



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Finance & Administration Council Committee

Tuesday, May 26, 2026

4:00 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

Present 7 - Joe Hafner; John Street; Anthony Coleman; David McClain; Ann Williams; Charles Coleman and Brian Emison

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[MIN-26:045](#)

Minutes for the Finance Committee meeting on Tuesday, May 12, 2026.

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

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

Aye: 6 - John Street; Anthony Coleman; David McClain; Ann Williams; Charles Coleman and Brian Emison

4. NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

[RES-26:056](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ACCEPT A PERMANENT RIGHT-OF-WAY EASEMENT FROM ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Sponsors: Engineering

Attachments: [Permanent ROW Easement.pdf](#)

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

Aye: 6 - John Street; Anthony Coleman; David McClain; Ann Williams; Charles Coleman and Brian Emison

[RES-26:058](#)

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN ESCROW DEPOSIT AGREEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE DEFEASANCE OF BONDS ISSUED TO SUPPORT COLSON CASTER LLC AND ITS AFFILIATES; TO

AUTHORIZE THE CONVEYANCE OF REAL PROPERTY RELATED TO THE BONDS;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Attachments: [Escrow Deposit Agreement - Jonesboro \(2026\).pdf](#)

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, yeah. Just layman's terms. Chairman Joe Hafner said, well it wasn't written in layman's terms. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, not at all. Mitchell Williams Law Firm Attorney Michele Allgood approached the podium and said, oh come on. This is one of the most simple things I've seen. So, what has happened is that what y'all did previously, you incentivized Coleson to come build a state-of-the-art facility. They are currently operating. They have about 70 employees. I believe recently they have implemented a second shift. So, things are going exactly as you'd hope they would. For business reasons that are unrelated to their ongoing operation, they want to exercise the purchase option that was granted to them. So, they're going to unwind the pilot with respect to the real estate. They're going to transfer it to a new entity and then lease it back. But they were going to continue operations. Nothing is going to change with operation of the facility. This is solely so that they believe for business reasons this is a good option for them. After this is all said and done, you're likely to see me back here requesting on behalf of the landlord, that we reimplement the pilot for the remaining period. So, you granted them a 20 year pilot. They've used five of it. This does not change anything on behalf of the city. So, there wasn't any liability on behalf of the city in the first instance and this does not change that. It still remains none.

Chairman Joe Hafner said, it's basically like the Council meeting we had last week. That was the very start of a new pilot program. Michele Allgood said, yes. Chairman Joe Hafner said, and this one they're five years into it and they're just like hey we just want to make some changes. Michele Allgood said, yep. I mean they're a good business. Chairman Joe Hafner said, right. Michele Allgood continued, and they see a benefit to doing this. And because y'all have incentivized them previously they have to come and tell you what they're doing and request your assistance.

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

Aye: 6 - John Street;Anthony Coleman;David McClain;Ann Williams;Charles Coleman and Brian Emison

[RES-26:059](#)

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 2026

Sponsors: Parks & Recreation

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

*Councilmember John Street said, well I don't agree with all aspects of this contract, I will make a motion to forward to full council so we can put it on the table for discussion. *The motion was seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison.*

Councilmember David McClain said, Mr. Chairman, if I may, I guess I'd like to hear the administration's stance on this. I don't know who wants to take that, but the reason I'm asking...I'll let y'all speak to this if somebody is willing to. Chief Administrative Officer Brian Richardson approached the podium and said, sure. You know, this conversation originally began as a, I guess as a proposal from the administration to both the JETS Swim Team and the Shark Wave Aquatics Team. And when it was probably, I guess

apparent that an agreement was not going to be reached and, you know, there were several statements made that we felt like needed some sunshine. So, at that point that's whenever it was sent to the Public Services Commission for an open and public discussion about the needs and kind of how the swimming programs operate. I'm not a swim guy, so, you know, defer to the representative of each group to come in and kind of talk about their needs and their plans and, you know, what did or didn't work for them for the agreement. I believe that, you know, that some of you all are on the Public Services Committee and, you know, that meeting went on for quite some time and we took some of the recommendations. Or I guess, tried to follow them almost verbatim to draft this contract that you see before you. And so, that's where we are. You know, I'm sure that there's obviously, you're never going to make everybody happy. We want a fair proposal, one that's clear. I figured this would be yet another public opportunity to discuss this and, you know, kind of how we want to manage the pool. You know, obviously the city only has one pool right now. So, we're just trying to get through this year and is as fair and as safe in agreement that represents, you know, the Jonesboro residents that are both participate in this pool. And also we have to remember that, you know, we teach swim lessons at this pool also. So, it can be a crowded event out there at times. So, that's kind of our history behind it. Like I said, when it was sent to Public Services the hope was there would be kind of an open conversation and that there would be some guidance that would be provided. And while, you know, I guess only heard technically about the internal operations from one group. We did still try to take the information that we had at hand to draft up something that followed the guidance of the committee.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I have a question. Chairman Joe Hafner said, hold on, Dr. Coleman. I want to make sure Mr. McClain didn't have a follow-up question. Councilmember David McClain said, so help me understand also, because I'm looking at the contract and it talks about the membership being determined by, their AAU membership, I guess the body that governs them. So, we've heard from parents from SWAT, I almost called them Sharks, SWAT. You know, what if their numbers start to grow and there's some conflict there. Chairman Joe Hafner said, can I address that? Councilmember David McClain said, go ahead. Chairman Joe Hafner said, so, in the Public Services meeting, you know, in my nine and a half years on City Council, almost nine and a half years on City Council and yours, this has never come in front of Council before. This is always something that was worked out between the clubs, the entities and we basically approved the contract. But, you know, there apparently was some... As Mr. Richardson said, there was some, they couldn't reach a conclusion. So, when it came in front of Public Services one of the ideas that was mentioned was look at membership because, you know, I don't know of a different way to do it to allocate the same... When you got two entities working at, swimming at the same pool at the same time. I don't know of a way to do it besides the number of members. So, the AAU was mentioned as one entity that, you know, the teams sign up through, and they keep up with their numbers. Our thought was, we had to have somebody to verify it, but in response to your question, what we said was we'll look at it at three or four different times, three different times over the course of the summer and if those numbers change then the way lanes are allocated would change. So, like right now if one team is, you know, has if you add their numbers together one team is 70%, they get seven lanes and the other team gets three lanes. If that switches where one team drops down to 60% then they get six lanes, the other team gets four lanes. So, that was how we tried to...that was the recommendation at the Public Services meeting of how to address the number of lanes. Councilmember David McClain said, is there, I guess my follow up to that is, is there a problem with keeping their agreement as it is. And the reason I'm asking that is, who's going to keep up with that the going back and forth. Is that going to be something that administration has to? Are

