



# City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center  
300 S. Church Street  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

## Meeting Minutes City Council

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Tuesday, February 18, 2020

5:30 PM

Municipal Center

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### PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING AT 5:00 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** 11 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner and David McClain

**Absent** 1 - LJ Bryant

#### 4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

#### 5. CONSENT AGENDA

*Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore, to remove RES-20:006 from the Consent Agenda and table it. All voted aye. RES-20:006 was a lien that was paid per Code Enforcement Director Michael Tyner.*

*Approval of the Consent Agenda*

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

**Aye:** 11 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner and David McClain

**Absent:** 1 - LJ Bryant

[MIN-20:014](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON FEBRUARY 4, 2020

**Attachments:** [CC Minutes 02042020](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

[RES-20:002](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 816 HOOVER,

PARCEL 01-144181-14800, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY ROBERT WHITAKER

**Attachments:** [816 Hoover](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-008-2020

[RES-20:003](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1328 WEST HUNTINGTON, PARCEL 01-144133-18100, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY DKI LLC C/O RICHARD KNIGHT

**Attachments:** [1328 W. Huntington](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-009-2020

[RES-20:004](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 317 NORTH SECOND STREET, PARCEL 01-144182-17500, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY MARSHALL MOONEY

**Attachments:** [317 N. Second](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-010-2020

[RES-20:007](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 500 ALLEN, PARCEL 01-144181-30100, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY KENNY L COLEMAN

**Attachments:** [500 Allen](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-011-2020

[RES-20:008](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2227 ADDISON, PARCEL 01-133022-15100, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72404, OWNED BY CLI PROPERTIES LLC

**Attachments:** [2227 Addison Cv](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-012-2020

[RES-20:009](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4827 LEESBURG, PARCEL 01-133022-18000, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY CLI PROPERTIES LLC

**Attachments:**     [4827 Leesburg](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-013-2020

[RES-20:010](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT GRIGGS, PARCEL 01-144273-18700, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY SANDRA HEFNER

**Attachments:**     [Griggs 01-144273-18700](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-014-2020

[RES-20:011](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1506 PRATT CIRCLE, PARCEL 01-144082-9900, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY CHARLES H BOWMAN

**Attachments:**     [1506 Pratt Circle](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-015-2020

[RES-20:012](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2101 S KATHLEEN, PARCEL 01-144271-22500, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY EDNA A BOYD

**Attachments:**     [2101 S. Kathleen](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-016-2020

[RES-20:016](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO APPLY FOR 2019 ASSISTANCE FOR THE FIREFIGHTERS GRANT (AFG) PROGRAM FROM THE U.S DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

**Attachments:**     [AFG Notice of Fund Availability](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-017-2020

[RES-20:017](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE BLUE AND YOU FOUNDATION 2020 TO RECEIVE SIX MINI-GRANTS

**Attachments:**     [Blue and You award letters all 6](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-018-2020

[RES-20:018](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO APPLY FOR THE FY2020 COPS (COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES) HIRING PROGRAM THROUGH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

**Attachments:**     [COPS Application Guide](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-019-2020

[RES-20:019](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ACCEPT THE AWARD FROM THE ROTARY CLUB OF JONESBORO TO UPGRADE THE ALLEN PARK COMMUNITY CENTER SKATE PARK AND AMEND THE 2020 BUDGET

**Attachments:**     [Skate park support Rotary Club](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-020-2020

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

[RES-20:020](#)

RESOLUTION TO SET JUDGES, CLERKS AND ALTERNATE WORKERS FOR THE 2020 CITY, WATER AND LIGHT ELECTION

**Attachments:**     [certificate of candidates2020](#)

*Councilmember John Street and Councilmember Charles Frierson abstained from voting on RES-20:020. Councilmember John Street is a board member of CWL. Councilmember Charles Frierson is the attorney for CWL.*

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

**Aye:** 9 - Ann Williams;Chris Moore;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner and David McClain

**Absent:** 1 - LJ Bryant

**Abstain:** 2 - Charles Frierson and John Street

Enactment No: R-EN-021-2020

[RES-20:022](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO PURCHASE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 129 NORTH BRIDGE FROM THE ARKANSAS STATE LAND COMMISSIONER.

**Attachments:**     [129 North Bridge - Map](#)  
[CRAI20156-5](#)

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

**Aye:** 11 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner and David McClain

**Absent:** 1 - LJ Bryant

Enactment No: R-EN-022-2020

### ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

#### [ORD-20:002](#)

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING BY REFERENCE THE GUIDELINES FOR THE REQUIREMENT OF A TRAFFIC IMPACT ANALYSIS IN THE CITY OF JONESBORO

**Attachments:** [Transportation Impact Study Guidelines](#)

*Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-20:002 by title only. All voted aye.*

*Mayor Harold Perrin said, we will probably want to hold that. There are two or three here that we will hold for three readings. City Engineer Craig Light said, currently traffic impact studies are requested by the Planning Commission on a case by case basis. It is usually a result of the public saying that there is going to be a traffic problem associated with this. We have not had any strict guidelines of when one should be done and the level of detail required for those. So what this ordinance does, it creates a guideline for if you have less than 100 peak hour trips. All you really have to do is to tell us that is how many trips that we are anticipating and we don't have to do much of a traffic study after that point. But, if you are over 100 peak hour trips, it gives you some guidelines on I need to do this within an 1/8 of a mile of my site of what the traffic is doing and the impact that I will have. If you are over a higher threshold, I am not certain of the thresholds, we will just say 300 peak hour trips that you would do an even more detailed study until you got to a real large development like with the mall or something and it gives you some guidelines on how detailed of a study that would be. So, for most of the small sites, unless you are a high demand like McDonald's or something like that, it is really just a matter of giving us the data to show that you are not going to impact the traffic situation at a certain location. The level of detail goes up based upon the amount of traffic that your facility is going to generate. Mayor Perrin said, okay, thank you very much. We will hold that because it is something new and there will be another one tied to that same thing on development in just a minute. We will hold it there.*

