



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

SPECIAL CALLED FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING AT 4:30 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 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

[COM-25:007](#)

PROCLAMATION HONORING JET ON TRANSIT DRIVERS APPRECIATION DAY

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, good evening City Council. Tonight, we are going to honor a proclamation of the Transit employees. It is National Transit Employee Day and this serves as a reminder of the tireless contributions of Jonesboro Economical Transit professionals who we work with. They have skill. They have compassion. They have a commitment to provide safe, reliable, accessible, affordable, and equitable transportation options for all. The City of Jonesboro relies on the dedicated work in the services of its public transportation teams whose efforts ensure the smooth and efficient movement of thousands and I believe this year over 100,000 passengers annually. Whereas, the employees of the Jonesboro Transit embody the core values of professionalism, teamwork, and dedication ensuring that our residents and visitors alike can travel with ease, confidence, and comfort. JET Transit employees play a vital role in connecting our community to jobs, schools, healthcare, and essential services thereby enhancing the quality of life in Jonesboro for all. All JET Transit employees including drivers, dispatchers, mechanics, and office personnel are dedicated to providing a smooth and reliable experience allowing passengers to travel with confidence. The success of our Transit System directly contributes to the validity of our city by enhancing mobility, reducing traffic congestion, improving air quality, and fostering greater community engagement and access to essential services. JET is continually expanding and improving through public and employee input, holding true to its' motto, community driven. It's an honor to express our deepest gratitude to each JET Transit employee for their outstanding service, unwavering dedication and continued efforts to make our community a better place for all. So, I, now therefore, Harold Copenhaver, Mayor for the City of Jonesboro, do hereby proclaim March 18, 2025, Jonesboro Transit Employee Day and urge all citizens to honor the exceptional

work of the men and women of the Jonesboro Transit System. Thank you for what you do.

Read

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

Aye: 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

[MIN-25:019](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MARCH 4, 2025

Attachments: [CC Minutes 03042025.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-25:020](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH W. WILLIAM GRAHAM, JR., INC. TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR TRACK WORK ON CITY-OWNED RAILROAD

Attachments: [Agreement.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-034-2025

[RES-25:022](#)

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH THE JONESBORO BASEBALL BOOSTERS

Attachments: [JBB 2025 Agreement 2-18-25.pdf](#)
[JBB 2022 Agreement 2-23-22.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-035-2025

[RES-25:023](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ENTER INTO A FACILITY USAGE AGREEMENT WITH JONESBORO JETS, INC FOR THE YEAR OF 2025

Attachments: [JETS 2025 Agreement.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-036-2025

[RES-25:024](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ENTER INTO A FACILITY USAGE AGREEMENT WITH SHARK

WAVE AQUATICS TEAM FOR YEAR 2025

Attachments: [SWAT 2025 Agreement.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-037-2025

[RES-25:025](#)

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ACCEPT THE LOW BID AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ATLAS ASPHALT INC. FOR THE 2025 ASPHALT MILLING AND OVERLAYS SELECTED CITY STREETS PROJECT - JOB NO. 2025:01

Attachments: [2025 Asphalt Overlays.pdf](#)
 [Bid Tab.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-038-2025

RESOLUTIONS NOT ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

[RES-25:026](#)

A RESOLUTION TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE ABANDONMENT OF A DRAINAGE EASEMENT LOCATED IN LOT 5R OF THE SECOND ADDITION OF BLOCK C, SOUTHERN HILLS, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AS REQUESTED BY CRAFTON TULL

Attachments: [OpinionLetter](#)
 [DRAINAGE EASEMENT ABANDONMENT](#)
 [SignedPetition](#)
 [UtilityLetters](#)
 [Receipt](#)

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

Aye: 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Enactment No: R-EN-039-2025

6. NEW BUSINESS

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[ORD-25:008](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE JONESBORO CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 2 ARTICLE 3, ENTITLED CITY COUNCIL, ESTABLISHING CITY COUNCIL RULES AND PROCEDURES

Attachments: [Exhibit A - City Council Rules REDLINED.docx](#)
 [Exhibit A - City Council Rules CLEAN 2025.docx](#)

Held at second reading

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-25:005](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE JONESBORO CODE OF ORDINANCES, SECTION 117.330(c), KNOWN AS THE SIDEWALK ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, PROVIDING FOR A CONTRIBUTION IN LIEU CONSTRUCTION EXEMPTION FOR PROPERTY IN PLANNED INDUSTRIAL PARKS

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

Aye: 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Enactment No: O-EN-011-2025

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported on the following:

I would like to start my comments tonight by I recognizing the excellent response of our emergency teams that we had in place Friday. And, if I will, I'm just going to expand it a little bit for the council as well as I see this thing developed over the last five years of my fortunate time to be Mayor. I've learned a lot and I've learned a lot through our 911, our safety, our Fire and Police, and I want you as a community to know it's a comforting feeling to know that we're prepared in the situations that we were about to face last weekend. We were very close to a really serious F4 here in Jonesboro. Unfortunately, our neighbor Paragould, got some damage. And, so, I went with both chiefs and their departments and SWAT team. We went over to Paragould and assisted them immediately. I will say this, the one thing that Paragould does have, they do have a complete 911 center and it allows them to have a command center during a storm situation. So, it gave them hands on where they were all working together and that's a big benefit. And, so of course, that's something that we are going to be asking for a little bit later. But with that, the activity, again, we were able to assist them in many ways that evening. We were able to leave the community and be back home in the early morning. But, with that, we do have some city assets that are now assisting them in the cleanup mode. They were very fortunate in that there were very few and minor injuries involved, but I just want to tell you how proud I am and you should be too of our first responders and how they organize and how they go to a scene. It just makes it a community when they see Jonesboro pull up, it just makes them feel better. So, I just wanted to let you know and say thank you to Chief Hamrick, Chief Elliot, and Ronnie Sturch and your teams. I think we had 16 siren warnings that went off that evening. So, it was quite active in activity, but the great thing is, the shelters were open. I spoke with County Judge Marvin Day today and they had 207 people in their new shelter over here. So, they are getting utilized by the community.

