



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, March 19, 2019

5:30 PM

Municipal Center

NOMINATING AND RULES COMMITTEE MEETING AT 4:45 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR PERRIN AT 5:30 P.M.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

3. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK DONNA JACKSON

Present 9 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; David McClain and LJ Bryant
Absent 3 - Gene Vance; Chris Gibson and Joe Hafner

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

Aye: 9 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; David McClain and LJ Bryant
Absent: 3 - Gene Vance; Chris Gibson and Joe Hafner

[MIN-19:025](#) Minutes for the City Council meeting on March 5, 2019

Attachments: [Minutes 030519](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

[RES-19:011](#) A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO ENTER INTO AN INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT WITH WINTERS, LLC

Attachments: [Indmnification Agreement](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-029-2019

[RES-19:021](#) A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH COOPER MIXON ARCHITECTS, PLLC TO PROVIDE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES FOR THE VETERANS' VILLAGE PROJECT

Attachments: [Agreement](#)
[Summary - SOQ.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-030-2019

[RES-19:022](#) A RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH AAA BUSINESS SYSTEMS TO SERVICE AND PROVIDE TONER FOR THE CITY'S COPIERS AND PRINTERS

Attachments: [City of Jonesboro AAA](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-031-2019

6. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-19:004](#) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE JONESBORO CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 2 ARTICLE 3, ENTITLED CITY COUNCIL; ESTABLISHING CITY COUNCIL RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR 2019

Attachments: [2019 Council Procedures4](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned to suspend the rules and offer ORD-19:004 by title only, seconded by Councilmember Bobby Long. All voted aye.

Councilmember Chris Moore said as we currently discussed this in the preceding meeting, I'll make a motion that we remove the time limit on public discussion. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman seconded. City Attorney Carol Duncan said I think everybody knows what we're talking about, but can we clarify that you're talking about on agenda items, not public comments. Councilmember Moore said that is correct. All voted aye.

Councilmember David McClain said I know we are going to read this three times, but the only thing I had a question about was looking at Section 3 and removing the part where the citizens have to submit their information prior to speaking. I would ask that we look at changing that because I feel like it may hinder someone wanting to come and speak on certain items or do a presentation of some sort. Ms. Duncan said the only concern I would have is if it's a video or anything that is going into our computer system. I think that was an Information Technology request. They wanted to make sure that if someone is plugging a memory stick or anything into one of our computers that the content is appropriate, because we don't want to just flash anything up on the screen and it be something completely inappropriate, and that it doesn't have any type of virus. I'm not talking about people just coming to speak. I'm talking about when they want to plug something into our computer. Even if they want to present something

from their own computer, we want to at least review it to make sure that it doesn't pop up on the screen and be inappropriate. Councilmember McClain said should we look at maybe then changing up the time. Ms. Duncan said that's my only comment. Mayor Harold Perrin said you're just making a comment for us to think about since we're going to hold it. Councilmember McClain said I think we should look at it, just in case. I don't want anyone to feel like they can't make a presentation or have anything to say.

Placed on second reading

[ORD-19:008](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE JONESBORO CODE OF ORDINANCES, SECTION 117-139(E) (6), FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR MAXIMUM HEIGHT WITHIN THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS WITH THE INTENT TO CLARIFY MAXIMUM HEIGHT FOR THE GENERAL HEALTH SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE COMMUNITY.

Attachments: [building height.pdf](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned to suspend the rules and offer ORD-19:008 by title only, seconded by Councilmember L.J. Bryant. All voted aye.

Mayor Harold Perrin said I just want to make a comment. We were having a meeting with some people from out of town looking at putting a hotel here in town and the question was asked to me about the maximum height. I called Planning Director Derrel Smith down and found out that our ordinance only says 35 feet. Our municipal building is more than 35 feet. City Attorney Carol Duncan said it's a really old ordinance. Mayor Perrin said the point is that we're trying to update some of the ordinances. I have asked Mr. Smith to go through from A to Z, read, and understand the ordinances to make sure they are not out of date. That is the reason for this ordinance and it ties back into the acts of the Fire Marshall and the fire code. This is a clean-up ordinance.