**Held at one reading**

#### [ORD-20:003](#)

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING BY REFERENCE THE GUIDELINES FOR THE ACCESS MANAGEMENT IN THE CITY OF JONESBORO

**Attachments:** [Traffic Access Management Policy](#)

*Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Mitch Johnson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-20:003 by title only. All voted aye.*

*Mayor Perrin said, again, this is another one that will be in the Planning Department and Engineering for all builders. City Engineer Craig Light said, what this one does is basically sets some minimum guidelines for driveways. Essentially, if you do a traffic impact study or don't, you do less than 100 hour peak trips, you are going to get one driveway onto your commercial property. You are not generating enough demand that*

would require multiple driveways. If you want multiple driveways, then you are going to have to do a little bit higher level study to show us that you actually have the demand that would require those additional driveways for your developments. It also has some provisions in there for deceleration lanes and how those should be constructed or laid out for facilities based on the adjoining streets or just gives us more guidelines to try to maintain the capacities on our roadways that we have now. Mayor Perrin said, okay, thank you Craig. Basically, it is really down to the safety factor. In fact, what he is talking about is you look at where Andy's and First Security Bank is, all of that is what we are talking about where you have multiple ways where you can turn in and go all the way down to each one of the stores rather than having so many cuts on the road which, again, people have to stop, yield, or turn into a business. The second thing is that the decelerated lanes is something that we are really looking at in Jonesboro because, if you all remember, we put those on Red Wolf and other places which were desperately needed particularly when you have got two lanes going forward and one is wanting to turn and they are going to have to wait on that. Pulling over into that deceleration lane gives you time to slow down, decelerate, and then make your turn that you want to do. We are going to be looking at some of those this year as well.

**Held at one reading**

[ORD-20:004](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE JONESBORO CODE OF ORDINANCES, AND ADOPTING THE CITY OF JONESBORO MASTER STREET PLAN; PROVIDING FOR AMENDMENTS OF ARTICLE III, CHAPTER 101, AND ADOPTING SUCH AMENDMENTS TO THE MASTER STREET PLAN BY REFERENCE;

**Attachments:**      [Master Street Plan](#)

*Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Bobby Long, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-20:004 by title only. All voted aye.*

*Mayor Perrin said, I know that we want to hold that here. Again, as you all know, every other year we try to do the Master Street Plan and the next year the Master Land Use Plan. It is basically hand in glove and so we want to hold that out there for three readings and I know it will be on the website so you will have a chance to look at that. I also want to thank the Planning Department as well as the committee who has stayed many hours on this project. I think you will like what you see when you look at it.*

**Held at one reading**

[ORD-20:006](#)

An Ordinance to Amend Section 117-139(C) OF the City of Jonesboro Zoning Code

*Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Mitch Johnson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-20:006 by title only. All voted aye.*

*Councilmember Joe Hafner said, Mayor, I have a question or a comment. I don't know if Derrel wants to come up here. I sent an email to Derrel yesterday because, obviously, during this ordinance, it talks about how salvage yards can create visual blight and undue noise and odor and I mentioned, could we, for new ones, could we look at requiring fences around that? Derrel, you may want to bring up what you told me about the state law. Planning Director Derrel Smith said, sure. Along state highways, there is a state law that says that any junkyards have to be screened from view with an 8 ft. metal fence. So, if it is not on a state highway, it would be up to the city to regulate that. So, if there are any that are not along state highways, if you would like that, we could add that into the code. Councilmember Hafner said, I think that would be smart to put in there for new ones that may come up down the road. I don't know why we wouldn't want our city to look better if we have an opportunity to do that.*

Mayor Perrin said, I agree with you. Also, I attended the West End Association Committee meeting last night as well as the HUB. At that meeting, there is a business on Gee Street which is basically right across from that which used to be some kind of appliance store or something way back there. There are several trucks out there that don't even run or are sitting out there on that site on Gee Street and it looks pretty bad and so I have asked Code Enforcement to look at that. After that meeting this morning, I had to leave and go to Little Rock to meet with some people so I don't know what they have come back with. I don't know if it is even zoned for that type of business. Mr. Smith shook his head no. Councilmember Hafner said, no. Mayor Perrin asked, it is not? Mr. Smith shook his head no again. Councilmember Hafner said, it doesn't look pretty bad, it looks really bad. Mayor Perrin said, I am just telling you that this was something that was good in the fact that, again, the association brought that up. We talked about it last night for probably 15-20 minutes on that. So, remind me and we will get together in the morning and talk about that, okay. Councilmember Hafner said, I guess I make a request that at the next meeting having language to handle the potential amendment please. Mr. Smith said, we will change it. Mayor Perrin said, thank you Derrel.

#### **Held at one reading**

#### [ORD-20:009](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, FROM C-3, GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT TO PD-M PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, LIMITED USE OVERLAY FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2914 MCCLELLAN DRIVE AS REQUESTED BY GEORGE HAMMAN OF CIVILOGIC ON BEHALF OF CENTERLINE, LLC.

**Attachments:**    [Aerial View of Layout](#)  
[Application](#)  
[Conceptual Layout](#)  
[Conceptual Overview](#)  
[rezoning plat](#)  
[School Email](#)  
[School returned Signed Form](#)  
[USPS Receipts](#)  
[Staff Summary - City Council](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-20:009 by title only. All voted aye.

Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road, said, I just want to make two points with this rezoning. And, I want to let you guys know that about a month ago Gary Harpole called me up and asked me to come to his office and talk about this rezoning. And, he wanted my opinion so I did. We actually met a couple of times. Both of the meetings and all of that were very helpful and we brought up some ideas. With one of the meetings, we met with the architect and I thought it was nice to see what is going to go on in this area that is being rezoned. I would like to say thank you to the developer Gary Harpole. I know he is in the audience right now meeting with me, the citizen, Patti Lack, to find out how this property is going to affect me and him and the City of Jonesboro. And, the reason why I am saying this is that I think that a meeting beforehand, before it goes before MAPC and the City Council, I think it was really important that the developer and the citizens that it is going to affect meet together before it gets brought up before all of you. The reason why, again, I am saying this is that the MAPC has forwarded this ordinance to you to make the rezoning and you guys

*make the final decision, but it is the developer and the citizens that are going to be directly affected by this development on that. So, in turn, I really want to thank the developer Gary Harpole and then also too, the Mixon and Cooper architect meeting with a citizen to find out what was going on here. I think the project that is going to be developed in that service area is going to be really beneficial and it is going to look awesome for Jonesboro to be represented in that on there. The second point that I would like to make though is this just kind of makes a point that when I was watching the MAPC a couple of weeks ago is that one suggestion that I would like to give to all of you as city council people is to watch the MAPC meetings. And, when a citizen comes up and they take their time to come up and oppose a rezoning in their ward area, I hope that all of you take the time right now, call them up, meet with them, and ask them what their concerns are because what I find is that sometimes they think that is the last point that they can do. So, not just with this because I thought it was really helpful that I met with Mr. Harpole, but I think all of you need to meet whenever another rezoning comes up. So, I would just like to make that point. Mayor Perrin said, Patti, note well taken. I concur with what you are saying. In a lot of rezonings on some of these, most of the developers have met with the neighbors in that area. They are told that through the Senior Planner when they go to start the process. In our packets here, we do get, and yes, I do watch the MAPC meetings, but we also have inside here a full packet of their minutes and everything that has been presented to that. However, there is sometimes a little difference of opinion you can tell by watching the MAPC than you can just by simply reading the minutes. Ms. Lack said, exactly. But, I think sometimes, those citizens that take the time if you are not used to knowing, if you are not a regular, is that you don't know what else you can do. So, I hope, you all as council people in each one of those wards take the time and pay attention and contact those people because I think it is really important and it would make the process a lot smoother. Okay. Thank you. Mayor Perrin said, thank you.*

**Held at one reading**

[ORD-20:010](#)

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 TO PD-RS, PLANNED DEVELOPMENT RESIDENTIAL FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1130 GREENSBORO ROAD AS REQUESTED BY RICKEY JACKSON

**Attachments:**    [Application](#)  
[Conceptual Layout](#)  
[H19-131 Rezoning Plat](#)  
[Rezoning Plat](#)  
[Staff Summary - Council](#)  
[USPS Receipts](#)

*Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Mitch Johnson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-20:010 by title only. All voted aye.*

*Billy Brown, 814 Mays Road, said, I just wanted to make an appearance tonight on behalf of neighbors and citizens in this area. This proposal has been brought before the council before just in a little different format than it is today. Just keeping it very simple, what we are, in that area, what we are supporting is continuing with the R-1 zone. What we are not supporting is changing the zone in this area to PD-RS-8 or any others. We support development on R-1 Single-Family dwellings in these areas. I am speaking on behalf of others in the neighborhood in asking that we do not change the zoning. Alright, thank you very much.*

*Rickey Jackson, 2315 Flatrock Trail, said, just to step up and represent myself in this rezoning and to address some of the rezoning and to address some of the concerns some of the citizens may have in the area. This land has stood dormant for around 10 years before occupancy of the property. This development would allow us to have a new look in the north Jonesboro area. As far as remaining an R-1 piece of property, the midsection of the property won't allow us to put proper city streets, 60 feet wide across the frontage of some of the properties so the PD-RS would allow us to do some HUB type development which would have private roads and things in the neighborhood. And, of course, this development would be development of a different size homes ranging from 800 to 1,100 square feet. So this allows us to do the development in an affordable manner plus also keep the development, as far as rental, affordable for anybody that may rent in the area, as well as, this property being located in the specified opportunity zone which is in north Jonesboro. We are going to look at all of the things that have been spoken up about the property and to try to address those issues and concerns of what the citizens may have and make sure this development is done properly. Thank you. Mayor Perrin said, thank you Mr. Jackson.*

*Councilmember Joe Hafner said, Mayor, one thing, I was speaking with Derrel earlier before the meeting and I think and I don't want to speak out of turn here. I understand that there may be some items that may need to be looked at like from a fire standpoint that may impact the number of homes that can be on this property. I don't know when that will be addressed. And, I may have misunderstood. I just think that may be something that is going to impact how we consider this development. Mayor Perrin said, right. And, again, we are going to hold this I know at one reading tonight and have the three readings individually. So, again, if there is anything or if there are any items that are hanging out there pending that need to be addressed on this development, then we will make sure to have Derrel make that presentation. Councilmember Hafner said, okay, thank you. Mayor Perrin said, I appreciate your comment.*

#### **Held at one reading**

#### [ORD-20:011](#)

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 C-4 NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL DISTRICT LIMITED USE OVERLAY TO C-3 GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT LIMITED USE OVERLAY FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 400 E. HIGHLAND DRIVE, JONESBORO, AR AS REQUESTED BY DITTA ENTERPRISES.

**Attachments:** [Application](#)  
[Certified Mail Receipts for MAPC Meeting](#)  
[H20-003 REZONING PLAT](#)  
[Hardware Store Layout](#)  
[Legislation Details of the C-4 LUO](#)  
[Letters in Support of Rezoning](#)  
[LUO](#)  
[Neighborhood Meeting Minutes](#)  
[Returned Property Owner Signatures](#)  
[Rezoning Plat](#)  
[Schools Signed Notification](#)  
[Site Plan](#)  
[Study of Impact of Commercial Development on Surrounding Residential Pro](#)  
[Staff Summary - Council](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Bobby Long, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-20:011 by title only. All voted aye.

