



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

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 (ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE) INITIATED AND CONFIRMED BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

Present 10 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and Ann Williams

Absent 2 - David McClain and LJ Bryant

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, It's a good time of year, Council, and it's always nice to stand before you, as always. But this evening, I'd like to recognize, we have a new member to our team. Before he stands, I want to give you a little bit of background. His name is Chris Richey from Benton, Arkansas. He's going to be the city's new Director of Grants and Community Development. His previous experience includes being the Chief Executive Officer of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Saline County, where he led the development, submission, and stewardship of federal, state, local, and private foundation grants. He also oversaw the communication of all structural and operational details for board review and approval for facilities operated by the organization. He also previously served as the Executive Director of the Phillips County Chamber of Commerce. He also represented Helena-West Helena in District 12 in the Arkansas House of Representatives. In those roles, he advocated for economic development, educational issues, and job training through organizational programming and collaborations with local, state, and national organizations. Having known Chris through the legislature, I'm excited to bring his experience, knowledge, and integrity to the City of Jonesboro to fill one of our most important roles, Community Development and Grants. Two areas that are crucial for the growth at the highest level of the City of Jonesboro. As Grants and Community Development ritual oversee and direct all operations of the department, including grant management, neighborhood initiatives, community and economic development. He's a graduate at Ouachita Baptist University where he earned his bachelor's degree in history and political science. He holds a master's degree in history at Arkansas State University that was awarded in 1995. Chris and his lovely wife Holly, they have two children. He's now on a sub and he has a young son that's in 10th grade. They plan on making their home here in Jonesboro. So, I would appreciate Council and those in the room tonight to give a warm welcome, a Jonesboro welcome to Chris Richey as our new Grants Director.

[COM-25:052](#)

THANKS FOR GIVING COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER AWARD RECOGNITION

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, Now on to a part of the community that this time of year, it's always a joyful season for many and humblesome for others. But this is Thanks for Giving Community Volunteer Awards in 2025 and it's sponsored by Centennial Bank of Jonesboro. This is where we recognize the contributions of our community volunteers who Thanks for Giving Community Volunteer Awards. These dedicated individuals selflessly give of their time, talents, expertise, and resources to support the vital work of our city departments and make a meaningful impact in our community. They're essential to our community. The success of many programs and initiatives have benefited our residents and enhance the quality of life right here in Jonesboro. Without their dedication and service, many of these initiatives would simply just not be possible. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Centennial Bank for sponsoring this effort to honor these outstanding individuals. Together, we collaborate the commitment with a positive difference they make every day. So I'm going to begin this evening. Brittany, if you would please come up, she represents Centennial Bank. The first awardee is Pastor Matt Smith. Pastor Matt, if you would, please come forward. Pastor Matt, who I've known for quite a while. He is a Pastor of Refuge Church and Assembly of God. He serves our community with exceptional dedication as the Chair of the Mayor's Faith Advisement Council and sponsor of the E-911 Dispatch Center. The Mayor's Faith Advancement Council meets monthly with the city administration as a bridge between the City of Jonesboro and our diverse faith communities. The purpose is to provide insight, guidance, and support on community needs while fostering collaboration and open communication. The council spends time in prayer together over concerns and helps strengthen outreach efforts with insight from pastors perspectives to promote a more connected and a compassionate Jonesboro. Pastor Smith has been instrumental in strengthening, the partnership between the faith communities and the public safety through his development and initiative of programs that empower faith leaders to adopt dispatch centers, offering support, encouragement, and vital resources to our dispatchers. Often, on a first point of contact during an emergency. His efforts exemplify the spirit behind, Thanks for Giving Community Volunteer Awards. Thank you again and congratulations.

Ms. Shalinda Woolbright, would you please come forward. Now, mind you, I don't think they truly knew what they were receiving this evening. So, it's once again an honor, and I tell you, this woman has a heart. I can't explain it because very few people are given heart that you have. She's the Founder and Executive Director of NEA Divine Intervention. Ms. Woolbright has emerged as a transformative leader whose passion and dedication significantly strengthened the Jonesboro community. A work from her heart under her tenacious leadership, that is right, NEA Divine Intervention has grown to a critical peer based recovery support organization offering nonjudgmental safe zones for individuals struggling with substance abuse, mental health challenges, homelessness, and more. Under her direction, NEA Divine Intervention has expanded both in physical presence and in scope. The organization recently moved to a larger facility within Jonesboro, over 8,000 square feet, designed for more welcoming spaces and a functional facility, which includes a dedicated room such as the Dress for Success clothing room to help clients prepare for work and reentry into our community, as well as game room, kitchen, art room, and conference space. Ms. Woolbright works exemplify the spirit of volunteerism and community service, with a vision that goes beyond the crisis. The vision entails building long term infrastructure to sustain recovery and empower community all together, which directly affects our community. So, I want to say thank you Shalinda. Thank you so much. Congratulations.

And last, but least if Colonel C.H. Overbay would come forward, please. Thank you.

