, AR 72401; Parcel: 01-144061-06800, OWNER: Tony Tilley

Attachments: [812 Sweetheart Precondemantion Notice Returned Sig Card](#)
[812 Sweetheart Inspection Report](#)
[812 Sweetheart Map](#)
[812 Sweetheart Precondemnation Notice Affidavit](#)
[WIN 20220722 10 40 45 Pro](#)
[WIN 20220722 10 41 16 Pro](#)
[WIN 20220722 10 41 37 Pro](#)
[WIN 20220722 10 42 04 Pro](#)
[WIN 20220722 10 42 34 Pro](#)
[WIN 20220722 10 43 33 Pro](#)
[WIN 20220722 10 45 11 Pro](#)

Code Enforcement Director Scott Roper said, we were in contact with the owner today and he has injured his back today. So, he has actually headed back. He lives out of state. He has been doing this by himself and would appreciate the opportunity to have three months to get it done. We don't believe he can get it done in 45 days. He believes he won't be back for 2-3 weeks and once his back starts feeling better, but he is very pleased with the progress he has made as well. And, we would like to request that it be tabled for three months. Councilmember Chris Moore said, I would make the same comment, that as we approach the 45 day mark, if you think he is continuing to make progress, then you can ask for an extension. I would think we would be open to giving him whatever time he needs as long as you think he is making progress. Mr. Roper said, we don't believe he will be done in 45 days. But, he has kept

to his word. It was three trailers and he has taken them completely down. Basically, what is left is the frames. He's got some windows and stuff. But, we have been monitoring regularly. He has been very good at communicating. Actually, he called us today and said, hey, I've got an issue going on with my back. I am not going to be back for at least two to three weeks. We don't feel that he will have this property ready in 45 days.

Councilmember Moore asked, how many more council meetings madam clerk do we have between now and the next 45 days? I would assume that we have at least two. Do we have a third meeting? City Clerk April Leggett said, we will have the 6th and 18th of July, the 1st of August and then I believe the 15th, but I think that would be beyond the 45 days. Councilmember Moore said, my only point is I'm hesitant to give somebody an extension until their time has run out. I mean to give an extension on the front end, I don't know that that's productive. Mr. Roper said, and I would agree with you if the guy had not been progressing along and doing everything. He is a one man show. He lives in Ohio. He's been down here and has been doing everything he has said he's been up to at this point. And, great communication. Councilmember Moore said, we have two more council meetings for sure within that 45 day time period. Would you be opposed to waiting to the second one and then asking for it at that time? Mr. Roper said, I will do whatever the council would like to do. I don't believe it will be ready in 45 days. I would prefer on this one to set it out three months because of the progress he has made and the communication he has made and doesn't believe that it can be done in 45 days.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said, Mayor, I have a question, just as a point of clarity. If it is not on the agenda, how do we ask for a continuance at that time? City Attorney Carol Duncan said, Code Enforcement is going to have to get it back on the agenda if you don't do the continuance. Otherwise, it would come up automatically. Councilmember Moore said, we have a provision in our ordinance that gives Scott the ability to ask for more time at any point as long as he thinks they are making significant progress. So, at the second council meeting from now, if Scott comes back and says they are still making significant progress. His back is better, but we think he needs 60 more days at that point, we can give him that or we can give him six months. Councilmember Hafner said, I just didn't know if it had to be listed on the agenda in order for Scott to ask for it. Councilmember Moore said, I believe Scott would have to come back and request additional time. Councilmember Hafner asked, prior to, like by the Thursday at 10 o'clock for it to be back on the agenda? Councilmember Moore said, that is correct. Councilmember Hafner said, I just wanted to be clear on that because if that is the way we go, I just want to make sure there is no misunderstanding and we miss it because of a procedural error. Councilmember Moore said, I think we can give him up to six months on two separate occasions. I think we can extend his time up to a year as long as Scott says. Ms. Duncan asked, Chris, are you anticipating that that would go back on the agenda as a motion for reconsideration? Because it is going to be passed. Councilmember Moore said, well, no. It won't be reconsideration in that original ordinance, the head of Code Enforcement has the right to come back and ask for additional time. I would expect that Scott would come back at the second meeting and say he needs additional time, he's making significant progress. Ms. Duncan asked, how would it appear on the agenda is what April is asking. Councilmember Moore said, well, I don't know how it would appear. I would assume that any councilmember or the Mayor could probably have it under their business at the end. I mean it is not an ordinance or a change to the ordinance. It is simply a continuation or an understanding. I mean I don't know what the position would be on that. We are not going to issue a new ordinance. Councilmember Hafner said, it is a continuation.