they going to self-report? I mean, how are we going to determine it? To me it seems like it's going to create some extra work on our part. But to me I think...City Attorney Carol Duncan said, the contract gives the date that those numbers will be provided in order to assess it. Three different dates. Councilmember David McClain said, and they have to provide...you're saying they have to provide them by three different dates to the city. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, well they have to give the AAU permission to provide it to us, is the way I understand it.

Councilmember David McClain said, and again, so, if one group...I mean I see it causing a big problem. If one group says alright we reported this many people and then the next time, well we reported this many people. Now we're going back and forth. Chairman Joe Hafner said, it's got to be AAU verified numbers. Councilmember David McClain said, I get that. But I mean I'm just saying I feel like you're going to have, it's going to cause a conflict the entire time. I mean obviously, there are some kind of contention. Chairman Joe Hafner said, alright. Let me ask you this, okay. And I don't want to get too far ahead here because I know there's other questions, but in our position, you know, I know safety's been talked about and things like that. But in our position, if one team has twice as many members as the other and we're talking about using the same pool at the same time. And safety's been brought up and number of kids per lane and things like that. What other equitable way to do it besides membership? Councilmember David McClain said, I've thought about it just give them different days. That's been...Chairman Joe Hafner said, that doesn't work from my understanding. That doesn't work for swim teams because they swim every day. Councilmember David McClain said, I get it, but we're going to have to at some point, somebody's going to have to give. So, we either have different days, and we swim on different days or we stick with the original agreement. That's David's recommendation, but again I just think that...Councilmember John Street said, why did it change? Chairman Joe Hafner said, hold on wait. I know Dr. Coleman was before you, so I'll let Dr. Charles Coleman speak.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I guess the problem I have is why people wouldn't use this from the beginning. And why are we waiting on these numbers from an outside entity? If the city was going to be involved in it, then why are we waiting on those type things? Chairman Joe Hafner said, why were we waiting on them? Because as I said before, this has never reached our level to make the determination of how the contract was going to be structured. So, the only, you know, when I mentioned this at the Public Services meeting, the only way to do it in my mind equitably was percentage of roster size, percentage of total swimmers. So then at the meeting that's when the dates came up as far as this date, this date, and this date. Because of the AAU numbers and the time of swimming during the summer. Because numbers can go up and down depending on when meets are and things like that is my understanding. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, well, I guess I still have the same problem and I understand the AAU numbers, don't get me wrong. I understand that. But I guess I didn't understand how they got involved with what we do equal for what we do for each group. I think that's the part that bothers me. And that's the part that I talked to...I think the other thing is, I think Ms. Duncan got throwed under the bus trying to put in, well that's the only way I can say it, got throwed under the bus by trying to equalize those issues. But I think equalizing those issues should have been what they've done in the first place. Just to have equalization of the pool. Until it's all done. Because those numbers are going to fluctuate anyway, aren't they? Chairman Joe Hafner said, you would think so. And I can't speak to the past, but I know...if I can't speak to it, I shouldn't say anything. Brian Richardson said, well, I'd just like to kind of reiterate is that's the reason why the Public Service Commission meeting was held, was just the...I don't know if the word reset is the right word, but to just allow a completely open