It's an honor. Colonel Overbay has long served not only in the City of Jonesboro, but our nation. He served it with pride, perseverance, and unsurpassed patriotism. The latest contribution to his service record is working with city leadership, and myself, to help navigate often complicated waters of assistance to veterans who need our support more than ever. Veterans who are struggling with mental health challenges, financial struggles, and even homelessness. Previously, Colonel Overbay worked to modernize the Craighead County Veterans Service Office and now proudly serves on the Board of the Beck Center, which helps streamline the challenges and barriers to recovery for one's homeless heroes who begin their path to recovery. I am honored to present this award to a friend of the veteran community, Colonel Overbay not only for his support of the City Jonesboro, but for his lifetime of service of the United States of America. We want to express our appreciation to each of you for your service this evening, but it goes above self, and that's what this reward is. You are making an influence and a difference in our community. Thank you so much, Colonel.

Council, thank you for allowing the time this evening for that to be done. It's really critical that we show those that really give of their time in the community in a very positive manner, and they do so without getting a pat on the back, so it's nice to have that done every now and then.

Read

[COM-25:048](#)

PRESENTATION BY JOHN KEETING BAKER OF MITCHELL, SELIG, GATES & WOODYARD, P.L.L.C. REGARDING FOIA CHANGES

Attachments: [2025-07-10 FOIA Overview.pdf](#)

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, we do also have a presentation this evening by John Keeting Baker of Mitchell, Selig, Gates, and Woodyard, P.L.L.C. regarding FOIA changes, and I think this is an important update for Council and all of our committees to hear, so.

Mr. Baker said, thank you, Mayor. Thank you. I represent several governmental bodies all around Arkansas and we have seen significant changes this legislative session in the Freedom of Information Act, and I have been going to many of my clients to train them and make sure they're aware of these changes. City Attorney Duncan invited me to come visit with you about this presentation because it is important and these are some significant changes that affect this body. You have been given a six-page outline of my view of those changes, and I'm not going to go through all six pages, but I do want to start really with what I think is the most important point. If you'll turn the page three, and that's number three. This is probably the most significant change worked over by this law and it is a fundamental change in the way governing bodies do their work. Historically, you have been permitted to talk to one another outside of public meetings about the business that comes before the council. That has been the way it has been for a long, long time. Well, that has now changed because the legislature believes that all of your deliberations and discussions, your views about your opinions on a topic, your views about opposing a topic, all of those things are now required to be discussed among you only in a noticed public meeting. And that is a fundamental change in the way things have been done in our state for long as any of us can remember. And so, and now there are teeth involved. If you decide to violate these new laws, citizens or even a fellow council person, can ask a court to invalidate the action you vote on, on the topic that you may have discussed outside of a public meeting. And, we have to be real careful here. So it's not only you orally talking amongst each other about the topics that may come before this body, it's texting each other, it's messaging each other, it's emailing each other. You can't do anything of that. The

legislature wants the sausage of public policy making to be made only in this room so the public can hear it. That is where you are to discuss it now only. So that is a big change in the way you have operated if you've been in a governing body. And so I want to give you a few examples of pitfalls that I think are out there. You can talk to your constituents about these issues. That's not changed, okay? That has no restriction, but listen to this quick fact pattern. Let's say that there's a forum online, whether it's a post, a thread, on some social media, about some event or issue in the city and you decide you want to weigh in on it and you type up a response. Well, what if several other members of your governing body are also on that post or able to be a part of that communication, that arguably, is a violation now of this, because the two of you, as members of this governing body, are communicating about a topic that is coming before the body. And you didn't mean to do that, you didn't intend to communicate with your fellow council member, but if you both are on the feed, you both have access to the feed, a creative lawyer could make your life hard. And so here's the deal. I recommend strongly that you talk to one another about matters that are to come before this body, only in this room, and only in a noticed meeting, where the issue can be vetted and aired in public. That is the significant change. There are others. I want you to read the summary. That is a huge change, though.

Now, can you ask one another for background information? That is an exception to this. You can. So if you want to ask your fellow council member, hey, on this agenda item, can you give me some background information on X, Y, and Z, please? You can do that. You can also ask that of staff. Staff can ask you of that. But you can't talk about your views on the actual issue at hand. How you're leaning, your views, for or against it, you can't solicit what are your thoughts, Council member Moore on that agenda item? You can't solicit each other's views on it? It is tightened down much more than we've ever seen before. And so I caution you to proceed and really read this, talk to your city attorney, whenever you have questions about this new law because it has teeth in it, and your actions can be invalidated by a court if it can be shown that someone has violated this in connection with that matter that got voted on. So this is a big seat change and so I want to answer any questions you have. I'm mindful of your time, but I hope you review this closely and seek counsel because we are in a new regime now as a governing body members. And, this is effecting every one of you guys around the state, planning commission, public facilities boards, A&P commissions. I mean everybody's affected by this. You're not the only one. Don't feel put upon. But, what questions can I answer tonight?