Mr. Roper said, and we do have a few more like this. What we have seen. Just to give it to you briefly, we have had our team and David Cooley has been very successful with working with people on these condemnations instead of us having to take them down, the owners taking them down which of course saves the city money. But, we have seen in some of these, they don't have a great deal of money and they are doing it on their budget and so, we are working with them in this case trying to extend it out a little bit of time to help them so the city doesn't bear the responsibility. Councilmember Moore said, and I am not opposed at all to giving an extension Scott. I am just opposed to giving it on the front end until they have exhausted the amount of time that they are supposed to be working on it because something might change in that 45 day period. They might quit working on it. You know, regardless of what they tell you, they might quit working on it. Mr. Roper said, sure, and I would agree with you, but I am just saying these structures are significant. There is nothing left. There's frames and a bunch of stuff in the yard and you know I don't think it would take, but he doesn't believe he can get it done in 45 days.

Councilmember Mitch Johnson said, I think I could see both sides to the question here. But, yeah, they might stall for time if we go ahead and extend it, but as we are giving our confidence in Mr. Roper to come back to us and ask for an extension with significant progress. I think if we don't get ourselves in a repetitive state here, if he comes before us as is tonight and makes the recommendation that he feels that's the way it should be, then we certainly shouldn't ignore that, but we shouldn't make it a habit either. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, Scott, you also mentioned that there's possibility of several more. Mr. Roper said, we have got several others that we were going to request. Councilmember Moore stated, you have got to remember the people aren't on this list because they have a good track record of keeping up their property and doing what they've promised. That is how you wind up before the council with your property being condemned. I don't know this particular person. I don't. I mean it's not that. I'm just saying we should keep them. Once we are at the point where the city has had to take action, we should stay on them fairly hard. Mr. Roper said, that is right and I would also agree too that I think our team and David Cooley deserves a lot of credit to get where we are at because we were not dealing with this last year. You know, what we are doing is that we are bringing properties that have been ignored and we are bringing them up and we are working with people trying to get these properties down. And, obviously, we have been taking others down and at the city's expense, but we have a few people that have shown. I mean, if you look at these properties, you might even agree that we don't, we could let them go right now and sign off on them. But, we won't do that just yet. I mean that's how far. I mean there's nothing left. All that is left is frames of trailers, but they are still there. And, I don't want to get somebody to sign off on it and then not be responsible for cleaning it up. Councilmember Johnson said, that is exactly right.

Councilmember Hafner stated, I still haven't heard a good answer on how this gets back on the agenda. And, that is the part that troubles me. If it's not back on the agenda automatically to do the extension at that point and Scott gets busy or he is sick and he is out and he misses the 10 o'clock deadline, then the property owner is going to get their house condemned. Ms. Duncan said, well, it will already be condemned. Councilmember Hafner said, I know, but they are not going to get the opportunity to get that extension that they otherwise would have. Councilmember Moore asked, did you read that particular provision? Does it give Scott the authority to make that decision on his own? Ms. Duncan said, I will have to look. Councilmember Moore said, it may give Scott the authority to do that without us approving it.