Placed on second reading

[ORD-19:009](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 50 PARKS AND RECREATION, ARTICLE II OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES AND ADD 50-26 ENTITLED "SMOKING AND USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS" WHICH SHALL PROHIBIT SMOKING AND TOBACCO USE IN ALL CITY PARKS, FACILITIES, AND TRAILS

Councilmember John Street motioned to suspend the rules and offer ORD-19:009 by title only, seconded by Councilmember David McClain. All voted aye.

Placed on second reading

[ORD-19:011](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 42, ARTICLE VI OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO CODE OF ORDINANCES AND CHAPTER 117-138 OF THE ZONING USE TABLES REGULATING SHORT-TERM RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

Councilmember John Street motioned to suspend the rules and offer ORD-19:011 by title only, seconded by Councilmember L.J. Bryant. All voted aye.

Mayor Harold Perrin said all we are doing with this ordinance is just adding "per rental."

Placed on second reading

[ORD-19:013](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE APPROVAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR PROJECT AWARENESS, INC.

Attachments: [ProjectAwarenessInc.Bamboo.CityOrdinance.pdf](#)
[Private Club_Redacted.pdf](#)
[Baker email 03182019.pdf](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned to suspend the rules and offer ORD-19:013 by title only, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore. All voted aye.

Placed on second reading

[ORD-19:014](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3841 GRIGGS AVENUE FROM RESIDENTIAL, R-1 TO COMMERCIAL, C-3 LUO AS REQUESTED BY GEORGE HAMMAN ON BEHALF OF J.K. KAZI

Attachments: [Staff Summary - City Council.pdf](#)
[Application.pdf](#)
[Rezoning Plat Planning.pdf](#)
[rezoning plat.pdf](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned to suspend the rules and offer ORD-19:014 by title only, seconded by Councilmember Mitch Johnson. All voted aye.

Placed on second reading

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[ORD-19:012](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, ARTICLE III, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1, SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO I-1, GENERAL INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 901 WILLETT ROAD AS REQUESTED BY JOHN EASLEY OF ASSOCIATED ENGINEERING ON BEHALF OF CRAIGHEAD COUNTY JUDGE MARVIN DAY

Attachments: [Ordinance.pdf](#)
[Plat.pdf](#)
[Application.pdf](#)
[Staff Summary.pdf](#)
[MAPC Tuesday February 26 2019.pdf](#)
[901 Willet Rd Notification.pdf](#)
[901 Willet Rd Rezoning Map.pdf](#)
[901 Willet.pdf](#)
[19021.pdf](#)
[CSU - Property Owner Notification.pdf](#)
[CSU Certified Mail Receipts.pdf](#)
[Receipt 3.pdf](#)
[Request for Review MAPC.pdf](#)
[Rezoning Plat.pdf](#)

Placed on third reading

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-19:006](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE AND ABANDON THE NORTH SEVEN AND ONE HALF FEET (7.5') OF THE SOUTH FIFTEEN FEET (15') WIDE DRAINAGE EASEMENT ALONG THE SOUTH PROPERTY LINE OF LOT 17 BLOCK "A" OF TWIN OAKS SUBDIVISION AS REQUESTED BY CARLOS WOOD ON BEHALF OF CHRIS FUTRELL

Attachments: [notarized petition.pdf](#)
[plat.pdf](#)
[PandE Letter.pdf](#)
[adjacent owner concurrence letter.pdf](#)
[ATT.pdf](#)
[Center Point Entergy Drainage Release Form.pdf](#)
[CWL Response-DRAINAGE ESMT - TWIN OAKS.pdf](#)
[Ritter Response.pdf](#)
[Suddenlink Easement Abandonment Response.pdf](#)