forum to discuss the needs that, you know, I'm not a swim professional and we depend on kind of I guess the guidance from the people that are in that business. I mean we've got two good swim programs with good honest people and we've had good meetings with both of them and I wish we had 50 pool lanes to distribute out. I mean again, our course, our number one priority in the city is making sure that we have a community pool that kids can enjoy and swim and learn to swim, but also after those hours are over with trying to figure out the best way to divide up the competition part of it. It's not unlike soccer fields or baseball fields that there's really no easy solution that's not going to be tough on somebody. And, you know, if you go back with the original agreement one side is obviously going to be more crowded as the numbers stand today. Now those numbers could change. Again that's kind of where this discussion kicks back to with the Public Services Commission was trying to figure out the best possible, equitable, and fair way to make sure that not just from the competition stand point, for the kids involvement and enjoyment standpoint that we try to make the best decision for them to be able to enjoy the pool.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, and Brian, I understand that, but I think sometimes with administration gets involved, whole lot of other stuff gets involved and I think that's the part, that's why I kept making the statement why there just couldn't have been an equalization done. Because sooner or later when they build the other complex and a lot of these problem we don't have, but right now because it's all about the children in the first place and I think that's where the meetings have gotten out of control. That it's not about the children right now. It's about politics and I don't like that at all. Brian Richardson said, yeah, I mean, our goal was to try to get as many children in the same amount of lanes as possible, you know, to try to figure out what division would that look like that. You know, I think that the AAU numbers indicated somewhere along the lines a 6/4 7/3 allocation off this first round based off the AAU and the USA numbers. But again like I say, if there's a better way to do that certainly all ears, but this was the contract that was discussed with the JETS obviously.

Councilmember John Street said, why did the numbers change or why did we switch from the way we've always done it since we've had two teams at a 50/50 split between the pool. I mean, in the past one team has had more numbers than the other and it's worked. What brought about the change to go from an equal five lanes a piece to 7/3? And 7/3 is totally unequitable. I don't believe that's fair in any condition. 6/4 maybe at the worst-case scenario, but again on here, another problem I had is half, you're talking about a team with 30% of the pool paying half the heat and a team with 70% the pool paying only 50%. That's not right at all. It ought to be prorated out by lane just like the fee is prorated out by lane. That on it's face is wrong. But I'd rather, I'm like Dr. Coleman, I'd rather see each team get five and if they want to work out something between themselves, fine. 6/4, whatever, but turn it over to them. Five lanes a piece, let them get together and work it out. Brian Richardson said, and I don't know the whole history about exactly why this was necessary. I'm sure that, Jim is here, he probably has more obviously of the day-to-day information about how we got to this point. I just know that there was obviously some issues otherwise this conversation wouldn't have started and that's how the administration got involved. Councilmember John Street said, another question was those AAU numbers. Is that people that are showing up at the pool dressed out that are going to swim that day? Or they're just AAU members that you get to count on your number? And so, if you're going to have somebody there doing that, counting on how you're going to verify the kids that are dressed up to swim instead of just being an AAU number that you count for numbers. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, that's part of the issue I thought of. I guess I wonder how that number is dictating what we do here if it's our pool. Why they couldn't have been split, you know, with the 50/50. That's just a question. Chairman Joe Hafner

said, my only comment there is I think there had to be some sort of third-party verification. Like instead of just self-reporting the numbers it had to be a number that comes from, you know, the kids signing up, paying a fee to be a member of the AAU. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I appreciate that, Joe. But I think that causes issues. If we'd have done it like we've done it before. Then it wouldn't have been a problem at all. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I will say in one of the meetings, it was suggested that staff be there everyday to count the number of kids and assign the lanes accordingly and that was impractical. Councilmember John Street said, well, you could have each of the coaches verify the other teams numbers. Chairman Joe Hafner said, no. Councilmember John Street said, you're going to have a fight that way, but... Well, if it's going to be like this then I would think it would be better to let them, again like I'm saying, I really believe it's fair to give them each five lanes a piece and let them get together as organizations and work out if they're willing to give up a lane or whatever and back and forth. It's been fair up to now. I don't see why it wouldn't be fair for this last year until the Ridge is open.

Brian Richardson said, well, I'm not going to speak on behalf of JETS or Sharks. I'm sure they both have representatives here to kind of talk about if they would be willing to do that. Like I said, our efforts were to craft a contract based off the conversations that were held at Public Services on May 6th and that's a representative of this. You know, it's not a preference either way. It's the guidance that we were provided by Public Services to create at least some sort of starting and talking point for this agreement to make sure that people can enjoy and safely operate and effectively operate in that pool.

City Attorney Carol Duncan said, as far as the heat, John, I think that we discussed that at the Public Services and it's only for a short amount of time in September. And they said just leave it 50/50. There won't be heat all summer in the pool. It would just be for a little bit of the time in September because I think Shark or SWAT, I'm sorry I said it wrong. SWAT doesn't intend to...their contract ends September 30? Is that what y'all wanted? I think that's the date y'all told me you wanted y'all's to end was September 30. So, the heat wasn't going to be a big issue, and I did have that discussion and said this was the guidance we were given. I mean, if it really came down to it, the city could figure that out when the time came. But I don't think anybody would object to splitting that the same way you split the lanes. If that matters. It just wasn't done at the time because that wasn't the guidance that was given at the committee.

Chief Operating Officer Tony Thomas approached the podium and said, and we are here because the teams could not agree. And what I understand I'm hearing today is we just need to get them into a room and sit them down until they can agree. You can split it 5/5, but you're still saying they have to decide what happens. That gives us no ability to charge out the way things need to be charged out. Unless there's something in a written agreement to that nature. So, again, it only came it this body and into the other bodies because in the past we've been able to sit down with both teams and come to some sort of agreement that then move forward for our approval for our formal processes. So, what I hear today is, until we can get JETS and SWAT in a room and they agree to something that can move forward, again, this takes you out of it, it takes us out of it and it put the onus on the coaches and the parents of the two groups to decide on what works to get both parties into the limited lanes that we have for one more year.