The Employee of the Month for March was John Kern. John is a member of the

esteemed Street Department, and we are all grateful for his hard work.

Alejandra Morales from Grants and Community Development and Danny Kapales from Parks and Recreation collected nearly \$200,000 of outdoor recreation matching grant from the Arkansas Department of Heritage, Parks and Tourism. This grant will be used at Allen Park for an all-inclusive playground.

I think it goes without saying we've seen significant progress in the demolition of the building formerly known as the Citizen's Bank building. After decades of struggling through a variety of hopeful solutions and various entanglements, I feel certain most of us would breathe a sigh of relief when the problem is finally behind us. Thank you for the leadership of this Council to allow that to happen. Thus far, the two-story building has been demolished and hauled off. The demolition of the seven-story portion has begun and the upper three-stories have been nearly removed. They are hoping to do that by the end of this evening because there is a lot of wind coming in tonight and tomorrow. Thus, we have had 262 tons of debris already removed from the building.

There is also a lot of building going on. We are continuing to see growth and progress as the new Simmons Bank on Caraway Road held its reopening, I would say last week. And, First Community Bank had a grand opening of their newest branch at Greensboro Village on East Johnson.

Coming up Saturday, we have a low-cost pet vaccination clinic with Animal Services. I believe this is already full. I think we have almost 500 individuals set up for their animals for vaccination. This program requires pre-registration and fills up every time it's offered. The service keeps our pets and people safe which leads me to some exciting news from Arkansas State University that we have all been looking forward to. ASTATE broke ground last week on the College of Veterinarian Medicine. As the only public veterinarian school in the state, this will have a long lasting, positive impact on the entire region.

Also, at ASTATE, the baseball field's new surface named for my dear friend and friend of Arkansas State, Joe Slayton was dedicated. I had the honor of proclaiming Saturday, March 15, 2025, as Joe Slayton Day for his family.

I would be remiss if I didn't say, I'm looking forward to seeing the Red Wolves win their NIT game tonight. I hope many of you are able to attend. And the ASTATE Women's team win their NCAA opener Saturday against Yukon. It is the first time in history that they have made it all the way to the NCAA. By the way, it's the 50th anniversary of Women's Sports at ASTATE and basketball was one of the first three sports offered. The others were volleyball and tennis, plus its' Women's History Month. So, it sounds like to me, the cards are in the favor. Wolves Up and we will see you all at the vault tonight.

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember John Street said, I am glad to see the building coming down. There's a song about it. I don't know if you've heard it or not. I can't remember the name of the song, but 103 played the whole thing. That is all I've got Mayor.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said, I have two things. Number one, my sister June was on the first women's basketball team 50 years ago. So, she's kind of a pioneer. I don't know if she ever played or who many points she scored, but she was on the team. The second thing I have is I would like to ask that we suspend the rules and walk on

RES-25:028. Councilmember Chris Gibson seconded the motion. All voted aye.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, yes, thank you. I was going to mention or ask some questions about the roads and things like that, but I appreciate my colleague, Mr. McClain, because I think the same constituent reached out to him and then he reached out to Tony and Brian, I believe, and they responded very quickly, so I appreciate you guys for that. I'd also like to hear kind of what the plans are for the roads and just overall where we are because I have a lot of people asking, where are the overlays? Where are they going to be? What's first? What's second? Just kind of a general idea. Mayor Copenhaver said, yeah, we can. Matter of fact, what we did, we just approved. Atlas Asphalt just came back to complete the 2024 projects. And, I think, we will get that information back out to you. On the actual roads that are on the list, I think there are six to eight roads on that list. And, then the approval tonight. They are listed on your attachment, I think. But we will get that information to you councilman, so you can get it back out to the electorate. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, thank you.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, I have just a couple of brief comments. I echo what the Mayor says. The weather is beautiful. We dodged the bullet on this last storm. We haven't always been that lucky. We were this time. The progress on the Citizen's building is astounding. I was down there talking with one of the engineers. I think it will come in a head of schedule on our time. So, everybody from the downtown area has been pretty excited about it. I think it's important that we start thinking ahead, though, and consider what might be the long use plan of that property. I would encourage all of the councilmembers to give it some thought and let the Mayor know. We are going to have an opportunity to come up, probably to shape that whole corner around the courthouse for the foreseeable future. So, it would be nice to have a development there that complements downtown and adds to that whole streetscape. Mayor Copenhaver said, I totally agree. Thank you councilmember. Councilmember Moore said, thank you Mayor.

[RES-25:028](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ENTRY INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION COMMISSION AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE CITY'S SUPPORT FOR AND CONSENT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SPORTS COMPLEX

Attachments: [Accounting MOU - Jonesboro and AP Commission \(2025\).pdf](#)

Councilmember Joe Hafner motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to suspend the rules and walk-on RES-25:028. All voted aye.

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

Aye: 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Enactment No: R-EN-040-2025

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

_____ **Date:** _____

Harold Copenhaver, Mayor

Attest:

_____ **Date:** _____

April Leggett, City Clerk