Chief Operating Officer Tony Thomas said, it doesn't appear that it does. It says that the City Council may grant upon written recommendation from Code Enforcement Officer with cause shown grant one extension not to exceed six months and then it continues on with an additional six months. So, it just says a written recommendation to the City Council and we just have to figure out how to get that written recommendation to the Clerk and on the agenda. City Clerk April Leggett said, if it is passed, yes, that is what I am having a difficult time with too. If it is passed, it is passed. Councilmember Moore said, Carol would be right then. It would be a motion to reconsider would be required. Ms. Duncan said, that is what I am thinking. Councilmember Moore said, so we could do a motion to reconsider at that time, but we also should consider changing the ordinance to give Scott that ability to make that decision on his own. Well, I mean if we have 45 days built into the schedule for somebody to comply, maybe we go on and give Scott the ability to make another 45 day extension before it would come back to the Council for additional time.

Councilmember LJ Bryant asked, do we have a motion or not? We do have a motion. Councilmember Moore said, we have a motion and a second to condemn. Mayor Copenhaver said, we have a motion for discussion. Councilmember Bryant said, I call for the question. Mayor Copenhaver asked, what is your question? Councilmember Bryant said, oh no, I'm not calling for the question. I'm calling for the vote. Ms. Duncan said, a vote on the original motion to condemn.

Councilmember Janice Porter said, pardon me. I am confused as to what we are voting on exactly. Mayor Copenhaver said, we are voting on the original condemnation. Ms. Duncan said, not the extension. Councilmember Porter asked, if I vote yes, he has 90 days or he has 45 days? Ms. Duncan said, if you vote yes, it is condemned today. Councilmember Porter said, I see. Councilmember Moore said, and he has 45 days to comply. And, then, Scott can come back within that 45 day period and we can reconsider and grant additional time.

Councilmember John Street said, I do agree with you Councilmember Moore. We ought to go back and look at the ordinance and give Scott the discretion to do that without having to come back. I mean, he has done a great job. In this respect, I trust him implicitly and I believe he would do the right thing in the best interest of the city and all parties involved. So, I would love to see us go back and reconsider that and make it where Scott does have the discretion to make that decision on his own. Mayor Copenhaver said, we do have a motion on the floor at this point in time. Thank you for your comments Council.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

Enactment No: R-EN-127-2023

[RES-23:095](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 1204 Warren Street, Jonesboro, AR 72401; Parcel: 01-144074-13800, OWNER: The Heirs at Law of Donald Greer, deceased

Attachments: [1204 Warren Inspection Report](#)
[1204 Warren Map](#)
[1204 Warren Precondemnation Notice Affidavit](#)
[1204 Warren Precondemnation Returned Sig Card](#)
[WIN_20230118_11_37_54_Pro](#)
[WIN_20230118_11_38_22_Pro](#)
[WIN_20230118_11_38_35_Pro](#)
[WIN_20230118_11_40_07_Pro](#)
[WIN_20230118_11_40_46_Pro](#)

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;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

Enactment No: R-EN-128-2023

6. NEW BUSINESS

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[ORD-23:026](#)

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 4603 SOUTHWEST DRIVE AS REQUESTED BY AMY NEWBERRY LOVINS.

Attachments: [Application \(3\)](#)
[Plat \(9\)](#)
[Notifications](#)
[Staff Summary - C.C.](#)

Held at second reading

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-23:021](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO UPDATE CITY OF JONESBORO PURCHASING GUIDELINES TO REFLECT AMENDMENT TO STATE OF ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE PURCHASING PROCEDURES

Attachments: [ACT435 2021](#)

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

vote.