Councilmember John Street said, this is very timely. We have an item on the agenda tonight, it's on second reading, and it was weighed in on in an email just last week by a councilperson. Would we have to start that process over again, or would we just continue where it's at tonight so that it would not be invalidated? I mean that councilperson just expressed their opinion on this particular agenda. Mr. Baker replied, so yeah, the problem is the new law doesn't tell you what to do if somebody has stumbled into an error or how to clean that up, or how to clean the slate. The law, unfortunately, does not tell us or give us any guidance on that. I think your city attorney may have some views on that. I have some ideas as well. I don't know if Carol if you want to weigh in. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I anticipated that this might be a question tonight and I think that the best...there is no guidance, right? It doesn't say, oh, if this happens, do this, right? Because most of it didn't anticipate us finding out about a violation prior to a vote, I think, on the issue. So, or a potential violation, I would say that the best, I think best way for us to move forward would be, the legislation's on second reading to tonight, and the legislation we're referencing just for the public and anybody in question is ORD-25:037, which is the legislation proposing a change to the code involving registration, licensing of boat trailers and recreational

vehicles on private lots. I think that whatever the desire of the Council is as far as what delay you think is sufficient for the public to be able to weigh in, I believe the best way to move forward would be to hold the legislation, either keep it on second reading until next time, or keep it on second reading for 30 days. Whatever Council thinks is an appropriate amount of time, just kind of hold it where it is. Allow any member of the press or public time to request a copy of the correspondence, review it, and appear at a public meeting if they want to speak to it, and give them time to have a full understanding of what the potential violation was, even though I don't know if it was an intentional at the time, right? This is new to all of us. But give them that opportunity to express their views and or speak to the issue and see what the communication was so that we're above board in all respects on that, before we vote on it. I think that's the cleanest way to...nobody can predict what a court would do with it, right, if it ever got there. But I think at least that would show a judge that we tried to act in good faith to notify the public of what we think could have been a potential violation and give them an opportunity to respond to it. Does that make sense? That's my best offer of guidance. Mr. Baker replied, and I think another option is literally to pull that item from the agenda and make it start over. That's the other option. But even that is no guarantee that the court could not invalidate something. But that idea that Carol has is good one as well. You're all in uncharted water here, all of us are. So we're going to have to come up with some...I don't advise that you sweep it under the rug and not acknowledge it because that to me is when you're really going to get hammered by a judge. Ms. Duncan said, correct. Mr. Baker continued, people need to come forward and say, "Look, I believe we may have had it inadvertent communication that shouldn't have occurred. Get it out to the sunshine is my advice, but how to do that, I'm going to let your City Attorney give you the final advice on that. But, I'm just here to make sure everybody understands how serious this change is because it is serious. Yes, ma'am.

Councilmember Janice Porter asked, supposing one of us is appearing before a political group and we are asked questions by the audience or quizzed as to how we feel about certain issues, would giving an answer potentially be a violation? Because the word could be disseminated to our other councilmembers, how we feel? Mr. Baker responded, no, I don't believe that that fact pattern presents a problem. Now, if Dr. Coleman is in the same room at the time you are conversing and sharing these views, that's a problem. Because now two of you are communicating. He has ears. You have a mouth. You're communicating about an issue. That's a problem I believe or vulnerable to a problem. Ms. Duncan said, I might also err on caution if it's being recorded or broadcast over social media if the meeting is being recorded or broadcast, then maybe you say, thank you, I'm just here to get input and I'll come to council or watch us and you'll see where I stand on this. Mr. Baker replied, well, that's true. Councilmember Porter said, basically, that was my concern because it would be similar to the email. Ms. Duncan said, and maybe not all meetings are broadcast, right? But some are. So just be aware of. Councilmember Porter replied, some are. Yeah, you never know who has a phone. Ms. Duncan said, well, I mean, there's that. Mr. Baker said, but if they're live feeding it on a blog or on a social post that Dr. Coleman has fed into and tapped into or any of you, then we have that problem where you are communicating with another member of the governing in real time. Ms. Duncan replied, whether you know it or not. Now, my advice is always going to be to err on the side of caution. Mr. Baker said, but you can't be muzzled from talking to your constituents. I mean, you're elected to represent them. So, you just have to be careful in the context and setting that you communicating with your constituents. That has not been muzzled.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, counselors, Dr. Coleman and I like to hold Town Hall meetings in our ward, and during those events, we're both present, and then we

field questions from the audience on topics that may or may not come before the Council or have been before the Council, is that a violation even though it's a public meeting? Ms. Duncan stated, I think they do publicize those ward meetings so that anybody in media and anybody that wants to attend can be there. That is publicized, if that helps. Mr. Baker replied, I think that may be permissible. Councilmember Moore said, that's just the general idea of a Town Hall meeting. We publicize that we are going to be there and we show up to answer and field questions in our ward. Since both of us represent the same ward, we're both there present together. Mr. Baker replied, yeah, I would like to ponder on that a little bit because the notice you're giving is not for a meeting of the governing body. It is a meeting where two governing body members are present. It's the old duck blind notice that Game & Fish always gives. When three Game & Fish commissioners go duck hunting together, they give a notice just to make sure if anybody got mad about it, they could say, they gave notice of a potential public meeting. I would want to think a little bit about that. Councilmember Moore said, well, while you're thinking about that, also think about the fact that Dr. Coleman and I also like to attend other councilmembers ward meetings. So for instance, there was a ward meeting held over at Allen Park a couple of months ago and I think there was probably four or five councilmembers present in addition to the two from that ward. So, it's not just Dr. Coleman and I in our ward, but it's a called public meeting and as elected officials, we feel obligated to go and listen to the constituents' complaints, even if they're not in our ward. Mr. Baker stated, and it's laudable. Ms. Duncan said, I would say that listening is not the problem. It's responding with an opinion or we will present legislation on that or you know, that type of thing that would go into the danger zone. Councilmember Moore replied, obviously, you haven't been to the Town Hall meetings. Ms. Duncan said, I understand that people want you...oh, I have. Councilmember Moore said, you attend a Town Hall meeting, you're going to be asked a question. Ms. Duncan replied, you are. Councilmember Moore said, Carol, so how come you didn't get the Citizens Bank building down sooner? Ms. Duncan replied, right, and I think that...luckily we've already voted on that. And I don't have a vote. But, I think that you have to express why you have caution is that you, you know, the format of the meeting might need to change a little, where citizens can express to you their concerns, but you don't answer opinionated questions about things that might come to Council for a vote.