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

Aye: 9 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 3 - Gene Vance; Chris Gibson and Joe Hafner

Enactment No: O-EN-019-2019

[ORD-19:007](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FOR PROPERTY LOCATED ON LOTS 21 AND 22 OF DUDLEY'S SUBDIVISION (FRED STREET) FROM GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT, C-3 TO MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL, RM-16 LUO AS REQUESTED BY CARLOS WOOD ON BEHALF OF HAROLD AND LINDA SIMPSON

Attachments: [Staff Summary - Fred Street.pdf](#)
[Turner-FredSt Rezoning-PLAT.pdf](#)
[Application.pdf](#)
[Notification Letter.pdf](#)
[Rezoning Plat.pdf](#)
[Turner Rezoning Map.pdf](#)
[PLack_email_ORD-19-007.pdf](#)
[PLack_email_02262019_ORD-19-007.pdf](#)
[Handout_Fred.pdf](#)

Mr. Bryan Marsh, 6611 Whispering Pines, said I am the owner of Harley Davidson of Jonesboro and we are in the proximity of this property. I want to oppose this because of the recent crime. I have the police reports. We have had over nine in the last six months. One was actually a felony in that area. I would still like to keep it more of a residential, R-1, rather than have more apartments down there.

Mr. Jerry Lee Lewis, 2838 Fred Street, said I would like to hand out some items if you don't mind. I would like to say that we have been living here 20 something years and it's already been pretty rough around there, but if those apartments are allowed to go up, they will bring all kind of people into the place and it's just for revenue really. They don't stay around there and we've been living there. It will just bring more traffic, more violence and more crime. We already have a lot of trouble. We would like to oppose it. It's a school district. We already have a lot of people getting in trouble and this will just make it even worse.

Mr. Lyndell Turner, 5532 Kersey Lane, said I will be developing the property if this passes tonight. Mr. Harold Simpson and I have looked at the property and on that side of the street adjacent to his is a mixture of industrial, commercial, single-family homes and R-2. Across the road, there are 11 single-family homes. Five of those homes are tenant-occupied. On the adjacent ends of Fred Street, there are four duplexes, currently. We feel that mixed residential is the best way to go and nothing has been there in over 40 years. We can build these two duplexes on the new city guidelines, which state they have to be all brick. The front entrance door has to be facing the road with side car and rear car parking. That's pretty much all I have to say.

Ms. Elizabeth Lewis, 2838 Fred Street, said I just want to say that I oppose the apartments going in because I'm concerned about the children in the neighborhood. It's safe for them to walk back and forth to school right now, but if all those apartments come in, it will get more crime in the area.

Jerry and Maxine Stevens, 901 Somerset Lane, said we own property adjacent to the property that they want to develop. We've owned the property there for approximately 49 years. We have no objections to this because we're the ones who are most affected by it because it's side by side of our property. I think it would improve the property because they are going to work on the drainage in that area. The drainage is not good down there, and it would improve it. Mr. Stevens said it's been grown up for 50 years down there. They mow it once a year. I haven't had anything stolen and we've lived there for 50 years. We haven't had no trouble with anybody. No crime or nothing right in our area. Mrs. Stevens said we've never had any problems. I know there is crime down there, but there's crime everywhere in Jonesboro. We feel like if they do develop this land, it's going to improve the looks of the neighborhood with the way they're doing it now. Mr. Stevens said it will clean our property up. Mrs. Stevens said we are here to support this.

Ms. Debra Fletcher, 2705 Fred Street, said I oppose this because of some of the same reasons they said it would be better. It would not increase our value. The more rentals you have, the more likely there is for more crime or plain bad neighbors. Everyone on my side of the street are single home families and have been there for years. I plan to be there until the end of my days and I'd like for it to remain at least as peaceful and safe as it is now.