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

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

Enactment No: O-EN-026-2023

[ORD-23:022](#)

AN ORDINANCE BY 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 John Street, seconded by Councilperson Brian Emison, that this matter be Passed. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

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

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

Enactment No: O-EN-027-2023

ITEMS THAT HAVE BEEN HELD IN COUNCIL

[RES-22:147](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 3011, 3013, 3015, & 3017 N Church St. Jonesboro, AR 72401 Parcel #: 01-154312-01100; OWNER: Michael P. Davis

- Attachments:**
- [3017 N Church Inspection Report](#)
 - [3017 N Church Map](#)
 - [3017 N Church Supplemental Inspection Report](#)
 - [Notice of Violation Certified](#)
 - [Notice of Violation Returned Back](#)
 - [Notice of Violation Returned Front](#)
 - [Precondemnation Notice](#)
 - [3011 N. CHURCH](#)
 - [3013 N. CHURCH \(1\)](#)
 - [3013 N. CHURCH \(2\)](#)
 - [3013 N. CHURCH \(3\)](#)
 - [3013 N. CHURCH \(4\)](#)
 - [3015 N CHURCH \(1\)](#)
 - [3015 N CHURCH \(2\)](#)
 - [3015 N CHURCH \(3\)](#)
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 - [3017 N. CHURCH SHED 1 \(7\)](#)

[3017 N. CHURCH SHED 1 \(8\)](#)

[3017 N. CHURCH SHED 1 \(9\)](#)

[3017 N. CHURCH SHED 1 \(10\)](#)

[3017 N. CHURCH SHED 1 \(11\)](#)

[3017 N. CHURCH SHED 1 \(12\)](#)

[3017 N. CHURCH SHED 1 \(13\)](#)

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, we have come so far with where we are and I appreciate Scott and his entire team when we get positive remarks from the public and I appreciate your engagement with them. And, I know you are taking these individuals very seriously with what they do.

Code Enforcement Director Scott Baxter said, we have given this gentleman an extension of six months and he has done almost nothing. That being said, he is in the military and his time was extended which he did not plan to have extended. He has gotten back. He has pulled his permit, I think within the last few days. We would like to ask for his last and final extension of six months and for it to be tabled for six months. Councilmember Chris Moore asked, when you say he pulled a permit, is it a permit to repair the structure? Mr. Roper said, that is my understanding. That is correct. I think he is trying to repair it. I mean it is in bad shape, but it is repairable. Councilmember Moore stated, okay. So, maybe somebody from the department head, but I believe his permit is good for a year. So, I believe as long as his permit is valid, he will have a year to complete his construction if he bought a permit. Mr. Roper said, he did buy a permit. Councilmember Moore said, a building permit in the City of Jonesboro is... Mr. Roper intercepted and stated, it is not a building permit, I don't know what to say, it's not a building permit, it is a remodel permit. Councilmember Moore said, either way, it's good for a year. So, I mean, you can keep an eye on him. If he quits making progress, you can come back, but by purchasing the permit, submitting the application and purchasing the permit, he has up to a year now to complete construction. Mr. Roper said, sure. He has done nothing to the property. I'll say that. But, I also felt, we felt when we discussed this as a team is that the guy is in the military and he has been communicating with us. But, make no mistake, he has done nothing with the property.

Councilmember Joe Hafner asked, with what Mr. Moore said and him having a year, what actually are we voting on right now? Councilmember Moore said, condemnation. Mr. Roper asked, so can we condemn the property if he's got a permit? Councilmember Moore said, I think we had that conversation once before Carol. Purchasing the permit did not alleviate you of your responsibility on condemnation. It did give you an opening that if Scott wanted to extend it up to a year, but I don't think it stops condemnation. Mr. Roper said, yes sir, I believe he was granted a permit. Councilmember Moore said, I am not opposed Carol to making a motion to continue it to the next council meeting and we can get all of the information. Mr. Roper said, also we could see if there's any progress being made. Chief Operations Officer Tony Thomas said, that was Tim Renshaw, our Chief Building Official, and he just wanted to make sure that we convey that permit would only be good for six months or 180 days. Councilmember Moore said, six months, okay.

