



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Thursday, July 6, 2023

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

NOTE: MEETING MOVED TO THURSDAY DUE TO HOLIDAY

PUBLIC WORKS COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING AT 5:00 P.M.

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

3. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

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

Absent 1 - Anthony Coleman

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

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

Absent: 1 - Anthony Coleman

[MIN-23:058](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON JUNE 20, 2023

Attachments: [CC Minutes 06202023](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

[RES-23:110](#)

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

Attachments: [JETS 2023 Agreement](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-131-2023

[RES-23:111](#)

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

Attachments: [SWAT 2023 Agreement](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-132-2023

[RES-23:112](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE FY2023 BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP THROUGH THE U.S DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-133-2023

[RES-23:113](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE FY2023 SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL GRANTS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Attachments: [FY23 Safe Streets for All Budget](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-134-2023

6. NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

[RES-23:109](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO SELL LOT 1 OF KIECH'S 1ST ADDITION TO MASONIC LODGE #657

Attachments: [Signed Offer and Acceptance Contract](#)

Councilmember Joe Hafner said, I have one question Mayor. I noticed that the contract is signed Wayne Hogan by Barry Rudd for the buyer. I guess we checked to make sure he has power of attorney or is authorized to do that? I have known Barry Rudd all of my life so I know he is a good guy, but I just didn't want something to come up down the road. Senior Planner Monica Percy said, absolutely. He does have permission to sign in favor of the property buyer. Councilmember Hafner said, thank you.

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

Absent: 1 - Anthony Coleman

Enactment No: R-EN-135-2023

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-23:027](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO PLACE VARIOUS TRAFFIC SIGNS AT DESIGNATED LOCATIONS AS DETERMINED BY THE TRAFFIC CONTROL COMMITTEE

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-23:027 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

[ORD-23:028](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR ROYAL OAK 237, INC. d/b/a LEMONADE HOUSE GRILLE - JONESBORO TO BE LOCATED AT 237 SOUTH MAIN STREET, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

Attachments: [Lemonade House Grille Application Redacted](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-23:028 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

[ORD-23:029](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM RS-4 TO RS-7 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5213 E. NETTLETON AS REQUESTED BY WILLIAM CONRAD

Attachments: [Application Packet](#)

[Photos receipts address list](#)

[Sign Photos](#)

[Rezoning Plat](#)

[Staff Summary - C.C.](#)

[USPS Tracking](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-23:029 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-23:026](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 TO C-3 FOR

PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4603 SOUTHWEST DRIVE AS REQUESTED BY AMY NEWBERRY LOVINS.

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

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

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

Absent: 1 - Anthony Coleman

Enactment No: O-EN-028-2023

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported on the following:

I will just start out by saying that I hope everybody had a great Fourth of July. It is a wonderful holiday to celebrate our country with a family get together. As always, there is a degree of chaos with fireworks that are rampant in communities across the country. Obviously, there is an uptick in complaints to our Police and Fire Departments with all of the fireworks going off. And, I think it is probably time to acknowledge that our ordinance is outdated and it needs to be reviewed.

I met with Austin Booth. He is the new State Game and Fish Commissioner and I met with him for the better part of a day last week. He was very positive about what he is seeing here in Jonesboro transpire, especially in the last 18 months and particularly positive about the improvements and continued potential of the Sports Shooting Complex. With that, I think that it is important to acknowledge the work of Joey Glaub, Steven Wright, and the whole team out there that they are doing an absolute great job.

As you have probably have noticed, the annual mosquitoes arrival is upon us. Vector Control has been aerial spraying, as well as by truck and will continue through early September. Under the current contract, we will obviously readdress that should that be necessary. Trucks are out every night. We are continuing to talk with ASTATE about the latest research and into ways to manage, I am trying to think of what variety it is, and in that discussion, both with Vector and Arkansas State University, having the ability for employees has been very limited. And, so, we are seeing the ability to have personnel out there. Vector has been covering it. Many of their daily employees are working the night shifts to cover that. We still have eight more aerial applications that will occur between next week and the first of September. In regards, hopefully, rice watering has occurred earlier this year due to a drier season. The planting was earlier so we are hoping that the removal of water as well off the rice fields will be happening late August, early September. So, again, we are in complete conversations with Vector on that. And, if you would like to visit with him, I know he would like to share exactly what they are doing as well.