Mayor Copenhaver stated, Well, I would suggest Council that we give Mr. Baker some ammunition here to really ponder on and maybe get back with some of our questions. I think they're very valid. I know they are, because it's concerning. We want to communicate with our community and that's the basis of that. Mr. Baker replied, sure. Ms. Duncan said, I also think we're unusual in having a twelve member Council. Mr. Baker replied, you have a lot of people out there and about. Ms. Duncan said, right, so there are two from every ward. A lot of places have one or they have six. You know, I mean, it's not, we're a big group. Mr. Baker said, one other item I just want to clarify on. There's nothing, the statute, the new change permit you to communicate with one another about ministerial items. Like, if the Mayor calls or somebody calls you another councilmember and says, can you, could we put together a special meeting for Friday the 12th? Would you be around? That's not a violation. Ms. Duncan agreed, right. Mr. Baker continued, so, a ministerial scheduling sort of issue, that is not considered a violation of communicating about a topic before. And again, seeking background information, if Councilmember Moore says, can any of my fellow councilmembers give me information about the drainage issue on 16th Street and how long it may have been going on? You're seeking information. That's fine. That's also an exception. So that is permissible. And again, this is all in the six-page summary, but you're going to have to get your lanes tight here on your behavior. And, we will ponder on your fact pattern and get back to you. That's a tough one or an interesting one I should say. Ms. Duncan

said, and I do think, I know that you want to be done with us, I do think that as budget process coming up, I think it's important to note sometimes in the past we've had budget meetings with council where council could come ask questions of staff about the budget and I think you can still ask those questions. I just think that, you know, staff should never be saying, are we good now? Or, anything else I can do? Mr. Baker replied, and you should never tell the staff, hey, I'm good with this budget. That's a no-no. Ms. Duncan said, you can ask all your questions and let them provide all their information and then the meeting just ends. Nobody gives an opinion on, but you can still meet with our budgeting staff and ask your questions about the budget or what is this for or what is that? You know, whatever your questions are in advance because I do know that's an important part sometimes of our budgeting process. Mr. Baker said, and part of what she's getting at, too, is what we call polling staff, but that has always been illegal.

Ms. Duncan replied, right, which has always been wrong. Mr. Baker continued, staff can't say, you know, hey, are you good with this budget? Ms. Duncan said, like thumbs up or thumbs down, no. Mr. Baker continued with the example, are you good with that? You are trying to count the no's is outside of the public meeting, you cannot do that. And, that is explicitly now prohibited. It's always been the law by case law. Now it's in the statute. Nobody can poll. The Mayor can't poll. You can't poll each other. Staff can't poll you. Staff can't communicate to each, to any of you, how they view any of you might vote on a matter. You know, Councilmember Street, it looks good to me. Councilmember Moore, you can't do that any more.

Councilmember Moore said, okay, let me ask you one other, and we'll move on. So, let's say the Mayor decides he wants to create a new park and the Mayor calls me. We go out and look at the property. Can he pitch the park to me as long as he's not polling me? He takes me out. We go look at a 100-acre tract over here off of Cornerstone, he says, "I think this would be an ideal location." Mr. Baker replied, that sort of meeting between the two of you should not occur now. Ms. Duncan said, it should be staff that takes you and educates you on the benefits of that property location and that's it. Mr. Baker said, staff can take you out there and says, we've got a councilmember whether it's the Mayor or any of you who is interested in making this a park, we wanted to go out here and see if you have any questions. There's no more in governing member body communication outside of this meeting, on a topic that's going to come before this body. The sausage all has to be made here. It all has to be discussed for the first time here between the governing body members. It's a big seat change.

Councilmember Chris Gibson asked, and this falls on the same legislator or legislation that passed this law? Mr. Baker replied, no, the legislature does not have these limitations. They can talk about anything they want anywhere they want. Ms. Duncan said, and also, in addition to invalidating the legislative act, I think it's important to remember it's also a Class C Misdemeanor, right. You can be charged with a Class C Misdemeanor if you intentionally violate FOIA. So just keep that in mind. Mr. Baker said, that's true. Ms. Duncan continued, not to be a Debbie Downer. Mr. Baker said, if you violate this and start talking each other or start texting each other, or tweeting each other or whatever about any of this, you are, in theory, yes, you can be prosecuted for the commission of misdemeanor and, you know, have a criminal conviction on your record. So, I mean, it is a serious law. It's always had that criminal component. But, we're now in a much more precarious fact pattern world now. And so everybody needs to say their peace at these public meetings. That's where you make the sausage. I appreciate your time Mayor, thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you very much, Mr. Baker.