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: 10 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Nay: 1 - Janice Porter

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

Enactment No: R-EN-129-2023

[RES-22:221](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS
TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 2109 Brazos St. Jonesboro, AR 72401
Parcel #: 01-144281-49400

- Attachments:**
- [2109 Brazos Inspection Report](#)
 - [2109 Brazos Map](#)
 - [2109 Brazos Cert Board & Secure](#)
 - [2109 Brazos Cert Notice of Violation Returned Sig Card](#)
 - [2109 Brazos Cert Notice of Violation](#)
 - [WIN 20220622 14 21 35 Pro](#)
 - [WIN 20220622 14 21 45 Pro](#)
 - [WIN 20220622 14 21 57 Pro](#)
 - [WIN 20220622 14 25 52 Pro](#)
 - [WIN 20220622 14 25 55 Pro](#)
 - [WIN 20220622 14 26 00 Pro](#)
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City Attorney Carol Duncan said, it is my understanding that there is a request to table this indefinitely. I can read it, but that is my understanding if we would like to have that explanation and motion made before I read it or I will read. Code Enforcement Director Scott Roper said, that is correct Carol. We would request that this be tabled indefinitely. Ms. Duncan said, it is cleaned up.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

[RES-22:222](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 3206 Fairview Dr. Jonesboro, AR 72401
Parcel #: 01-144281-29000

Attachments: [3206 Fairview Inspection Report](#)
[3206 Fairview Map](#)
[3206 Fairview Cert Notice of Violation](#)
[3206 Fairview Returned Cert Notice of Violation](#)
[WIN 20220812 10 46 57 Pro](#)
[WIN 20220812 10 47 01 Pro](#)
[WIN 20220812 10 47 11 Pro](#)
[WIN 20220812 10 47 17 Pro](#)
[WIN 20220812 10 47 39 Pro](#)
[WIN 20220812 10 47 41 Pro](#)
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Code Enforcement Director Scott Roper said, we would request that this be tabled indefinitely.

A motion was made by Councilperson John Street, seconded by Councilperson David McClain, that this matter be Postponed Indefinitely. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

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

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

[RES-23:073](#)

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

TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 1907 Irby St. Jonesboro, AR 72401; Parcel #: 01-144223-08200; OWNER: Robert P. & Agnes M Cowles

Attachments: [1907 Irby Certified Notice of Violation](#)
[1907 Irby Inspection Report](#)
[1907 Irby Map](#)
[1907 Irby Returned Signiture Card for Notice of Violation](#)
[WIN 20220824 09 45 38 Pro](#)
[WIN 20220824 09 45 51 Pro](#)
[WIN 20220824 09 46 05 Pro](#)
[WIN 20220824 09 46 25 Pro](#)
[WIN 20220824 09 46 30 Pro](#)
[WIN 20220824 09 51 23 Pro](#)
[WIN 20220824 09 51 44 Pro](#)

Code Enforcement Director Scott Roper said, actually the owner is here. The house is completely gone. There is a rather large pile of bricks and there is also another pile of wood. He has had some family medical issues and has not been able to complete the project. He has done everything that we have asked him to do. He has not had enough time. I think resources are an issue too on getting the pile of bricks and the wood removed, but he is working on it. We would like to request that this be tabled for three months.

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Moore, seconded by Councilperson John Street, that this matter be Postponed Temporarily. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

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

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported on the following:

I would just like to state Council that this past week, I attended the Arkansas Municipal League (AML) Convention. It was held in Little Rock. We had strong representation there. We had several councilmembers in attendance. I would like to thank Dr. Charles Coleman, John Street, Janice Porter, Dr. Anthony Coleman, and Chris Gibson for their participation. Dr. Charles Coleman and John Street have been long time attendees and they have learned a lot about leading a city through the years and I want to say thank you to your commitment to our city and AML.