I want to say thank you to Sanitation and the Street teams that took time to help towns in Poinsett County. They had storm damage in multiple cities and our neighbors take

care of us when we are in need and this is just another example of paying it forward for our communities. And, I will say, over the weekend, we had multiple departments, multiple equipment in Marked Tree and Tyronza. I have reached out to other Mayor's in the Mayor's Caucus to help assist with Lepanto. The City of Wynne, I believe, helped with Lepanto. So, it is all about Northeast Arkansas and helping our neighbors, but I am very proud of our team and the work that they do.

We have a neighborhood cleanup this weekend. So, please bring out your old mattresses, tvs, computers, appliances, or anything else other than yard waste and hazmat materials to the lot of the former Fullness of Joy on Race Street. That is 3307 Race Street. We will have dumpsters and Code and Sanitation workers are there to help out. Keep Jonesboro Beautiful is a great example of community involvement.

I also want to give a shout out to the ASTATE Women's basketball team, taking time to work with our youth. Right now, they are over at Parker Park and they will be there again teaching our local kids some of their moves on the court. They will be doing this throughout the summer and we really appreciate their efforts.

Lastly, I want to commemorate the 10,000 hours of service provided by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, one of ASTATE's great sororities that continues to serve Jonesboro long after these young ladies leave our campus. I was very impressed by them. We had a visit of about ten. One of the original founding sisters of their sorority was there. They have been a part of our community and Arkansas State University for over 47 years. So, it was my pleasure in meeting with them and hearing about what they are doing in our community.

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember John Street said, I would just kind of like to echo what the Mayor said about Jim Stark with Vector. They got out and did a good job spraying the parks before the fireworks. They did make the mosquito problem less than what it would have been had they not sprayed. So, thank him for that and the Parks Department for doing their outstanding job, as well as the Fire and Police Departments. Things went really well. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, thank you for your comment.

Councilmember LJ Bryant said, I have a few random thoughts. I think John just hit it. And, this would be an ambitious thing to say, but I wish we could almost make our Parks a mosquito free zone, like how you have in your little cell phone free zones at schools. And, I know that is a whole lot easier said than done. And, I am sure we already prioritize Parks. It's like you are trying to avoid the heat right now, so if you go to Craighead earlier or later, you get the mosquitoes. I appreciate your work on that. I will say too that I saw something in the last couple of days that Heber Springs is finishing up and 11 mile trail. I know we are working on all of that, but our friends around us are working on it too. You inherited us being behind on it and I know we are working to catch up. There was an article in the National Association of Realtors just talking about housing values going up in proximity to trails. And, people who are under 50 years old, how much value they place on being close to sidewalks and trails. I think even in a place like Heber, anecdotally, someone I know has mentioned several people that have lived in Little Rock have moved there that have work from home jobs. So, I think, as the future comes, we will be competing with not just against cities of our own size, but cities even small, small cities. They don't have a lot of the same amenities as us, but as we work toward those things, that is just something to consider. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, thank you for your comments councilman.

Councilmember David McClain said, I have a couple of questions in regards to one, I know we are working on the police pay. Have you guys created a committee for that or what? I know there was some discussion around creating a group or a committee of some sort. Has that been formed? Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, I will go ahead and let Councilman that was in attendance today go ahead and make a comment on that. Councilmember Mitch Johnson said, yeah, we have had several ongoing discussions concerning police pay. I think the Mayor has had some various input from others as well. I think that we are making some progress and we should know as early as next week if we will have to call a special called Public Safety meeting to discuss further. But, I think we are getting some positive feedback and the Mayor's staff is working on some pretty good directions to take us and I think we are going to get there very, very soon. And, I would just like to commend the Mayor and his staff as well. In just the few discussions I have had with the Mayor since we have started this, he is dedicated to the cause and I think that he will work diligently with myself and others to get a package put together to bring forward to Public Safety. Councilmember McClain asked, so I guess you are on the committee? Councilmember Johnson stated, I don't know that what we have had is. Councilmember McClain asked, is there an official committee? Councilmember Joe Hafner said, no. Councilmember Johnson said, there hasn't been an official committee per say. Councilmember McClain said, okay, but you have had meetings? Councilmember Johnson said, yes. Councilmember McClain said, okay.