Janet Gehring, 1830 Wofford Street, said, my husband I live adjacent to the property in question here, 400 Highland Drive. I got a call last week from a friend who was in support of building a hardware store on that property which is adjacent to ours. She is a property owner there, but she doesn't live in the house that they own. And, I asked her why that she was in favor of the hardware store being built and she said I think they would make good neighbors. Well, I think the definition of a neighbor is a person, a person who lives close by, not a store, not a business, but a person. Okay. I don't have anything against hardware stores. I love hardware stores. I love to shop there and we have some good ones here. However, living next door to one, to a hardware store, would not be my choice. And, I think, I might ask you all, would you like to live by a hardware store and call that your neighbor? Mr. Rogers probably would. Mr. Rogers probably would say won't you be my neighbor, but I would say, please don't be my neighbor. Please don't be my neighbor. Okay. The second thing that I wanted to point out was in 2007, there was an ordinance that was passed by this council and by the current Mayor at that time Doug Forman. In that ordinance, there were two areas that I quickly wanted to read. The first one said, no future subdividing shall occur on this lot, you probably have a copy of this, other than for right-of-way dedication matters. Number two, if the property is resold, which is where we are now, it cannot be used for anything but used as a commercial bank, C-4, limited use commercial bank only. My question is this, if we talk about honor, honoring your word, and I think that is what honor is, is keeping an agreement. Let me repeat that. Honor, according to the dictionary, is keeping an agreement. And, in this ordinance, that you all have copies of and I just mentioned the two. First of all, the property was not to be used for anything but a commercial bank. Is that not still valid? Why, why would it make any difference if the Mayor has changed since that time, that was 2007, or you folks sitting there have changed, why would that matter with this ordinance with this agreement? We went through quite a period of time with that and you agreed that and we agreed that a bank could be built on that property, that it would not be a hazard to traffic right there on Rains, which did not turn out to be the case, but that is okay too. It is a bank and it is not intrusive in the neighborhood and nobody objected to that. Our property being connected to that particular piece where the hardware store proposes to be built would be right up against our borderline, our property. So, I guess what I am asking is very simply this. If that cannot be honored, then what is the purpose of these meetings? What is the purpose of going through neighborhood meetings and meeting with you all and meeting with the Planning Commission and spending all of this time? Why would

*we do this if this isn't honored? It seems to me a very simple thing that if this council can override an ordinance that stated these things that we agreed to that many years ago, then I see no purpose in being here. So, I would ask you to please consider what happened at that time. These documents, this document in particular, has been kind of overlooked and bypassed as if it didn't have any significance, but it does. It has a great deal of significance to me and that is the honor of this city and what you folks decide or shouldn't decide. So, I will appreciate very much if you would consider that, what I have said, and do the right thing by honoring that agreement. Thank you so much. Mayor Perrin said, thank you.*

*Jim Gramling, Gramling Law Firm, said, I represent Ditta Enterprises. I will reserve most of my comments for third reading. I just wanted to point out a couple of things. We had a neighborhood meeting. We invited everyone, not just within 200 feet, but within 400 feet, to get as many people as possible including the Gehrings. We showed them plans. The plan is to build a hardware store, a small neighborhood hardware store between 10,000-12,000 sq. ft. We got a lot of feedback from the neighbors at that meeting with a lot of concerns. We literally went back to the drawing board, came up with some new plans that agreed to some additional buffering, agreed to pull back the northern boundary of where the store would be so there is approximately well over 200 feet between the hardware store and the nearest property which would be the Gehrings. We had a second neighborhood meeting and invited everybody. They chose not to attend. So, the Dittas have agreed to extra buffering. There is a big retention pond back there so there is quite a bit of buffering and they have agreed to do more. Obviously, our zoning laws can't be frozen in time. They have to reflect changing conditions. I don't know why this ordinance was written that way. I suspect they were doing whatever they had to do to get it passed at the time. But, this property has remained vacant. There is an auto parts store nearby and this proposal, I think, is a good compromise between some other higher commercial use and something that will actually fit in with the neighborhood and be an amenity to the neighborhood. They also agreed to cut off any access to Wofford in consideration to some of the neighbors concerns. So, the Dittas have tried to listen to the neighbors and have listened to the neighbors and have addressed every concern that was raised. I will have more to say at the third reading. I certainly can answer any questions if anybody has any right now.*

*Councilmember Chris Moore said, Counselor, I was on the Council in 2007 when that was adopted. One of the concerns and one of the reasons it was written like that was that there was a concern that there would be a fast-food restaurant built at that intersection. One of the goals with the bank was to assure the people in the neighborhood that there would not be a 24-hour fast-food restaurant appear on that corner. Mr. Gramling said, we have addressed that with our limited-use overlay. I think as our City Engineer said, as we going over it in a pre-meeting, if you look at the list of exclusions from the limited-use overlay, there is not much left. That was one thing that was expressed in the neighborhood meeting is that they didn't want a Taco Bell or some sort of restaurant there. So, we have eliminated just about everything but a neighborhood retail that would allow this neighborhood hardware store to go in in that limited-use overlay as part of the ordinance.*

*Mayor Perrin said, we will go ahead and hold that at the first reading like we do with all of those.*

**Held at one reading**

## **7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

## ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[ORD-20:007](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, FROM C-3, GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT TO PD-M PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, MIXED USE FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5201 STADIUM BOULEVARD AS REQUESTED BY CARLOS WOOD ON BEHALF OF C & O ENTERPRISES, LLC.