We have learned a lot there. I am honored to serve on the Executive Committee serving large, first-class cities in the state of Arkansas. What we do? We have 499 cities that are represented there. We had over a thousand attendees at the convention. But, it gives us the ability as councilmembers and Mayor and staff to visit with other communities and other leaders to see what they are doing. The great thing is, and I think many councilmembers here, the state of Arkansas, hold Jonesboro in very high accord when it comes to projects, what we are doing and the interest level is very high and that always makes me proud. I know it does you all as well when you attend.

I also want to give you updates on recent overlay applications which I hope you have

seen throughout the community. It has been phenomenal how quickly we have been able to achieve this. I want to say thank you to Atlas Asphalt. They have completed all but one street and that one just needs a little bit of work. So, our streets are looking better and I appreciate you approving the extra funding that we requested.

We have been authorized now to begin soliciting bids on the hybrid JET buses. That was an FTA grant totally more than one million dollars that we received a year ago. And, as you all are well aware Council, it takes time to move through that process. So, I am very pleased to hear that. The timing is perfect because it will be another year before we currently have a new fleet intact. Our current fleet is aging.

We received final authorization for bids on Creath Street for Downtown to Arkansas State Connector Trail. Thank goodness. Craig, what is the date on that in which we anticipate the bids to be open? Engineering Director Craig Light said, July 12th. Mayor Copenhaver said, July 12th, that is good news. We should have those bids in and I am more than ready to get going on it.

One grant we didn't win this year was the overpass on Gee Street, but we will be back at it again next year for that application.

I want to highlight one City Councilmember who went above and beyond in the recent care of an elderly resident. Councilmember Janice Porter had been working with a woman who lives in an upstairs complex and needed a ramp to get her wheelchair out of her house. Mrs. Porter found the donors, builders, and even went to the POA meeting to help ensure the citizen has the ability to get in and out of her home. So, I want to say thank you to Councilmember Porter. This is the kind of work that defines what Public Service is about.

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember John Street said, Mayor, I would ask that we, I move in the form of a motion that we move Public Works to 5:00 p.m. on July 6, 2023 because of the 4th of July. That is the first Tuesday July meeting. We might as well go ahead and I don't know if you need two motions, but I would motion to move the City Council meeting at 5:30 p.m. to Thursday, July 6, 2023. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, we already did the Council. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, we have already done the Council. Ms. Duncan said, we may have already done yours too, but I know we did Council. Councilmember Street asked, oh, did we? Well, I need Public Works if we haven't. I didn't recall we did that. Councilmember Chris Moore seconded the motion. All voted aye.

Councilmember Street said, like you, I thought the attendance at the Municipal League was really good and in fact, it was back to pre-pandemic levels. There were a lot of good speakers. There were a lot of good things presented. I am glad they were able to go back and present the number of sessions on Thursday afternoon that they did. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you.

Councilmember Mitch Johnson said, I guess in some of the confusion tonight and some positive comments by Councilmember Moore and our faith in Mr. Roper. Since most of these things come before Public Safety, I would kind of like to see us revamp this a little bit as we were discussing. I don't know if that amendment to an ordinance would have to come to Public Safety before or not. If it does, I guess as Public Safety Chair, I would like to ask that we do that as soon as possible. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, absolutely, duly noted on that. I concur.

Councilmember LJ Bryant stated, I will just say that the trails at Craighead look really good. And, I mean it's amazing to see how many kids and stuff is out there. I mean, I've got a picture of just all those kids. I mean, you wouldn't even think you were in Jonesboro. I mean it was amazing how quick that got utilized. It is kind of like Field of Dreams, you build it and they will come, you know. So, we're making a lot of good progress. And, I am not going to talk about the pay issue at all, but I will just say that when you look through the list, pay a side, pay is certainly an issue, but that's not what I'm talking about. When you look through the list, I mean we do still have people moving strictly for quality of life issues. And, I had an officer after the meeting say, you know, they're looking at Fayetteville, not anything to do with the police, it was strictly that his wife was moving up there and quality of life. So, we have just got to keep working on those things and I know we're making progress.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said, just a couple of things real quick. Number one, as far as the pay issue, obviously as Chair of the Finance Committee, I would like to be a part of those discussions and kept in the loop. As we all know, time is of the essence. I know the Mayor has been doing some work on this so hopefully it won't take too long to figure out. And, as I have been harping on and the Mayor probably gets tired of hearing from me sometimes, but I need to make sure this addresses both, you know, the attraction of new officers and the retention of our most experienced officers because that is very important. The other thing that I have got at either the last Council meeting or a couple of Council meetings ago, I asked about getting a meeting setup speaking of the trails of the One Jonesboro Committee and I didn't know if there had been any progress made on trying to select a date for that. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, not at this point, but I will follow up with you on that. Councilmember Hafner said, thank you.