Ms. Karen Taggart, 2836 Fred Street, said I oppose this because the roads are small, we are going to have small children going down that road, and people already speed down that road. They said it would improve our flooding. We're in a flood zone. So, when they build that complex, they going to build it up leaving that water to come back on us. I oppose it because that and because of the traffic for the young children having to walk back and forth to school and people speeding.

Ms. Kristy Jones, 2800 Fred Street, said I oppose this because the crime is already high because of the other duplexes they have at the corner of my road and we do not

need anymore. Regardless of what the others have said, most of us on our road now, have to have security systems on our homes. So, why bring in more apartments and bring the crime up.

Mr. Frank Brewer, 2800 Fred Street, said I oppose this because of the drainage, the street and the kids of Nettleton School District use that street in the summer to jog and exercise. The drainage is pitiful. My house has been flooded four times with as high as two-feet of water in it. I can't understand why the city would allow anyone to build any more duplexes down there on that street. I oppose it and everybody on that street opposes it, and I don't understand why the city doesn't oppose it. That's my opinion of it, and I hope the city will consider it.

Councilmember Bobby Long said I would like to ask Planning Director Derrel Smith a question. I would like you to speak because the pictures show the street is narrow. Probably narrower than some of the driveways. On the property that they want to develop, how many additional parking spaces do they want to develop? That road doesn't even look like it's a road. Mr. Smith said they are looking at two duplexes. So, four units. Councilmember Long said four additional units. Can you speak to the drainage issue? Mr. Smith said they will have to meet the city code when they submit their plans. Councilmember Long said so, we're looking at only two duplexes, four additional apartments and four doors. Thank you.

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

Aye: 3 - Charles Frierson; Mitch Johnson and David McClain

Nay: 6 - Ann Williams; Chris Moore; John Street; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long and LJ Bryant

Absent: 3 - Gene Vance; Chris Gibson and Joe Hafner

[ORD-19:010](#)

AN ORDINANCE REGARDING ABANDONING AND VACATING THE UNDEVELOPED 15' UTILITY EASEMENT LYING WITH LOT 49 OF SAGE MEADOWS PHASE 1-B AS REQUESTED BY BENCHMARK LAND SURVEYING ON BEHALF OF DONALD FARROW AND CAROLE SCHLITT

Attachments: [Petition.pdf](#)
[Plat.pdf](#)
[Utility Abandonment - Sage Meaows Lot 49 - Benchmark.pdf](#)
[PandE Letter.pdf](#)
[AT&T.pdf](#)
[CenterPoint.pdf](#)
[CWL.pdf](#)
[Ritter.pdf](#)
[Suddenlink.pdf](#)

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

Aye: 9 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 3 - Gene Vance; Chris Gibson and Joe Hafner

Enactment No: O-EN-020-2019

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Perrin said there are two items under there for your information. It looks like the airport is having a good year. Also, you noticed in there that the Airport Commission did receive the first aeronautical grant in several years to build additional hangers, actually the big one. So, we should be seeing construction at the airport on that. That is an 80/20 grant and the total was \$250,000.

As you all know, during the last council meeting, I was in Washington D.C. with the National League of Cities (NLC). I'm on the board of the Finance Committee and I'll share with you, briefly, the consensus of the 2020 mayors and council members who attended the convention. I'll just share with you the top things on their minds. First, by far, was infrastructure, and, basically, what that states is that back in the 1950s and 1960s, after World War II and passed that, we built a lot of interstates. The problem is that we haven't taken care of those interstates or done anything to them for maintenance. In addition to that, over the years, all of our cities in the United States have built several miles of roads and some of those have deteriorated, as well. Particularly in Arkansas, we have a lot of bridges that are unsafe and the Arkansas Highway Transportation Department is making a list of those now.