**Attachments:**[Staff Summary - Council](#)[Application](#)[Rezoning Plat](#)[Concept Layout](#)[Elevations](#)[School Email](#)[Stadium Notification Map](#)[Stadium Deed-Clines-CO Enterprises](#)[5201Stadium-RezoningPlat-012920](#)[Brewer email sent multiple times and dates 5201 Stadium Rezoning against](#)[Brewer email sent multiple times 02132020 5201 Stadium Rezoning against](#)[Alexander Email Against 5201 Stadium Rezoning 02202020](#)

*Jackie Smith, his daughter lives in the house at 5008 Wakefield that backs up to the property. Mr. Smith said, to put the amount of housing in this small property, is not going to be good for anybody. Nobody is going to benefit from this. There are going to be a lot of people who are not going to benefit because of this small housing. Who will want to live in a house that is probably not going to be 750 sq. ft. You don't have your plan up here, the plat that they had proposed to build this. It is going to be so small and I have not heard anything about square footage yet on these so-called homes that will be sold. But, these will not be homes for people to buy and live in. They are going to be rental property. You know that. People are not going to stay in a small house very long at all. To put 31 dwellings in this small acreage right here, you are going to have people fighting, griping, complaining. The police will be out there multiple times trying to break up fights and stuff because that is what is going to happen. I have seen it. You have seen it. You can see it at The Links. You can see it at the other places that are built. Those are all real nice apartments, a lot bigger. The parking in this is not going to be sufficient. If you have 31 dwellings in this small area, most any dwelling has got two automobiles. Most all of them have two. Some of them have three. There will not be enough parking in this development here for the people. You have one way in and one way out. Who wants to fight that everyday at 7:00 a.m. or 8:00 a.m. when everybody is going to work? It is not feasible. This lot is pretty low in there too. I don't know how they are going to do the drainage on it. So, there is a lot that has been brought up about this, but I don't see the feasibility of it at all. The homes behind it, I have not seen anything on it, but they may put up a wall back there. And, I hope they would if they pass this, but I don't see that this is feasible to do this. Traffic on Stadium and in this area is a lot of traffic. You have got these 31 dwellings. If you have got 2 cars per dwelling, then you have 62 cars trying to go in and out of there or they are trying to get out at one time. If you go on the street Summer Place, right prior to this, Summer Place, you can go out of that subdivision there off of Caribbean. There are multiple places that you can come in and go out of. And, I don't know the number of houses on those streets, but I think they got, there are four exits and entrances into*

those few streets right there. This is not going to be feasible so I speak against it. Totally.

Mayor Perrin asked, Planning Director Derrel Smith, can you come up here please on this? We have pulled up and put the plat on there, on here. Can you share with him? I know he has two or three questions. I was trying to write them down. Number one is basically the size of those homes per sq. ft., do you remember the discussion on that? Mr. Smith said, they are going to be 1,500 sq. ft. and up, between 1,500-1800 sq. ft. (Someone from the audience said, there is no way. There is no way that many homes can go there.) Mayor Perrin said, the second thing is, I noticed, I believe this is on Stadium Blvd. We have one entrance going in there to all of those homes. Is there any other connecting road that could be connected to that? Mr. Smith said, there is not. It will meet fire code. Fire code, I believe, says 30 units on one entrance. So, they will probably have to lose a unit to meet the fire requirements. But, they will meet the fire codes for what we have adopted. Mayor Perrin said, let me see if I understand what you are saying. What I am seeing here is one entrance in this with all of this here. So, what you are saying is that there is going to be more than one entrance going into there? Mr. Smith said, no sir. There will be one entrance going in there. Mayor Perrin said, you are saying that one will take care of all of that? Mr. Smith said, one will take care of all of that. Now, if there is 31 units, they may have to lose a unit because it has to have two entrances if it is over 30. Mayor Perrin asked, so the cutoff is 30? Mr. Smith said, right. So, they could lose a unit, but they will still have one entrance. Mayor Perrin said, okay. You have answered my two questions that I had that I wanted to make sure he understood. Mr. Jackie Smith said, with that 30 being the max, if you have one house fire right here on the end, are people going to be able to get out of there? You are going to have them packed in there side-by-side. And, this is not feasible. I wouldn't live like that. I wouldn't want my neighbors living like that. And, I am sure nobody sitting up here is going to want something like this sitting beside them. Thank you. Mayor Perrin said, thank you very much for your comments. This, again, is on second reading so in two weeks, the third reading will be coming up which I think will be March 3, 2020. Mr. Smith said, one other thing that was said was that you call the neighbors and you talk to them. Nobody has talked to us. We got a letter. I got a letter because the house I own is within 200 feet of the property. That is the only thing we got. No one came and talked to us about any of this. And, I thought that is what you said most of these developers are trying to do. And, the word is not getting out. The only way the word is getting out for the other neighbors in there is through word of mouth. So, I don't think that people are aware of what is going to be happening here. Mayor Perrin said, okay, alright, so noted for the record.

Christy Wilson, 5008 Wakefield, said, I am the daughter and I live in that house. The parking places right there, that is my backyard that my little boy is going to be playing in. Mayor Perrin asked, on the backside? Ms. Wilson said, on the backside, yes. What subdivision has extra parking like that? Parking like that, nothing good comes from. So, I don't want my son in the back playing with empty parking places back there that I don't know what is going to be going on. The houses are small. The acreage is like two acres or two and a half acres for 30 houses. My house value is going to go down. I mean I have tons of concerns with this going on, with a three year old, butting up against that. Mayor Perrin said, okay, thank you. Thank you very much for your comments.