Chairman Joe Hafner said, so, Tony, are we in a room right now? Councilmember David McClain said, not everybody. Tony Thomas said, yes. But we're in a room that, again, every time it comes before a body there are different ideas that begin to flow

and those are great ideas that are flowing, so I'm not complaining, but we have in the past been able to get the groups to agree. And the groups are just going to have to sit down and be adults and agree. And that's something that I think puts everybody including you all to...It does no good to continue the dialog when there's disagreement because every time we bring something back, one group is going to say something and another group is going to say something and we have that same bickering back and forth and none of us know where we really stand on an issue. So, it's just coming upon us to assure that we get them in a room. We sit down and we get agreement on their part before anything moves forward. Unfortunately, you know, I know Jim and his team have been trying to get kids in the pool. It is that time of year where we want to see kids in the pool. And so that's been on us on how we work trying to get kids back into the pool, but until we can get agreement between the groups then we're going to continue to go through this process. SWAT is here today. There is a different outcome that I am hearing today based upon SWAT being in the room. JETS was here the last time and there was a proposal that moved forward that we thought we were working from and so until we can get both groups...Even if it's in a public setting, we need both groups in the room. So that you get both points of view and then we can make an informed decision and move on.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, well, I'm still going to stick to my guns, what I thought. But I think the other process that I kept hearing people that have been trained and trained in this, you know, that has nothing to do right now as far as I'm concerned. Again, you know, and I'm going to stop after this part of our conversation, just bothered me that up until this year things were happening pretty decent, I'll put it that way. I'm not saying everybody agrees, but then when the city got involved it just got really stupid. Tony Thomas said, well, the city only got involved, Dr. Coleman, because it was brought to the table for the city to get involved because one of the groups had some additional needs. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, well, that's true, but a lot of meetings that were, they were trying to get set up with the city. I noticed for a fact they had e-mails that, I've gotten text messages that couldn't get involved with some city leagues. Tony Thomas said, in the last week? In the last two weeks? Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, in the last week. Tony Thomas said, in the last week or the last two weeks? Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, in the last week. Tony Thomas said, again, until we can get both groups at the table, it does us no good to meet with one group. Because again, you're getting one view, and then when you take that back to the other group then they're in disagreement with what's transpiring. So, we've had this back and forth that's going on. I'm just saying that, you know, we're going to continue to go back and forth until we get the two groups to come to a decision in regards to what they want to see occur at the field, or at the pool. And until that occurs, we're going to be sitting here spinning our wheels as we have done.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, well if that's the case, to me then, this ought to be postponed until that happens. Councilmember John Street said, I'll make that motion. I move we postpone temporary until they can get together. Councilmember David McClain said, second. Councilmember John Street continued, until they can come up with an agreement that is fairly equitable. And 70/30 is not equitable. Tony Thomas said, again, you can say fairly equitable, but until we get both groups to agree. Councilmember John Street said, you're right. Tony Thomas said, then we're not, if they decide on something that is not to your liking...if we can get both groups to agree then I think you're going to have them come up to the podium and speak in favor of whatever moves forward. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I think in that motion, John, personally I don't want them to come back to this organization, to the City Council, you know. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, it has to. Tony Thomas said, we have a contract that comes back. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, well I

know, but it just burns me up, it's... Tony Thomas said, we have to have a contract that comes back between the two organizations. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I would say this would need to be postponed definitely. Tony Thomas said, indefinitely. City Attorney Duncan said, indefinitely. Tony Thomas continued, until a new agreement is brought forward. Councilmember John Street said, okay. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, not temporary. Chairman Joe Hafner said, on indefinitely you can have discussion. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I don't remember. Chairman Joe Hafner said, this is on the motion. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I don't remember. Chris Moore's not here and I don't remember. Councilmember John Street said, indefinitely's got to be priority. You second that? Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, yeah. Do I need to second it louder?

Councilmember Ann Williams said, I have a question. If we went ahead and approved or amended this to be 50/50, could that be subjected to later being amended if the two groups... Or do we have to go ahead and have it... City Attorney Carol Duncan said, to approve a contract as written. So, I don't have that contract written. I'll write it, but I don't have it written today. Councilmember Ann Williams said, okay, that was the question. Councilmember John Street said, I say if they can't agree on one, give them 50/50 and that's what they'll have. Chairman Joe Hafner said, we got a motion... hey let's not have discussion yet until we can figure out if we can have discussion. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, yeah, you can have discussion on it. Councilmember David McClain said, I think you indefinitely can. Chairman Joe Hafner said, but it's got to be regarding the motion. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, go for it.