The next question in regards to the mosquito deal, I know that Vector mentioned that they were getting ready to study the effectiveness of whatever they were spraying. I would love to see a report of some sort from them, especially, really, by the end of the year to detail whatever their spraying, if it is effective and how effective. Mr. Stark made the comment that they had been spraying the same thing for 28 years at the last meeting and I think we need to either look at what they are spraying and ask them to change that or look at going in a different direction. I know we extended our contract with them, but I didn't know if there was a clause in there where we had an opportunity to give them notice if we needed to if we felt that there was a different way to find an effective way to help us in our mosquito problem. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, I can assure you scientifically they are looking into that. And, that is the value of Arkansas State University with the etymologist working with that. The other side of that is they are also partnering with Paragould, Blytheville, Trumann, Newport, every community around Pocahontas as well. And, so, I think we are all on that, but I think everybody needs to be held accountable too. So, we will definitely ask for an update on the effectiveness of the product. The other thing is too, we talked about drone usage and we addressed that last year. And, to this point, it all comes into droplets and capacity of what a droplet, how much you have to use, and using the drone at this point has not been successful. And, so, until they figure that out, then the usage of drones. The most successful deterrent at this point is the airplane flyover. They are seeing the most validity out of the flying portion. Unfortunately, when it comes to that, the air service has to come out of Greenville, MS. They put out a contract request for any crop dusters in our current area. None of them accepted that. So, again, we are kind of held to weather and everything else. But, we have eight additional sprayings between now and September 1st, but I will get back with you on that, okay.

Councilmember Ann Williams said, Mayor, I appreciate you saying you are addressing the fireworks ordinance. I don't know about other councilmembers, but I got a record number of calls about the issue, including one from a military veteran with PTSD who said last night was a nightmare for him. I don't see why people should be subjected, either animals or people should be subjected to feeling like they are in a war zone and that is what it sounded like last night. It was unbelievable. And, my concern is that it is

getting worse and worse. So, I think we need to address the fact that this isn't getting better. It was bad last year, but it was worse this year. And, I promised people including the gentleman that I mentioned that suffers from PTSD, I promised them I would bring this up tonight. I can't believe that we can't do something about this. I think we are capable of addressing this and I appreciate you mentioning it. I really do. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you for your comments.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, Mayor, could you give us kind of a debriefing on how we did not make the trail grant or what we need to do to try to improve our chances of receiving the grant to connect from us to Paragould. Mayor Harold Copenhagen said, well, and I can assure you councilman and that is a great question. I wish I had the true answer to that because it's very frustrating because we had the community involvement. We have done everything that was asked from us. We have evaluated the last two grants that we put through the process. And, on those exit interviews, Regina, if you would like to come forward, you can help me out with this as well. On the exit interviews, the individual told us that the application was superior. So, a lot of times, in this case, the State of Arkansas, ARDOT, received the grant and that was for the City of Bryant. And, then, Russellville received a \$25 million request as well. Again, am I disappointed? Absolutely, I am, but it is funding that we have improved on. We thought outside of the box. We got our partners from Paragould and the counties involved. Our delegation said it was a great application. So, we are trying to move forward again, but we do have an exit interview. The committee that was assigned to this from all areas will be in that meeting. Regina is going to be setting that up when we get that to find out where, if there was any weakness at all. But, it is frustrating.

Grants and Community Development Director Regina Burkett said, the first year that we did not receive the raise grant, they said we needed to have more data than what we had, that they felt that we needed to backup all of what we had in it. So, the next year, we made sure that we had all of that. So, when we had the debriefing last year on the grant, the young man that did our debriefing said at the end of it, if he would have reviewed it, he would have recommended that it move on. He really could never pinpoint one thing that was wrong with it and how we could improve it. So, we took that from last year and we took Conway's, we looked at it because they were awarded the grant last year. There were a few things that maybe we didn't have in ours the year before that they had so we added all that in it this year. We did not have to have a match this year, which we put the funds in there that we had anticipated from the year before. We really thought that would help us with it. I really can't tell you why until the debriefing because I feel like it was a very good grant. We talked to others. We talked to Paragould, the two ladies there that helped us with it, they also felt like it was a great grant. We went to Arkansas Parks Department. We went to ARDOT. We set up meetings. We sent, I don't know how many letters in from the community, probably close to 300, I would say, letters. So, I don't know what else. I really don't know. We have gone back and looked at it. My staff has went back and looked at it to try to see if we could find something in it. We can't really find anything. Each year that we don't get it, we look at the others that were awarded to see maybe what we left out. The last three years, that is what we have done. So, I really can't answer it. They sent an email out last week that we did not receive the funding and that they would be sending other emails out to set up the debriefing at that time. So, hopefully, sometime in August, we will have the debriefing. And, like the Mayor said, we will have the whole committee there and figure out what we need to do to move it forward the upcoming year.