**Held at second reading**

### ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-20:005](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 117-107, 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 C-3, GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2311 E. JOHNSON AVENUE AS REQUESTED BY JOANN NALLEY

**Attachments:**    [Staff Summary - Council](#)  
[Application](#)  
[Plat](#)  
[Rezoning Sign Pictures](#)  
[USPS Receipts](#)  
[Green Card Returned](#)

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

**Aye:** 11 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner and David McClain

**Absent:** 1 - LJ Bryant

Enactment No: O-EN-009-2020

## **8. MAYOR'S REPORTS**

*Mayor Harold Perrin reported on the following items:*

*Our next item is the Mayor's Report and I have got a few things to cover.*

*First of all, this past weekend we had a tremendous volleyball tournament. We had 74 teams in our city. 29 teams were from out of state and 25 teams were from outside of Jonesboro. They had to use 17 facilities to accommodate the volleyball tournament.*

*The seminar we have been talking about on Opportunity Zones, the city, the Chamber, and others will be providing a seminar on Opportunity Zones for February 27, 2020 at the Chamber of Commerce office and I think the time on that is 10:00 a.m. I know it is on our website. If any of you all have any interest in any of the Opportunity Zones that the Internal Revenue Service finally brought the rules down so you will know how they operate. We certainly want to let everyone have the opportunity to look at that.*

*Our Citizen's Police Academy will start in a couple of weeks. They are taking applications. I can tell you that we have had over 300 citizens attend that. The Citizen's Police Academy is something that is real good. I think it lasts 10 weeks. Police Chief Rick Elliott said, it is 12 weeks. Mayor Perrin said, it is a 12 week course on every Thursday night, I believe that is right, if you have an opportunity to do that. It will go up on our website as well.*

*We have all of the twelve skycops up. They are working. In fact, there are several things I am sure that the Chief could share with you on some of those but they are working dramatically. Also, maybe, we will be having go before you in a few minutes a resolution naming a committee so they can work on the skycops, not only to raise the funds for that, but to work with the Chief on discussing where these should be placed*

throughout our city.

We had a meeting last week, the Grants did, with EDA. This is in reference to our grant of \$2.4 million that we are applying for through the Economic Development Authority. The environmental study was very positive and Jason Wilson who is the Regional Area Director of EDA in New Orleans was here. I felt very comfortable about that. This grant started off at a 50/50 match. It is now only 80/20. He felt very comfortable that we would be able to acquire that grant. We desperately need more railspur within our Industrial Park.

Last night, I attended the meeting and some of you all have too. I know Dr. Coleman did and many in the audience on the HUB operation. So, they have done an incredible job. We certainly want to do everything we can in our power to keep that going. I think I was quoted last night a little over 1,000 people have been screened through that and helped. But, the big thing is that over 300 of those people have been put into jobs and gainfully employed. So, that is great. We will be working with them.

Also, we are looking at visiting with HUD to make sure that we can in fact transfer some money to the HUB through our business plan that we have adopted. Some of our programs have not been going as well as we thought. So, we thought we could possibly move some of that money. As soon as we find out the word from HUD, then we will certainly share that with everyone, get approval from the council if that is the desire of the council and try to help the HUB out.

Also, they have a \$400,000 grant that is pending on the federal level. We immediately, once we got the notification in the media, started calling Congressman Rick Crawford, Senator John Boozman, Senator Tom Cotton, to try to get an idea and to try to push and make sure that they could get that and where it actually stands on the \$400,000. We are still working on that now.

Next is the Census. On March 9, 2020, the City of Jonesboro and the Census with the Area Director Mary Margaret Jackson will be doing a kickoff to let everyone know how important it is for everyone to be counted in the City of Jonesboro on the Census. I can tell you that every person that is counted is equal to \$3,300 individually for what we call turnback. The City of Jonesboro gets turnback money from the state on the deal. It is very important that everyone be counted in the City of Jonesboro. We will be working with them to get that kicked off. That will occur on March 9, 2020.

Communications Director Bill Campbell said, there is a van that is going to be in town next week and we are trying to find 500 people to work as canvassers for the Census. It pays \$17 per hour and if you have to travel it pays fifty-something cents per mile. So, you will see a van at Arkansas State University and at a couple of places around town next week. Mayor Perrin said, we will also get it out on our website.

Also, our Senior Planner as well as our Chief Building Inspector and Mike Downing met with the Homebuilders Association which I thought was good. Next, they are meeting with the Realtors Association. The purpose of that meeting is to explain the new boarding ordinance which will be coming into effect in April of this year. Basically, what that ordinance says is that if there is anyone that has a house or rental property that has windows broken out or the doors, entrance and exits, are not secure, then you will have to board that. Code Enforcement will cite you and write you a ticket if there are deficiencies. You will have to board that up and you will have to paint that the same color as the house. You will have 90 days to come to the City in order to get a permit to correct those errors. If not, then the City of Jonesboro will immediately start condemnation on that house. So, I just wanted them to get out to the builders and

*make sure that they are all aware of that as well as the realtors here in town. I wanted to share that with you all. We will do another press release when it gets closer to April.*

*Also, on the liens, we talked about that this morning. I know we moved two off of the agenda a few minutes ago. We have already collected close to \$12,000 this year on liens that we have either mowed or whatever, filed, and then when you go to pay the taxes, real estate taxes, then you have to pay that lien. Again, that is something that we wanted to share with you all this afternoon.*

*Next, our audit on 911 is occurring now at the 911 Center. On March 9, 2020, Legislative Audit will be coming in here to start their Legislative Audit for last year which we feel we are in very good shape. They should be moving in on March 9, 2020.*

*Also, on March 5, 2020, there will be a precon meeting on Caraway and Highland. That will be held at the District office in Paragould. That is for the widening of Caraway and Highland. Basically, that intersection through our STIP funding that we were able to secure the \$90 million worth of funding, that intersection will have a double left, two straight, and one right. So, it will be the same intersection configuration as it is in front of Centennial Bank, to get traffic through. That traffic backs up plum past the old Coke plant. It backs way up. Once that precon is set and ARDot gives them permission, we will go ahead and do that.*