Councilmember David McClain, said the only thing I had and we keep speaking about quality of life and trails and things, do we have an anticipated or any progress on trail coordinator? Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, we are working through that at this point. I believe in our Monday morning discussion, Craig and I had further discussions on that. Obviously, we're going to be looking at amendments, probably to bring back to Council on how we can apply and provide additional opportunities so we can have applicants apply. Councilmember McClain asked, in terms of bringing back so we can have additional funding, I guess, for that position. Mayor Copenhaver said, that is a possibility. Councilmember McClain said, okay, thank you.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, sure, I like to kick a dead horse. So, let's just pick up where Mitch left off. Specifically Mayor, what I would ask is that your department prepare an amendment to the condemnation ordinance giving the Director of Code Enforcement the authority to extend the condemnation time period 45 days without Council authority. So, if you will present that to the Public Safety Committee, we will move on it. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, it is good conversation Council. So, thank you. Councilmember Moore said, oh, yeah and I have no doubt that they are making good progress. I see it in my neighborhood every day. I just have doubt that some people are going to fulfill and follow through. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Councilmember. Councilmember Moore said, thank you Mayor.

Councilmember Brian Emison said, I just have a few things in regards to the Public Safety meeting that we had earlier. It wasn't a question, but we had already gone over time. I would also like to be in on those talks. You know, I also have a lot of family members that have been law enforcement through the years so I feel particularly close to those, that group of individuals and also have the pleasure of serving on Finance as

well. So, I would like to see if I can help out in any way especially since they are nice enough to help us whenever we call for them. In regards to the overlay, I do have to brag on Wood Street. I mean, it's like a whole new world when you turn up there so that has been fantastic and Atlas Asphalt has done fantastic with that. Also, earlier from this evening, we had a special called Nominating & Rules Council Committee meeting. I would like to go ahead and walk on RES-23:107 for a vote tonight.

Councilmember Brian Emison motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore, to suspend the rules and walk on RES-23:107. All voted aye.

Councilmember David McClain asked, is Mallory Hurt White replacing someone? Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, she will be replacing her father. Councilmember McClain said, okay, thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, you bet.

Councilmember Chris Moore motioned, seconded by Councilmember Janice Porter, to adopt RES-23:107. All voted aye.

Mayor Copenhaver said, Councilmember Emison, on your comments, our door is open for every councilmember. This is an inclusive conversation and I want it to be. So, please come forward if you have some concerns and questions and we would like to address those. So, thank you for your comments. Councilmember Brian Emison said, you bet Mayor.

Councilmember Janice Porter said, I am very thankful for the opportunity to attend the Arkansas Municipal League meeting. It made it clear to me that Jonesboro stands out in two areas in particular. Social Media, everything is best practices according to the training I received. And, our adherence to the FOIA regulations is spot on. And, I am very proud of that. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you for your comments.

[RES-23:107](#)

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

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

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

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

Enactment No: R-EN-130-2023

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilperson Mitch Johnson, seconded by Councilperson LJ Bryant, that this meeting be Adjourned. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

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

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

Harold Copenhaver, Mayor **Date:** _____

Attest:

April Leggett, City Clerk **Date:** _____