Second, a lot of our cities are experiencing homelessness within their communities. I will be coming back to you all with a task force. We had one, if you remember, and that task force's primary mission and vision was to study and see if we had an issue or problem. It was overwhelmingly found that it was a problem inside the City of Jonesboro. From the outcome of that task force, I'm pleased to say that we came up with the HUB. The HUB basically screens people who are homeless and need help. They've done everything from helping those people get social security cards to trying to help find them the medical care that they need. The big issue on the end of that though is that they have to let them leave the HUB, and there's no place for them to go except to the Salvation Army, and there are a limited number of beds and only a certain amount of time that they can stay there. The next task force I do will be those who are in that business with the homeless, such as Crowley's Ridge Development Council and those who can seek money and grants for us to build a homeless shelter. The second part of that is that we need to identify a location of where it should be within the city, and third, what goes inside the building. I have visited several of those, but you can see that most of those within the state have tried to buy a piece of property that is, in my opinion, barely inhabitable and try to make that a homeless shelter. I don't think that is good. I think it's not good for the people who go in there and we are going to be looking at that on this task force and bring back a recommendation to this council. The opioid epidemic was discussed very heavily, as well.

The other thing regarding developers and people in the community is that it was unanimous on the opportunity zones. The Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has not come down with the exact rules for that, but the governor handed out opportunity zones. Opportunity zones will bring incentives to developers in certain areas within our city. Our city was able to get three. One was in industrial park. The second one was at Arkansas State University and that area, and in the downtown area. We do have the maps of that, which states every street within those opportunity zones on our website. Once those decisions are made with the IRS, and I met with the Arkansas Economic Development Commission (AEDC) this morning, then we will have a seminar here in Jonesboro for all developers, etc.,

because we want to make sure that they understand all the rules and regulations before they come into those areas and start building. So, that was one of the big things.

I have asked Finance Manager Deanna Hornback again, and this is for the council and the public, to act as supervisor within the Finance Department until we can find a finance director, which is being advertised now. So, I'll be bringing you updates on that.

Also, registration on the AML summer conference is June 12-14. I would encourage any of you council members, if you can, to please attend that. You'll be amazed at the number of workshops and what you'll learn at those conferences. Chrystal Glisson has set up a block of rooms for that, so please check with her and make sure. Some of you wanted to stay at the Capitol Hotel and I think that has been done, too.

Chief Rick Elliott and I will be leaving Wednesday to attend a meeting with the AML, and the next day we will be making a presentation to the commissioners of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission to give them an update on our shooting range that we are building for the City of Jonesboro. In fact, bids will open tomorrow on the dirt work. The road has been built going into the facility, and we have a PowerPoint to give an update to the commissioners since they gave us \$2 million to do that. Not only will we share what will go in that, but also the economic impact of all of our school districts here that have won in either skeet, trap or archery. The economic impact of Tennessee, Mississippi, and all of those that Chief Elliott has reached out and touched for these tournaments looks very good. Before we leave, we also, I'm sure, will be asking for more money. They gave us \$2 million, and we hope to get additional grant money from the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission.

The next item I want to discuss is the littering problem. I've had several e-mails and calls concerning littering in our city. You and I live here. This is our home, and we, obviously, want to keep our city clean and neat. I called Legacy Landfill and they did a full-page advertisement for about \$2,000.00. The state law is very clear. Anything that moves that you're taking to the landfill, or whatever, has to be covered. There's no halfway. It all has to be covered. They will be doing another advertisement for that. We will be doing a television show on Channel 24 to get the word out on littering. After that, I have asked Chief Elliott, as well as the Arkansas State Highway Patrol to do assistance and help on that. So, within 30 to 45 days, we're going to get the word out for that on littering. At the end of that point, there will be citations issued. They're not cheap. We're going to have to keep our city clean and neat. I went down Highway 1 and Culberhouse the other day, and it looked like a war zone. There's stuff falling off trailers. Trailers going down the road absolutely not covered and by the time they got to Legacy Landfill there probably wasn't any need for a tipping fee because there probably wasn't anything left in the trailer. So, you and I have to be looking at that stuff, particularly on Caraway Road. When you go down through there at night or something and you look at those ditches, they're absolutely full of litter. We're going to have to be tough on this. We're going to get the word out. We're going to give them plenty of time, but at the end of that time, the highway patrol would be happy to assist us in controlling that. I just wanted to give you all a heads up on that.