*As I give my State of the City address Thursday as well as March 3, 2020, you are going to see a lot of orange barrels out in the City of Jonesboro in 2020. There is going to be a lot of construction going on as well as on I-555 from Southwest Drive all the way to Love's Truck Stop. Some of that traffic may be diverted over to where one lane where you would have oncoming traffic to do that, but that is just like if you have gone to Little Rock lately or something, all of that rehab work is being done through ARDot. The total cost of that is around \$32.2 million. Thanks to our local Highway Commissioner Alec Farmer. He has been able to get that as well as the \$90 million of the STIP projects that we have going on and will continue to go on this year. So, I will run through that on March 3, 2020, but I did want to give you an update, particularly on I-555. If this happens and the other one is bid on Southwest Drive and Highland and Main, and the candlesticks come out, you are coming off a construction site and you are going to come down to another construction site. Please be patient, but again, there is a lot of construction that is going to happen in 2020 in your city which is for the best because it will take care of the safety later on for our citizens. So, I just wanted to share that with you.*

*Also, today, Community Development Director Regina Burkett and I met with Governor Hutchinson and Mike Preston at the Arkansas Economic Development Commission (AEDC) in his office this afternoon on the railroad expansion if you all remember. The City did a Master Plan for Railspurs in our Industrial Park. The total contribution really needed for that is around \$14 million. We were able to get the first \$2.4 million from the Federal Highway Administration. Again, we are working with \$2.3 million through the Economic Development Authority (EDA) now. We have asked for additional funds from the Governor and AEDC in any way that they can help us. It was a great meeting. I think that coming forward, we will be able to work with them and get some funds from them. So, it was a great meeting and he appreciated us coming down and sharing that with him. We have had very much success. Again, this last year as you know as Risever opened up. Delta Peanut opened up. We are doing a lot of construction in there and we have got some prospects looking at Jonesboro. So, we are going to have to have that rail space in there in order to get those jobs created for people here in Jonesboro. So, I am real excited about that. Progress, again, is good, but on the other*

hand, sometimes it takes a little time to get to where you are going. So, we appreciate that very much.

[COM-20:007](#)

JANUARY 2020 FINANCIAL REPORTS

**Attachments:** [Cash Deposit Collateralization Report January 2020](#)  
[Combined Sales Tax Report January 2020](#)  
[Combined State Turnback Report January 2020](#)  
[Expenditure Report January 2020](#)  
[Observations Regarding January 2020 Financial Statements](#)  
[Required Reserves January 2020](#)  
[Revenue Report January 2020](#)  
[Statement of Rev, Exp and Changes in Fund Balances January 2020](#)

Filed

## 9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

*Councilmember John Street said, this is just an announcement for people to think about, but this Friday, February 21, 2020, from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Make-a-Wish is having their annual drive. It is not just Jonesboro. It is Northeast Arkansas. It is a great cause and I would just ask that you be generous if you can and watch for the volunteers at the intersections. They are at their usual places. Last week the Mayor and those who were at the Municipal League meeting, we did get a town hall meeting basically from ARDot and some of the folks talked to us about the importance of the continued use of the ½ cent sales tax at that meeting. Just so you can put this on your calendar, ARDot is going to have a town hall meeting on March 31, 2020 from 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. at the ASU First Bank Arena. Scott Bennett will be there. Put it on your calendar. Whether you are for this or against this, this is extremely important. I put a booklet in every councilmember's seat. County Judge Marvin Day talked with us today at our MPO meeting and they actually showed the county at \$930,422 that they would lose, but he said it was actually closer to a million. Those were old numbers that they based this on. The City of Jonesboro would lose \$1,567,655. I mean if you can just imagine taking that out of what we are doing on overlays and stuff now. It is going to have an impact on this city. The Governor also corrected that someone had stated that if this didn't pass those funds would come out of the general fund. He made that absolutely clear that it will not. We will just lose this. Whichever, whatever your conscious is, vote the way you feel, but attend the meeting, the town hall meeting and ask your questions. There will be folks there that can answer anything you want to hear about that. That is all I want to say Mayor.*

*Mayor Perrin said, I appreciate that. I threw that up on the screen for the deal because these are old figures. They are showing us, I think, at about \$1.5 million or somewhere in there, yeah \$1.5 million. Ours is getting close to \$1.7 million now. Basically, what we are talking about, if that does not pass, \$2.8 million will not be brought into this City nor County to do rehab of overlays. Now, that is about a 33% reduction, I can tell you now, in our Street Department's budget. That is a hard lick to handle. So, again, that will be on the ballot in November. There are going to be a lot of things talked about between now and then on that, but I appreciate you bringing that up. But, that was the center of attention at the Municipal League. Councilmember Street said, if they want more information, MPO Director Cecelie Cochran is going to put something on the MPO website about that too with more information. But, at least, educate yourselves on it and look at the issue and vote your conscious. That is all I have got Mayor. Mayor*

*Perrin said, thank you.*

*Councilmember Mitch Johnson said, earlier today at our Public Safety meeting, we had an item on our agenda that we felt needed to come before the full body tonight due to construction timelines within the grant agreement.*

*Councilmember Mitch Johnson motioned, seconded by Councilmember John Street, to suspend the rules and walk-on RES-20:025. All voted aye.*

*Engineering asked that the Public Safety Committee walk this on tonight. Engineering is under a time crunch with US Fish and Wildlife to get the construction done due to the timelines in the grant agreement.*

[RES-20:025](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH RAMSONS, INC. FOR THE JONESBORO SHOOTING SPORTS COMPLEX PHASE 1C (2020:07)

**Attachments:** [A101-2017](#)

[Exhibits](#)

[Email from Mike Downing Explaining No Contract 02192020](#)

*Councilmember Mitch Johnson motioned, seconded by Councilmember John Street, to suspend the rules and walk-on RES-20:025. All voted aye.*