Read

5. CONSENT AGENDA*Approval of the Consent Agenda*

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

Aye: 10 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and Ann Williams

Absent: 2 - David McClain and LJ Bryant

[MIN-25:097](#) MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON NOVEMBER 4, 2025

Attachments: [CC Minutes 11042025.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-25:139](#) A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ACCEPT A PERMANENT DRAINAGE EASEMENT FROM CHRISTOPHER AND MARILYN NEWSOME FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

Attachments: [Permanent Drainage Easement - Newsome.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-171-2025

[RES-25:140](#) A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ACCEPT A PERMANENT DRAINAGE EASEMENT FROM MICHAEL AND RAHEL CASTORENA FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

Attachments: [Permanent Drainage Easement - Castorena.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-172-2025

[RES-25:161](#) A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ACCEPT A RIGHT-OF-WAY DEDICATION FROM ZP NO 319 LLC FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

Attachments: [ZP NO. 319, LLC - Right-Of-Way Dedication - 10.28.2025.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-173-2025

[RES-25:162](#) A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH BAILEY CONTRACTORS, INC.

TO PROVIDE CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE 911 AND REAL TIME CRIME CENTER PROJECT

Attachments: [911 & RTCC Agreement - Bailey.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-174-2025

[RES-25:163](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NORTHEAST ARKANSAS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (NAIDC) FOR FUNDING OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Attachments: [Contract City-NAIDC 2025-26 unsigned \(002\).pdf](#)
[NAIDC QTR 1 2025.pdf](#)
[NAIDC QTR 2 2025.pdf](#)
[NAIDC Report 3rd Quarter 2024.pdf](#)
[NAIDC Annual Report 2024.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-175-2025

RESOLUTIONS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

[RES-25:137](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 233 S. Fisher St. Jonesboro, AR 72401: Parcel # 01-144073-17500

Attachments: [233 S Fisher Inspection Report.pdf](#)
[233 S Fisher Pre-Condemnation Notice Affidavit.pdf](#)
[233 S Fisher Pre-Condemnation Notice Returned Cert Letter.pdf](#)
[233 S Fisher.png](#)

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

Aye: 10 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and Ann Williams

Absent: 2 - David McClain and LJ Bryant

Enactment No: R-EN-176-2025

[RES-25:138](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 505 W Woodrow St. Jonesboro, AR 72401: Parcel # 01-144073-17500

Attachments:

[505 W Woodrow Board and Secure Affidavit.pdf](#)
[505 W Woodrow Board and Secure Returned Cert Letter.pdf](#)
[505 W Woodrow Inspection Report.pdf](#)
[505 W Woodrow Pre-condemnation Notice Affidavit.pdf](#)
[505 W Woodrow Pre-condemnation Notice Returned Cert Letter.pdf](#)
[505 W Woodrow.png](#)

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

Aye: 10 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and Ann Williams

Absent: 2 - David McClain and LJ Bryant

Enactment No: R-EN-177-2025

[RES-25:165](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS REQUESTING CITY WATER AND LIGHT (CWL) TO PROVIDE CONTRIBUTION COMMITMENTS TOWARD THE PURCHASE OF TWO NEW FIRE TRUCKS FOR THE JONESBORO FIRE DEPARTMENT

Councilmember John Street asked to be recused from discussion and voting on RES-25:165 due to the fact that he serves on the CWL Board.

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

Aye: 9 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;Charles Coleman and Ann Williams

Absent: 2 - David McClain and LJ Bryant

Recused: 1 - John Street

Enactment No: R-EN-178-2025

6. NEW BUSINESS

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[ORD-25:033](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 6 - ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES TO COMPLY WITH CHANGES TO THE ARKANSAS LAW REGARDING PRIVATE CLUB PERMITS

Attachments:

[Alcohol Permit Application 2025.docx](#)
[Final Jonesboro Application for Change in Business Operation of Private Club](#)
[Final Jonesboro Application for Transfer of Location of Private Club Permit.docx](#)

James Elywn Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, said, first, let me say that I really don't have a preference one way or the other whether you pass this or not. I just do want it on the record that, you know, that you all do have a choice, this is not the law. State law changed and therefore we have to change. You'd have to make it a city ordinance

instead of state ordinance. But the truth is, I'm going to say something, in some cases, this would just be one last lie that a person would have to tell to get a permit. It's my understanding and the City Attorney can correct me if I'm wrong, actually the law about these being, these private club permits as far as these contributions, there's no teeth in the law. There's no provision and there was no provision in the old law for it to be monitored to be sure these payments were being made. And if they were, if a place was out of compliance, I don't think there was a law that said, what can we do about it? You know, do you throw the owner in jail or whatever. So really, it doesn't make a whole lot of difference, but I just wanted it on the record that, you know, there are multiple things that could be done here. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you, Mr. Hinds.