Friday and Saturday of this past weekend was absolutely incredible at Southside Softball Park. Parks and Recreation Director Danny Kapales and his staff had 40 teams attend. The entire parking lot was almost full. I don't know how many school buses were there, but there were a ton of them. We had a good day. Concessions came in around \$10,000. We now have two new concession stands open. The teams

had to stay there because they were rotating on the fields.

City Stars had 946 kids playing basketball. In softball, we had 25 junior high teams and on our recreational teams, we had 700 kids. In baseball, and I think this was junior high, we had 500 kids. Soccer registration is going on now. One of the things that NLC brought up was that the sport that is the fastest growing, right now, throughout the United States, is soccer. We have, probably, some of the best soccer fields in the State of Arkansas. We will certainly be working on that.

[COM-19:015](#)

Airport Commission Financial Statements ending February 28, 2019

Attachments: [JAC Jonesboro Airport Financials 02_19.pdf](#)

Read

[COM-19:016](#)

Arkansas Department of Aeronautics Commission Grant Letter

Attachments: [Airport Email George Jackson 03132019.pdf](#)
[Sharp_MX-3110N@arkansas.gov_20190313_170807 \(1\).pdf](#)

Read

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember John Street asked Mayor Perrin if he knew when the regulations for the opportunity zones would be made public or finalized. Mayor Perrin said, I asked the AEDC that today and they said they were not aware, but they felt like the Treasury Department was working the IRS and getting very close. As soon as it comes out, we will certainly be notified through AML, but we will also have a seminar here in Jonesboro and bring in all the developers, builders, etc. to let them understand what the incentives are on that.

Councilmember Mitch Johnson said just to elaborate on your litter comment, I did see that ad and I was really impressed with it. It's not just trucks and trailers going to the landfill. It's pathetic when you drive around this town. There's so much fast food around this town and everybody throws their trash on the streets. Plastic bottles are everywhere and in ditches. I just can't understand where we're lacking in pride that somebody will just throw stuff out on the streets like that. It's terrible. I hope that we can do not only the landfill stuff, but also everything around this city. Mayor Perrin said they will not only be patrolling Highway 1. They will be all over.

Councilmember L.J. Bryant said if anyone has been out to Craighead Forest Park, you'll see that traffic is picking up out there and it's so exciting to see people using the improvements that we've made. So, thanks to Mr. Kapales, Larry Jackson and everybody else that works so hard to make things good. I would say that, down the line, we'll have to have more parking and all those kinds of things. So, I just hope we'll consider those things down the line. It's exciting to see so many folks using the park.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said on April 27, we're going to have a community clean up from Patrick to Highway 141, and also from Belt to Johnson. We're hoping everybody will show up for that. The next thing is that we had the Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting at Parker Park and we need to see if something can be done with the lighting. I think it must have been about 6:30 p.m.