Chairman Joe Hafner said, so, my question regarding the motion to postponed indefinitely is right now we have the JETS swimming and I don't think SWAT is swimming in the pool. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, my understanding from administration is that's because they had a signed contract and in the past once people had a signed contract, we'd allow that, but if there's... I'll let administration speak to that. Administration allowed that because of the signed contract. I assume, I don't want to assume. I want one of y'all to tell me what happens if there's not a signed contract. I would assume they don't swim. I'll let administration speak to that. Tony Thomas approached the podium and said, honestly, that is the basis of them being in the pool is that we had come to some agreement and there was a signed contract. And so, we will need to revisit that process at... But we'll dialog with both teams and then we'll revisit that process for sure. Chairman Joe Hafner said, okay, because my understanding, and y'all can correct me if this isn't true, that I believe SWAT has another place to swim right now at the Trim Gym maybe. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I believe both teams may have access to another place. Now, whether it is large enough to facilitate them my... I'm speaking from the six hour plus of meetings that I've been in over this, but my understanding is that SWAT uses Trim Gym and that JETS uses St. Bernards, as far as an alternate swimming location. Now, I don't know if those facilities are big enough to facilitate what they need on a daily basis. But that's my understanding. Chairman Joe Hafner said, will they still be able to swim at the city pool? Tony Thomas said, and again, that is something that we'll revisit as a team and then we'll communicate that out to the various individuals. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I mean there's no legal requirement that anybody have a contract. But that's just the way we had done it in the past with my understanding. You'd signed off then you used it. But administration made that decision. Tony Thomas said, I mean, the ultimate... I don't think anybody wants to be in a position that we're punishing kids. Chairman Joe Hafner said, yeah. No we don't. Tony Thomas continued, because there is disagreement elsewhere. So, again, that is something we will take into consideration as we, you know, initially not allowing anybody to swim was kind of... I'll say was hopefully some leverage to get everybody to the table to come to some type of

conclusion. Again, we want to get this resolved. We want to get this resolved with the teams and in an effort to do that we will revisit who, how, and what that looks like without some type of agreement in place. Once we have that, again, we'll communicate it to the teams and we'll communicate it out to those of you on the Council so that you are aware of what's transpiring there.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, my only statement, and it really just it all came around to what I wanted to say was really the contract was what the question was, was on the table. So, I do agree with the, Dr. Charles Coleman when he was talking about the 50/50, why is it even here. And my concern was, with their contract, are we liable if they're using it and it hasn't gone through the process and all of that? So, that was the other question, but I do hope that, well I guess it is a question. I think Tony mentioned it, is there some kind of way they can just use the pool until we come up with an agreement and then go from there. But that's all I.

Bryce Cook, 2519 N. Culberhouse, approached the podium and said, I'm here as the chairman of the board of the SWAT organization. And I will keep it to the motion because here's the reality, the team that has been advantage by this process is swimming in the pool. They were swimming in the pool before they signed the contract. They were swimming in the pool in April. The heaters go down; they're out of the pool. Because the heaters are down, no ones in the pool. And then they're back in the pool. The administration allowed that. And if you postpone it indefinitely; they're still going to be in the pool and we're going to be having to ask our summer swim families to swim in doors in a small facility at the Trim Gym and pay a membership to them on top of it. Not out in the sunshine where I swam when I was a kid. And I have more comments generally on this policy and I can keep it to the motion, but if the motion doesn't pass I'd like to be heard on the policy if it advances. But my specific ask is do not postpone this indefinitely. We're about June. We've canceled a large swim meet that the A&P Commission allocated us money to bring people here because of the uncertainty related to this contract. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, if the contract's going to change it has to be indefinitely, because we'd be coming back with a different contract. It's not that it means we're putting it off forever. It just means that when it comes back... it kills this, the approval of this contract. Does that make sense? Not the issue. Bryce Cook said, it does. And frankly, I have zero confidence in the administration to reach a contract. We made numerous concessions in this process. We have done everything in our power to ignore the fairness of it, to understand that this was conceived in darkness, with no accountable person that's willing to stand up and say, you know, I woke up one day and said we need to reallocate swim lanes. That's not what happened. What we learned today that there was a meeting of three people that did it. The Parks director, the city attorney and Councilman Chris Gibson. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, that's incorrect. Bryce Cook said, this is the information we got. I know Carol. She does not care about the policies. That is not her job. Right. She said I draft contracts. I don't make policy. I believe that. Mr. Stearns disclaimed ownership. I don't know where this came from. When we were presented with it on March 5th. You need to talk to Carol, she wrote it. Then we find out the meeting Councilman Chris Gibson brought these concerns forward. He's the chair of the Public Services Committee. We learned and self identifies as councilman, committee chair and JETS parent. In writing. I sent information out to you today. I hope everybody had a chance to review it. Y'all have a code of ethics. It's not a code of morals. I don't question his character as a human being. But we have the code of ethics that if you have a interest, a family interest, anything in any discussion proposal that goes on, you can't participate at any level. Instead, we're hearing well his involvement wasn't that big. He was involved. We have those rules so that we don't have to question you guys about your motives and intentions and level of involvement.

But here we are. The administration seems to want to lay at our feet. We didn't participate in the debate. Here's how we learned about that debate. We had a counter proposal to the contract. I'm following up with the Parks director for a couple of days. Friday he says we'll get you an answer on Monday. The opposing team makes a Facebook post saying there's a special meeting called for Tuesday to debate swim lanes. All of our parents show up. Which was confusing because Mrs. Leggett had confirmed earlier in the day the next Public Service Committee meeting was in June or July.