Held at second reading

ORD-25:037

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117 ARTICLE VIII, SECTION 117-324(g) TO REMOVE THE REQUIREMENT TO HAVE A VALID REGISTRATION OR LICENSE ON A BOAT, TRAILER, OR RECREATIONAL VEHICLE PARKED OUTDOORS ON RESIDENTIAL LOTS IN THE CITY OF JONESBORO

City Attorney Carol Duncan said, this is what we discussed earlier. Councilmember John Street said, Mayor, yeah, this is the one that was pertaining in order to be open and not be any kind of a conflict, I'd ask Carol, should we table it or should we pull it and go back and start it over? Ms. Duncan replied, I think that, I mean as we said during the FOIA discussion, I don't think there's any guidance on how to do it. I just think doing one or the other allows us to show a judge that we tried to act in good faith, to correct our mistake, to let the public know what the communication was. So, I would say it's the desire of the Council whether you postpone for two weeks, postpone for 30 days or pull it and start it over. I will say that the part of my brain that thinks like a prosecutor thinks that if you wanted to manipulate the system, any time there was an ordinance that you didn't like, you could send a communication out to all the aldermen that would then kill it, because it's a FOIA violation. I don't think that, I'm not suggesting that's what happened in this case in any way, shape or form. I think these rules changed and we're just getting familiar with them. But I'm just saying, I don't want to set a dangerous precedent that I'm just throwing that out there. I think that the public needs to know when there's a communication, but I think that people play politics sometimes, not this circumstance, but in the future. And I hate to see that be an easy way to kill any ordinance you just don't agree with, and just hope you don't get prosecuted or fined by a court, right? So, my suggestion is to postpone it. It's up to the desire of the Council. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, I'll make a motion. Ms. Duncan continued, how long that is. Councilmember Hafner said, postpone for 30 days. Ms. Duncan said, for 30 days. Mayor Copenhaver asked, do we have a second? We have a motion on the floor. Ms. Duncan said, there's a second down here. Mayor Copenhaver said, we do have a second. Ms. Duncan continued, so, instead of saying 30 days, do you want to give the date of our meeting April, so that we know the date? City Clerk April Leggett said, December 16, 2025. Ms. Duncan said, so December 16th, maybe the 16th meeting. Councilmember Hafner said, postpone until the December 16th meeting. Mayor Copenhaver said, alright, so we're in discussion of ORD-25:037. In order for that to be postponed until December 16th, 2025. Ms. Duncan said, as a clarification for the City Clerk, do we want it to remain on second reading at that? Okay, thank you. It will have to be a voice vote.

Councilmember Joe Hafner motioned, seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison, to postpone temporarily ORD-25:037 until the December 16, 2025 City Council meeting to which the item will be placed on the second reading. All voted aye.

Councilmember Joe Hafner motioned, seconded by Councilmember Brian

Emison, to postpone temporarily ORD-25:037 until the December 16, 2025 City Council meeting to which the item will be placed on the second reading. All voted aye.

Aye: 10 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and Ann Williams

Absent: 2 - David McClain and LJ Bryant

[ORD-25:038](#) AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO PLACE VARIOUS TRAFFIC SIGNS AT DESIGNATED LOCATIONS AS DETERMINED BY THE TRAFFIC CONTROL COMMITTEE

Held at second reading

[ORD-25:039](#) AN ORDINANCE TO ADD SECTION 2-289 TO THE JONESBORO CODE OF ORDINANCES TITLED FIREFIGHTER BILL OF RIGHTS

Attachments: [Firefighter Bill of Rights.pdf](#)

Held at second reading

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-25:035](#) AN ORDINANCE FOR THE APPROVAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT TRANSFER OF LOCATION FOR THE PARSONAGE, LLC

Attachments: [Parsonage Private Club Transfer.pdf](#)
[Receipt.pdf](#)

James Elwyn Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, said, as far as moving, I don't really have any objection to that cause you know, it's really not that big of move from one place to another that they are asking for. The thing that I want to mention and I want to be on record because there is a tendency when this happens and if they move one for somebody else, come in and say, oh, what was it used for? It was used for this purpose last time, so let's issue a new permit to do that, and I really think if that happens, we need to stop that kind of practice from happening and keep in mind, hey, that license that was there still exists. We don't need to issue a new one.

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

Aye: 10 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and Ann Williams

Absent: 2 - David McClain and LJ Bryant

Enactment No: O-EN-039-2025

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported on the following:

So good evening again, Council. It's been two weeks of course, since we've met, but we've had an abundance of activity in the community, and so in my opinion, it shows our vibrant heart and willingness to move forward. I'll start with something near to my

heart and I'm sure near to yours as well. It's Veteran's Day and celebrations to go with it. I want to start with the story of a young lady down at Valley View School District. Her father was a 15-year veteran, and myself and some staff members went and met with her. He committed suicide, within the past year. This young lady's very strong, she's very vibrant, and she wants to tell her story at the same time she's suffering in the same context. So we also took her to the Veterans' Cottages so she could see what we're doing to help veterans recover to get their feet back on the ground. You know, we learn from youth of all ages and individuals, but more importantly, this young lady is strong, but yet she needs us as well, and she wants to help others at her dealing with that. So again, it's important that we understand what PTSD and subsequently, what happens in many cases.

I hope that you had the pleasure, though, of some of us attended the Nettleton High School, East Veterans Day Program. It's obviously a wonderful program that goes on for two hours. They take great pride. It was a packed facility, at St. Bernard's Auditorium, and I can't say enough for what those students do, and they celebrate, and they're learning in the same process about honoring our veterans and demonstrating the abundance of patriotism. If you never attended this program and luncheon, I encourage you to do so next year.

The retirement of Lt. Colonel Morgan Weatherly at Arkansas State University also occurred this past week at Military Science and Leadership. It was celebrated at the Cooper Alumni Center. I appreciate his service to our community and more importantly, Northeast Arkansas, and many of the colleagues that have moved on in military careers through Arkansas State University.