Councilmember Moore said, I thought you had a firm strategy Mayor when you expanded it to include Paragould. I understand why we didn't get it the first year, but when you incorporated Paragould and the counties and we all went together and had

our delegation there on our side, I am going to be pretty interested to read what the exit briefing is on that. So, when you all have that information, by all means, forward it to the council. And, if we need to prepare twelve months in advance and make a change on something, then, because I think it is a great program. I mean I had a lot of people that were pretty excited about having a connector from here to Paragould and over to Walcott and around. Ms. Burkett said, honestly, the last three grants that we submitted, they have been excellent grants. When you compare those to others, even with what they said the first year, when you compare it to the ones that were awarded, I cannot tell you why we did not get it because ours was just as good as theirs.

Councilmember Moore said, I also thought us putting skin in the game was going to be a deal maker on that. Ms. Burkett said, me too. We were told that would probably put us over the edge. We were told that. So, that is why we had the skin in the game and that is one of the reasons we went regional. And, when you the debriefing, they will tell you that it is best to, well, most all grants, if you will have partners and regional, that is what they like. Councilmember Moore said, alright, I'll be interested in looking at that. I'll yield to alderman Hafner. He had a question. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, just as a follow-up on that. Was one of the common themes in the cities that got the grant, that they already have a good network of trails? Ms. Burkett said, that is what we have realized in the past. Honestly, I haven't had time this time to look at it because we just found out a couple of weeks and we have been busy working on a couple of other grants in our office right now. So, I really haven't had time to pull that up. We will pull up Russellville's and look at that and see what they had on theirs, but we listed like we had not done that in the past. We listed everything that we done with our trails in the past. We listed that. We listed all of the financials, all of the funding that has already been spent on the trails here and in Jonesboro, Paragould, Greene County. We listed all of that this year. That is one thing that we have not listed in the past, but Conway had it listed so we put all of that in there. I think we went back five years and put all of that in there. Councilmember Hafner said, hopefully, as we work on the ASU to Downtown and University Heights to ASU and get some of those done, maybe that will improve our chances by actually showing more of a network. I mean I know we have a few trails here and there.

Councilmember Moore said, I pretty much thought we had the deal when we had the county and Paragould on our side. Ms. Burkett said, that is what you always hear. They have webinars that get you ready for the grants, especially the big ones like this and most all of them. But, this one, they had two or three different webinars. And, when you attend, one thing that they always say is that they like regionalism and partners. And, we had that. I mean, we definitely had that and we had our list of the amount of money that we have already spent which is quite a bit of money that was in there along with all of the trails that we have already put in. So, I feel like it was very impressive with what we have done with that. And, my staff was very disappointed because they worked day and night on that and researched and researched and researched to be sure that we had the correct information in it. Councilmember Moore said, thank you Regina. Mayor, the only other item I have before I conclude on council reports, when you talked with the college about helping with the mosquito control, did they indicate that they did not have the manpower to help us because it's summertime or was it a financial, did not have somebody they could put on staff? Mayor Copenhaver said, I cannot speak for them, but our etymologist was promoted to over the department and she has nobody to do the leg work. So, in that the discussion of how we can use our Mayor's Youth Council to go out and assist and they are having that discussion right now so they can work with Vector, maybe pull the traps and do things like that and bring it to her office so they can do the studies. But, she doesn't have the personnel at this point. Councilmember Moore said, I mean we spend a lot of money on mosquito control. I am

not opposed to having a part-time person from ASU. If it's a fact that we need to find somebody part-time in that department for eight or ten weeks of the year to help and assist, then I am going to be all about that. Mayor Copenhaver said, okay. Thank you for your comments councilman.

Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you for your Council Comments.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Absent: 1 - Anthony Coleman

_____ **Date:** _____
Harold Copenhaver, Mayor

Attest:

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