Chairman Joe Hafner said, you're getting a little bit away from your, from the motion that's on the floor. I've got to limit you somewhat. Bryce Cook said, sure, sure. Chairman Joe Hafner said, so please kind of wrap it up. Bryce Cook said, yeah. As far as the motion goes... Mr. Thomas was my teacher, one of my favorite ones. He's a great guy. Great guy. I believe sincerely in it. The time to have kumbaya was in February. The time to make it clear and transparent was in February. There was time to fix it from March until today. So, it was doubling down, doubling down. So frankly, I don't think us, the public or anyone can have any confidence that the administration's going to solve this problem. They've already got every opportunity to do it. No when it's in public, all of a sudden, no we can get this fixed. Sorry, I don't believe. Thank you.

City Clerk April Leggett said, I'd like to make a comment about special called meetings. The rules are that they have, whoever calls the special called meeting has to give it notice of three hours. By law we only have to give a notice of two hours. I came in on... they called it on a Friday night. I came in on Saturday and got that notice out. Bryce Cook said, I could respond very briefly to that. Chairman Joe Hafner said, I don't think that's...

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I have got a question. Can I question what he asked? Chairman Joe Hafner said, this needs to be all based upon the motion to postpone indefinitely. We don't need to get outside that motion or we're going to be opening it up forever.

Chairman Joe Hafner said, please keep it to the motion. Sara Beth Cook, 2519 N. Culberhouse, approached the podium and said, and I'll tell you, I'm not qualified to know whether I'm about to speak to the motion, and so you can just tell me that that's not related. But what I'm hearing on this motion is that we need to table this so that we can go back and get both sides at the table to talk about the contract. I met with Mr. Richardson and Mr. Stearns today. I had a good meeting with them. And what I would offer to you is, historically, that's exactly how the swim contract was presented to both teams. That the Parks director would sit down. He'd have an equal allocation of lanes, and the heating costs. He would sit down with both, either the board or the coach, in the same room. He'd pass it to them, and he'd say if you want in the pool, sign it. And so, from the beginning, my question as a parent of a swimmer, two swimmers, on SWAT is why did that not happen? I know I'm probably getting away from the motion, but my concern is, if there is a motion to table this, when are my kids going to get in the pool? Because since this started I've called every single person on the council, or I've emailed them or I've texted them, and I certainly appreciate all of your time. I understand what your function is. It's to either approve or not approve this contract. You guys are not dictating policy, but from a mom standpoint, I'll tell you who it feels like is dictating this policy, the JETS. And that's not a place that I want to be trying to explain to my children. Ok. Because when we find out they're in the pool, we go by and my 12 year goes, whoa, they're breaking the rules. And it does appear that way. It appears that's the case if we have a contract that no one can really agree on, that they've signed but you guys haven't approved. And what's more, the contract that's

been presented to us, we absolutely can't sign because we don't even know how that's going to allocate the lanes. Even if our team continues to grow, if people say hey I'm ready to turn my account back on it's June we're done with soccer we're ready to get back in the pool. Even if we continue to grow and they add more, we could still end up with two lanes. So, I would offer to you that three is not a viable solution and surely two and one are not. Absolutely not. I'm sorry if I diverged. Chairman Joe Hafner said, I think you just expressed why you would not like to see this tabled. Sara Beth Cook said, I don't want this tabled, yeah. I would like, what I have asked, I had brief remarks that I was ready to read, but what I was going to ask at the end is just to say please just go back to the arrangement that we've had in 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025. Because, I think Will would get up here and tell you right now there have been times that the JETS have come to him and said you know we had a few more people show up to practice can we have one of those lanes and he would say definitely you can. So, I'm telling you that I don't think it is a good idea to weaponize the city on behalf of, you know, I'm not saying anybody, everybody on that team, I'm saying there are a few people who feel very strongly that our team maybe shouldn't have lanes and I don't think that using public resources is a way to limit our ability to be in the pool or my kids ability to prepare for these swim meets. Because we have two clubs who are doing awesome. Who go throughout the state. They travel to Tennessee and Mississippi, and everywhere they go they can say we represent the city of Jonesboro. And both of those teams and all of those children should have the opportunity to do that. So, thank you. Chairman Joe Hafner said, thank you for your comments.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, Carol, what's stopping them from getting in the pool? Chairman Joe Hafner said, they don't have a contract they agree to. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, so, I'm just going to say administratively one more time, that the only issue before this committee right now is to approve a JETS contract or not approve a JETS contract. Chairman Joe Hafner said, well right now it's to... City Attorney Carol Duncan said, and the motion that is there is to postpone indefinitely, and while I know that sounds scary and procedurally scary. Postponing indefinitely kills that contract. Like arguing for us not to postpone indefinitely is arguing to keep the JETS contract alive and allow this committee to vote on it procedurally. So, I don't think that's really what y'all are trying to do. That's all I'm going to say procedurally.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I'm still asking what... City Attorney Carol Duncan said, that's administration's decision on who uses the pool. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I'm still asking, what's stopping them from getting in the pool? Are they still be able to get in the pool? Chairman Joe Hafner said, after this, we'll have a vote. Chief Operating Officer Tony Thomas approached the podium and said, and Bryce was an amazing student I would add. At this particular point, Dr. Coleman. Again, we didn't allow anyone in the pool until we thought we were moving forward with agreement between the two teams, as far as a contract. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, let me ask it this way. If we stop this contract, they will still be able to get in the pool now? Tony Thomas said, again, that is a decision that I think we'll have to have some discussion about as an administration. And right now, there's only one team, one team was allowed to return to the pool for what, has it been a week Jim? Has it been a week or just about a week ago? Yeah, we've had one team that was allowed to return to the pool. Now, and again, if the two teams will sit down... I've heard different days, we went through that, they didn't want to do different days, nope, that posed challenges. Then we heard, you know, we've gone through just about all of the scenarios that are being discussed. And so again, I'm putting this onus upon, administration is not going to negotiate this contract. All right, I want you all to understand... Chairman Joe Hafner said, Mr. Thomas, will you please direct your comments to the committee. Tony Thomas said, administration, I just heard that