and we could barely walk around because it was so dark on the outside. So, if Mr. Kapales would look at that, I would really appreciate that. Mayor Perrin asked what time the clean up started. Councilmember Dr. Coleman said we will start about 8:00 a.m. and probably be done around 1:00 p.m. It's been going pretty good, but we want to get started. We plan on having four clean-ups this year. Of course, we also know if the weather is not fair on that particular week, then we'll move it to a different day, but right now, it is on April 27.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Beverly Parker, 205 Windover, said I want to compliment Mayor Perrin and Councilmember Johnson on their comments about the littering. I think this is such an important part of our town. I would very much like for us to plan a comprehensive way that this could be addressed through businesses, schools and others. It's not just the trucks leaking their contents, but fast food bags and everything. Even in the quieter neighborhoods, it's nothing to have things thrown out of the cars. I have particularly noticed people throwing things at the drains, like the plastic water bottles among other things. Obviously, this creates a stormwater problem. I would just encourage you to look at this a little broader and find a champion among the council members, perhaps, and work on this in a comprehensive way. Thank you for your attempts to deal with it. Mayor Perrin said Ms. Parker, before you leave would you just make a comment. I drove down Church today and that is absolutely gorgeous. I know you're working with Rotary or Centennial Park down here. The canvas is up and it's just absolutely beautiful. Would you mind sharing the date on when the park might be open? Ms. Parker said it will open on April 26. There will be a dedication ceremony at 4:00 p.m. I would like to come back at a meeting in April and talk a little bit more about that. Everybody is invited. It's going to be a great day, and we really hope that this will be highly used for various events. Lots of venues can be held there. So, thank you so much for the city's support. Mayor Perrin said I didn't want to still your thunder, but I was totally amazed. That canvas is what set that off, but the whole thing is beautiful. Ms. Parker said it's going to really be an asset for our community. Thank you so much. Mayor Perrin said you're quite welcome.

City Attorney Carol Duncan said I want to add one more thing on the littering. People don't think that cigarette butts are littering, but I want to make very clear that I think tickets should be written for the cigarette butts. If you walk a dog down Nettleton, there are hundreds of thousands of cigarette butts. Fast food is a problem, but cigarette butts are a big issue in littering because they don't go away as quickly as people think they do. Ms. Parker said overall, we just need an educational program in this community about littering, such as why we should take pride in our community and what this does in terms of our economic development and other aspects. I would just encourage us to have a broader conversation and really target this and have some neighborhood clean-ups beyond Councilmember Dr. Coleman's work that he does regularly. We really need to target some neighborhoods throughout the city and have significant clean up attempts. Preventing further littering is the key. Mayor Perrin said Communications Director Bill Campbell is on top of that and is going to be doing some commercials. In fact, some of the EAST Labs are going to be doing commercials for us on littering, which I thought was incredible.

Ms. Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road, said I just wanted to say that this is probably the last time that I'll say anything about Harrisburg Road. I know you're glad and I am absolutely glad. We had a great turnout at the public hearing at Central Baptist Church. Seventy people attended and I thought that was an outstanding turnout. I want to thank the city for advertising that because I think that was a big part. I came today

to talk to MPO Director Cecelie Cochran to turn in some more comment forms. We started this a little while ago and we are going to be turning in over 174 comment forms. When I talked to ArDOT District Engineer Brad Smithee, ArDOT District Construction Engineer Alan Walter, Engineering Director Craig Light and Traffic Engineer Mark Nichols, we don't have a lot of differences. The difference that we have is from Dollar General on. We're pretty much in agreement with that since we want to keep those people's property, we want a lane on both sides, and we want a center turn lane. I know we had talked about having a traffic signal at Forest Hill Road and Harrisburg Road. We discussed that if that was not in the works now and if they're not going to start working on it from one year to 19 months from now, which is what Mr. Smithee told me at the end of the meeting, that they certainly need to lay the wiring so they don't have to come back and do it. I think as far as meeting federal requirements for taking the money from the federal government is that I think it will meet what our plans are. So, I really hope that ArDOT, the city and the engineers work with what we have given as public comment. I think it just goes back to that first original statement that I said about this being our neighborhood and all of you would fight the same as we have for this. I appreciate everything, and I hope that I don't have to say Harrisburg Road anymore. Thank you very much.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 9 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 3 - Gene Vance; Chris Gibson and Joe Hafner

_____ **Date:** _____

Harold Perrin, Mayor

Attest:

_____ **Date:** _____

Donna Jackson, City Clerk