The Daughters of the American Revolution made an outstanding contribution to the Veterans Cottages and at the ASU Armory. It was great seeing a \$47,000 of contribution come the way to the Veterans Cottages for use.

In other matters, we attended ASU Catalyst at Northeast Arkansas Economic Development and Leadership, hosted by Dr. Shields of Arkansas State University. It was a packed house with over 500 attendees.

I also had the honor of welcoming the 15th Annual Supervisor Seminar Conference as well as the Arkansas Municipal League 2025 Regional meeting at the Fowler Center.

Some of you are also probably aware that Riceland Foods Annual meeting was also held here in Jonesboro. It's invigorating to see so many visitors come to Jonesboro and take time and hear their impressions about our community.

Something you may not be aware of is that Jonesboro Public Schools Dynamic Integrated Security Program. It's a fascinating, high level outsource program of protection for our students. These are highly trained security personnel, but the goal is to stop school violence before it happens. I was fortunate to sit on a council, a panel with Misty Doyle, Todd Nelson, and their facilitator, the developer of their company. Visitors from neighboring school districts attended for a look at what's being done right here in the Jonesboro School District to keep our kids and teachers safe at our schools.

In closing, I want to say how proud I am and how proud I am of you too, because of what's going on at the Ridge Athletic Center. Progress is being made there, and I think we've got some pictures that we can put up. And at the end, I know Chris Moore's going to be very jealous of what I was able to do, but I want you to look at some of

these pictures. We're going to have an eight court separated basketball facility. There will be a 65,000 sq. ft. gymnasium that will hold an additional volume of basketball courts. We have a 35,000 sq. ft. gymnasium, an Olympic sized pool that's already been poured, a 25x25 warm up pool concrete that's being poured, and it's still on track for opening in the first quarter of 2027. Tournaments are already being booked, but at the end of this, if you see the crane over to the left, that was a crane that was six times the size of the crane that we had to bring down to the Citizens Bank building. And it could validate over 450,000 pounds of moving object, and they really needed a great crane operator, so guess who volunteered? myself. That's pretty awesome. Pretty awesome to see. Councilmember Chris Gibson joked, we can't talk amongst each other, but you can drive a crane?! Mayor Copenhaver replied, I can. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, that scares me a little bit. Mayor Copenhaver joked, I know. The operators is right there. So, it doesn't move fast. But I tell you what, we need to take pride in what's going on here, and these walls are going up, the community's talking about it. It's going to be an impact for this community that I think that we're going to be very proud of for our grandchildren and others to be able to use this facility. So again, it was an honor to be out there to see that. We'll continue to give you updated reports on that process.

So next, we'll move on to item number nine. Excuse me, wait a minute. I have one other thing. Matthew, if you would, please come forward, this is DPZ. I want to give you an update of our Master Growth Plan. We started the process this week. We had many community members engaged, and that's going to be a process that we will continue to do, but we want to be very transparent and Matthew, who is the leader at DPZ, so you have the floor, sir.

Mr. Matthew Lamberth with the firm DPZ said, thank you Mayor and Council. I'm here just a few days with members of my team and Crafton Tull. We haven't gotten started on anything yet, really collecting some data from staff from different agencies. And, we came here for a few days to meet with the Steering Committee that was established. We had a meeting today with about 26 members of the community, very diverse members of the community to get there input on how to engage and to understand different opinions around the city, about its future. We've had a number of one on one 30-minute interviews with other community members to begin to understand their thoughts on the community today and it's future. And we have met with staff and toured around the city to see what is happening everywhere today. This is just the very beginning of our process. We don't even have our website up yet. So, be on the lookout on the city's website and on the Destination100K website. We will begin to provide information there. This is really an initial fact finding, talking to folks before we even start thinking about how to put the process together. So, we're going to begin working on a public engagement plan and Crafton Tull will lead that. And that will take us into the first quarter of next year when we'll start to, after the holidays, begin to execute on engagement, which is outreach to the community as a whole, surveys, engagement, in person, in say, February, March, in connection with the State of the City. But, we've also set the dates for the public charette series, which we've discussed before with you. That's a week-long effort where we bring a whole team of folks from both of our firms to draw, to talk, to host meetings with stakeholder groups and public meetings to discuss the future of the city. And, those dates are March 30th through April 3rd. So, we just want to hold those now. We're going to put that on the calendar. Once we have our website together, posts to share that with the community. Another thing that we've been doing this week is asking who should we talk to in the community? Who else? How should we cast our net wide to make sure that we reach abroad constituency of residents and get them engaged in the process. So, after that week-long charette, we'll begin working on the first draft of the plan. However, we will

also come back again and engage out in the community about the outcomes, about what we heard about what our ideas are before we actually draft a first portion of that plan. We'll begin that drafting through the summer, and then in the early fall, have some more opportunities to share, to hold a public meeting on what's in the first draft of another survey with the community. And, then, we will continue through subsequent drafts into the beginning first quarter to second quarter of 2027 to bring this before you for adoption. So, we're just starting. Again, we don't even have our website together, the name, the branding, the message. We just wanted to get out here, talk to folks and really start to understand where people sit today. So, I'm happy to answer any questions if you have them. Again, we're just here getting the lay of the land. Thank you. Mayor Copenhaver asked, any questions Council. All right. Matthew, I appreciate it very much. Thank you so much. You bet. Matthew, if you don't mind, please introduce the rest of your team that's back there. Mr. Lamberth said, yeah, I am a partner at DPZ. DPZ is the main company, the main consultant. We have Camille Cortez, who is the project manager on our team with DPZ. Then, we have Julie Kelso, who's the principal on it now for Crafton Tull, yeah, the VP in charge of the project for Crafton Tull. And then we have Issac Sims who is the PM from Crafton Tull. So, we also have the head of Engineering for Crafton Tull, Brad, who was with us meeting with the MPO and Public Works for a few days. Okay. Mayor Copenhaver said, alright, thank you, Matthew. Sorry to put you on the spot there, buddy.