comment a minute ago, that there's no confidence in administration to negotiate the contract. Administration is not negotiating the contract. Administration will move forward what the swim teams agree to. Now... Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, that's true Mr. Thomas, but I'm still asking, when can they get in the pool? Can they get in the pool... Tony Thomas said, that is not a decision I am in a position to make. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, so does Jim make that decision? Tony Thomas said, that has been a team effort with input from a number of individuals. And so, we will work with both coaches. We will work with... as the administration, we will work with both coaches to ensure that kids are not penalized because of the lack of agreement at this point, between the two teams. Chairman Joe Hafner said, yeah, please do that. Tony Thomas said, and again, I'll communicate that to you as quickly as that decision is made. We want to see kids swim. We want to see both programs grow. We want to see both programs prosper. But we also want to see an agreement in regards to a contract from both entities. Chairman Joe Hafner said, thank you.

Councilmember Ann Williams said, I have a question. If the two teams, they are able to come to a decision, would it possible for us to have a special called meeting to... Chairman Joe Hafner said, I have no issue with that. Councilmember Ann Williams said, so that we can hurry it up. Chairman Joe Hafner said, yup. Councilmember Ann Williams said, I think I'd be willing to attend that meeting.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, so can Jim come to the podium? Chairman Joe Hafner said, ok, but we're no longer on that item. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, I don't think it's about that item. Chairman Joe Hafner said, but we can't make any of that decision right now because we have nothing to vote on. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, so you're saying Jim can't talk to us about... Chairman Joe Hafner said, well, I'm just saying we're not on that item anymore. I have no issue personally. I just talking procedurally. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, why don't we do the next item of business and bring it up in other business or public comments. Chairman Joe Hafner said, other business. We can bring it back up in other business. Sorry to be so... as I said, we've never dealt with this before, so it's, I mean, at least I haven't.

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

Aye: 6 - John Street;Anthony Coleman;David McClain;Ann Williams;Charles Coleman and Brian Emison

5. PENDING ITEMS

[RES-26:044](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NORTH JONESBORO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (NJCDC) TO LEASE SPACE AT 911 MAGNOLIA ROAD

Sponsors: Mayor's Office

Attachments: [Magnolia Lease Agreement \(Revised 04.01.2026\).docx](#)

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

Aye: 6 - John Street;Anthony Coleman;David McClain;Ann Williams;Charles Coleman and Brian Emison

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Joe Hafner said, Mr. Stearns, would you please come to the podium? Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, my question. Same question. When will they be able to get in the pool? Parks Director Jim Stearns approached the podium and said, when will they get in the pool? Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, yeah. Director Jim Stearns said, I'm going to assume we all come to an agreement. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, ok, I guess my question is what agreement, because we just tabled an issue about... Director Jim Stearns said, without an agreement... Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, there's not contract with the... Director Jim Stearns said, without an agreement I would assume we're not going to be swimming. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, what's that again? Director Jim Stearns said, without an agreement, I assume we're not going to be swimming until we can come to an agreement. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, so that means both teams will not be swimming. Director Jim Stearns said, that is correct.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, can I ask a question in this way? Chairman Joe Hafner said, hopefully, we can quickly come to something that both teams are able to continue swimming. I see where you're coming from, but as we've said, hopefully, both teams can work something out. I know 7/3 may not work, maybe 6/4 will. Or maybe they agree upon 5/5, and they have some sort of dialogue to where, you know, as mentioned earlier one team has more swimmers and the other team doesn't need a lane, they can share a lane or do something like that. But, I mean, I think the bottom line is we want the kids to be able to swim... Parks Director Jim Stearns said, agree. Chairman Joe Hafner said, we want the teams to be able to work out an agreement, and we need cooperation between the teams. Because... Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, Joe, excuse me from cutting you off, and you're doing a good job. My point was for him to make, I wanted to hear him say that so it could be on record, because if the other people are going in the pool it's going to cause him a problem, personally, I think. And for one team to go into the pool and the other team not go in the pool, I think that would be totally unfair. It's not so much putting him on the spot, it just needs to be said and put on the record. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, I agree with you Dr. Coleman and so I want to ask it in this way. Since there has been a contract in the past that both have complied to, is it possible... I don't know if it's your question or Carol question or whoever. Is it possible using the agreements or the contracts that were made in the past, can we do that until... Because I don't know when they're going to come together or not. But until then, I'm asking, is it possible that those two entities can use the facility until that time comes when they come together? Based on the former contracts. Director Jim Stearns said, it's certainly possible.

City Attorney Carol Duncan said, two things. I mean, I'd have to reread it, but I don't think there was anything in those contracts that allowed them to... it's not like a lease in this traditional sense where if you have a holdover tenant they continue to lease month to month after the contract ends. I do not believe that those contracts had that language, but I can double check that. So in that sense, those contracts expired some time ago. Now, that's not to say, I also have said before and I'll say it again, I don't know that legally you're not required to have a contract to swim in our pool. We can let people... I mean, we have daycares and schools that bring kids to our pool and I'm not aware of any contract with any of them on which days they come. We just work it out with them. We want kids to swim, right? And we allow them to bring their daycares or their after-school programs or whatever they have in the summer on certain

days to come swim in our pools. So, you're not required to have a contract to swim in our pools, legally. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, so with that being said, couldn't we do, and it's just a suggestion. I'm just using an arbitrary number, 21 days they can use it, but then they have to come together within these 21 days, based on the former agreements, it's a verbal agreement that can use it for this number of time, and they have to come together with this before coming to us with a new... City Attorney Carol Duncan said, and I don't want to put words in Tony's mouth, but I think that's what he was trying to say. Is that we want people to swim and we'll sit down and try to figure it out. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, yeah, yeah. Chairman Joe Hafner said, I think 21 days is entirely too long. I mean, hopefully they can come up with an agreement in a week. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, absolutely. I just want the kids to swim. That's all. Chairman Joe Hafner said, yeah, me too. Chief Operating Officer Tony Thomas approached the podium and said, yes, I'll say we want kids to swim and what we do for one we will do for the other. So, that's a none issue. We want kids in the pool. It may not be what they want, but we will have opportunities to get kids in pools for both until there's an agreement that's worked out.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I also think that's a, I call it an elephant in the room, and maybe I'm not hearing something through my hearing aid. This heater type thing, so you tell me the disproportion of one is paying one price and one pays another price... City Attorney Carol Duncan said, nobody's paying any price right now. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, say that again. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, nobody's paying any price right now. That won't happen until fall. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, ok fall, but even when that happens with whatever contract happens, then why aren't they still paying... Tony Thomas said, I think if you go back to the thought process that was related to that is you don't heat four lanes in a pool. You don't heat six lanes in a pool. You heat a pool. So regardless of how many lanes were divided among each group, you have to heat the pool, all right. And so, if we could break out cost that way it would be fine, but that was just a thought process behind that is that you had to heat all of the pool regardless of who was using it, how many lanes were being used, the entire pool had to be heated there for the cost... Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I didn't know that's why I was asking. Tony Thomas said, yes sir. That's why. Regardless, that's why the cost were split equally because you heat it all at one time. You can't break it down by laneage. So, even if SWAT was not in the pool that day we have to heat the entire pool.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I know the city's pretty rich right now. Why haven't they enclosed that pool? Tony Thomas said, yeah, but I appreciate you guys. I appreciate all of you today and your thought processes. I just want you to know kids are going to swim. We're going to work with kids and with groups to ensure that kids swim. And again, we're putting this upon the two teams in order to come up with a solution that they can both live with and to move that forward to administration. You're absolutely correct, when we get in the middle of it because we don't know how swimming works. We don't know what it takes in order to run a practice. We don't know, but there are professionals who know that, who have to use that expertise to come up with the best solution that they can live with and we'll gladly do that forward to you all as a body.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I just want to leave Steve Purtee a statement that we need to line out and enclose that pool. Chairman Joe Hafner said, maybe not that particular pool, maybe that location.

Councilmember David McClain said, the only thing that I had was question when we will see or when the... for the bank for the deposits? Finance Director Steve Purtee

approached the podium and said, we are working on a schedule for bids to be returned on June 24th. Councilmember David McClain said, thank you.

Councilmember Ann Williams said, I had a question about the impact fee, the firm that is working on the study for that. I think, Brian, you'd said that you and Derrel had contacted them and you're waiting to hear from them. Chief Administrative Officer Brian Richardson approached the podium and said, sure. Derrel's been in pretty consistent contact with them trying to kind of push this along. You know, it's a process that was supposed to take, I don't know, eight months and now that's stretched out obviously it's at nine months. And the last communication with them last week was they requested, I think, the square footage of one of our Public Works facilities. Don't know why, but that's what they requested. But we've asked them to get us a date where they can bring the committee back together that was recently reappointed. Present what those look like and see if it's something we even want to continue pursuing. I mean, it's not going to be the windfall that everybody would hope for, but I don't think anybody was under the anticipation that it would be. So, Derrel is out today, but I will have him email the group again and see exactly where they are on the process, because I am ready to get that presented so we can either move on or decide to just table it. Councilmember Ann Williams said, yeah, I've gotten some calls, questions about it. Brian Richardson said, yeah, thankfully, we have a very active committee that is very engaged with that. You know, it's not a fun thing to talk about, but yeah, as soon as we can get that information back we'll bring it forward. Councilmember Ann Williams said, all right, thanks a lot.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 6 - John Street;Anthony Coleman;David McClain;Ann Williams;Charles Coleman and Brian Emison