[COM-25:050](#)

September 2025 Financials

Attachments: [September 2025 Financials.pdf](#)

Filed

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember John Street said, I would like to wish everybody a Happy Thanksgiving.

[COM-25:051](#)

COJ Litigation Report 11182025

Attachments: [COJ Litigation Report 11182025.pdf](#)

Mayor Copenhaver said, alright, thank you very much Council. Carol would like to make a comment. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, Councilmember Moore requested a municipality report on litigation for the City of Jonesboro. I just wanted to point out that each of you have one of those front of you that we can take a review. You have any questions, feel free to contact me. I think it's, my office worked hard on it. It's pretty self explanatory as far as a brief description of the case, what we know about the progress on it, who is representing each side of the litigation whether it's my office, whether it's the AML, that type of thing, and kind of just where each case stands. So, if you have any questions, feel free to reach out. Mayor Copenhaver said, okay. Thank you, Carol. I appreciate that.

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10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road, said, I'm here to talk about the left hand turn that we have on Elmhurst and Parker Road, and there's been a lot of close calls that I've seen when I'm driving by. And, just a little history on this is that I think it came into

more of a spotlight when the MAPC was approving the last, I think it was Final plans of the storage unit out there in the back area. And, Mr. Ford, who is on the MAPC said that Elmhurst is a city street now, and it's going to be increased traffic soon after the large facility gets built and all the remaining property gets developed too. And, one of these days it's going to get developed. And, he said it would make sense for the city to make Elmhurst Drive and Parker Road a right hand turn only. It only makes a lot of sense. I know after that, it sparked to have a traffic study. And, I think all of you guys were included on that. And, it was a traffic study that was done on Thursday, September 18th. It was for 13 hours. And, the traffic study how it showed is that on Parker Road going to the west, there was 5,600 cars and going to the east, there was about 6,300 cars. But, more important, is that the people making a left hand turn, I hope you guys are with me, is that Elmhurst is right there by the oil changing place, is that there's a left hand turn that you have to cross over two lanes of traffic to go towards Home Depot. And during this time, they said that there was, the traffic study showed 295 cars in that 13-hour period. And, so, when you break it down, it's like 22, 23 cars an hour, 5 or 6 cars every 15 minutes. But, they said at the peak hour at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, there were 35 cars that turned left there. I don't know about you guys, but that traffic out there is just horrible at that time. They said that there was no accident since 2019, but with the increased traffic there, that is going to change. If you go to the intersection right there, if you're cutting down south past Popeye's, there's that road right there and it's meant for the 18-wheeler trucks to go to Walmart. There used to be a no left hand turn sign there. It's gone now, but people are not allowed to turn left. They can't turn left, they can turn right. But the other day, and I will send this to you, there was an 18-wheeler truck that was making a left hand turn so close to the intersection. There's going to be an accident that's going to happen because that road is going to get widen pretty soon of what they're doing. The question is, is that how do these delivery trucks from Walmart exit that area? Because if they can't make a left hand turn, then they have to go right down Harrisburg Road and really to weave and all that around Elmhurst, it's a windy road. I don't know how people or the 18-wheeler trucks make that turn that ARDOT specifically told the City of Jonesboro that if you are on Parker Road, you cannot make a left hand turn after that signal. There's a sign right there. And that's the only reason that they were or we were allowed to put a street there is that you cannot make left hand turns. I see people every once in a while. And the reason I thought, well probably, because it's dangerous, because you're crossing over a couple of lanes of traffic. That makes sense. So, I decided I was going to call up ARDOT and ask them why they specifically put that sign there. Two interesting things. They told me that Elmhurst Drive and the road right after the intersection right there, going south on Harrisburg was too close to the intersection. It really shouldn't have been built. That was kind of interesting to hear from them. But the reason they say that they put a left hand or no left hand turn sign right there on Parker to turn onto Elmhurst was because it's dangerous and they were concerned about the citizens and the driver's safety. Wow. But, what we're doing as a city is that we're allowing people to make a left hand turn onto Parker doing what they think is a customer and a driver's safety, and it's dangerous, but we're allowing it to be done. So, if possible, I think the City of Jonesboro needs to look at this before that area expands because if you already had 295 cars turning left, when it's not developed yet, when we don't have the storage, the 300 or 400 units, that area is going to develop. That wasn't really a planned area. Mayor Copenhaver said, your time is up. Ms. Lack continued, I hope we can make the change and we can be concerned about it. Thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you very much.

11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Moore, seconded by

Councilperson Joe Hafner, that this meeting be Adjourned. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 10 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and Ann Williams

Absent: 2 - David McClain and LJ Bryant

Date: _____

Harold Copenhaver, Mayor

Attest:

Date: _____

April Leggett, City Clerk