*Engineering asked that the Public Safety Committee walk this on tonight. Engineering is under a time crunch with US Fish and Wildlife to get the construction done due to the timelines in the grant agreement.*

**Passed**

**Aye:** 11 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner and David McClain

**Absent:** 1 - LJ Bryant

Enactment No: R-EN-023-2020

*Councilmember Joe Hafner said, just real quick Mayor. You had mentioned the volleyball tournament that obviously brought a lot of people to town, but I think we are starting to see some return on the convention center also because this past weekend, Chancellor Kelly Damphousse told me that we 1,500 high school students here for a Thespian competition. So, if you were driving around this weekend, you probably saw a lot of school buses from other cities and I just thought it was really neat. A lot of people thought there was a basketball tournament or something going on because there were so many school buses here, but it was a Thespian competition. Mayor Perrin said, you are correct. Kraig Pomrenke was here a little while ago. He is the general manager and they have been 100% occupied on that for I don't know how many nights. I will be visiting with the Secretary of Parks and Tourism on Thursday morning. They have their commissioners meeting here and bringing all of those in here. They will be here at least two nights in Jonesboro. Rural Services of Arkansas has already booked their state convention for here. The Master Gardners has done the same thing. So, basically, what you have seen is three state agencies already desire to come to Jonesboro. And, I think that is good. We will keep that up. I appreciate*

your comment.

Councilmember Bobby Long said, just one thing. I want to thank you Mayor and thank the Street Department. I had a guy call me off of Rickey Lane and he sent pictures and a video. I may have forwarded them to you. Semi-trucks were going down this road thinking that it was a cut through and they got down to the end of the road just to find that there was no cut through and then they had to back up over railroad tracks which is extremely dangerous. So, he sent some pictures and I immediately forwarded them to the Mayor. I think it was that morning. I think that morning they said they would get a crew out there and get a dead-end street sign out there. And, sure enough, there it is. So, thank you so much for doing that. I appreciate that. Mayor Perrin said, thanks to Streets Director Steve Tippitt and his crew. Thank you.

Councilmember David McClain said, Nominating and Rules met tonight and so I ask that we walk on RES-20:023 to go ahead and get appointments to committees and different boards.

Councilmember David McClain motioned, seconded by Councilmember Joe Hafner, to suspend the rules and walk-on RES-20:023. All voted aye. Councilmember McClain noted that there are appointments that need to be in place for various committees as the reason for the walk-on.

[RES-20:023](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES AS RECOMMENDED BY MAYOR HAROLD PERRIN

Councilmember David McClain motioned, seconded by Councilmember Joe Hafner, to suspend the rules and walk-on RES-20:023. All voted aye. Councilmember McClain noted that there are appointments that need to be in place for various committees as the reason for the walk-on.

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

**Aye:** 11 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner and David McClain

**Absent:** 1 - LJ Bryant

Enactment No: R-EN-024-2020

## **10. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Elijah Walker, 116 Kitterman, Bay, said, I am here to speak to the fact that Mayor Perrin has refused to add to the agenda the resolution to amend the City of Jonesboro Employee Handbook to include sexual orientation and gender identity and veteran status in the anti-discrimination policy. I am here to speak for two reasons. One is that I am a pastor in the community. I serve as the pastor of Solomon's Porch which is here in Jonesboro and I am currently serving as the guest pastor of the Highland Drive Christian Church. And, I know that Jonesboro, as a majority, is a Christian city. The majority of citizens of Jonesboro are Christians. I recognize that people in our city and in this room are of other faiths and of no faiths, but the majority are Christian. I say that to say this. Every Sunday morning in worship at my church, we recite the Lord's Prayer and part of that Lord's Prayer says, "Thy Kingdom Come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. And so, it is my calling. It is my duty as and my responsibility

as a person of faith as a follower of Jesus and as a Pastor to stand up for what is right, to stand up for what is just, to stand up for what is fair. Now, I can't physically stand up because I am in a wheelchair, but I will metaphorically stand up for what is just and what is right and what is fair. The second reason why I am here to speak is because I am a member of the LGBTQ community. And, in year's past, working in a private industry, I was denied a promotion because of my gender identity and sexual orientation. And, I believe that happens more often than we think. And, if it happens on a private basis, in private industry, then it also happens in public, on public committees and in public service. The people that serve our city in Jonesboro deserve better. The people who serve our city to protect and to make this a safer place, to make this a more beautiful, more progressive place, they deserve better. They deserve to know that they will not be discriminated against based on who they love, what their gender is, or their veteran status. I would like to ask that if everyone who supports this resolution, if you are able, will you please stand. And, if you are not able to stand, would you please raise your hand. Okay. I want to speak directly to all of you. This is a quote by Assata Shakur. Can you hear me? Members of the audience say yes. "It is our duty to fight for our freedom. It is our duty to win. We must love and protect one another. We have nothing to lose but our chains." You can take a seat. I would like to ask that at least one of you on the city council would consider sponsoring this resolution because it is our duty to protect those who protect us, those who serve us. Thank you so much for your time.

Mayor Perrin said, thank you Pastor. I want to make a comment that you said just a minute ago about the Mayor has not done that. That is wrong. Now, let me explain something to you very clearly in a public, open forum. The email that was sent from someone here in your group was hand carried to the clerk's office. That is not the way that you get things on the agenda. I'm not being critical. Is that you either ask two aldermen to endorse and put something on or you come to the Mayor's office and look at that. And, if, in so, then we would put that on the agenda. I was in Little Rock all of last week at the Arkansas Municipal League along with some of the councilmembers here today. So, the paper is wrong when it says that the Mayor declined to put a resolution on the agenda. Okay. I just want to make that clear. Just again, I just want to make sure that you understand that. This same issue came up as you know, many of you know, I believe back in 2015, if I am not mistaken. And, I have got all the records here on that. What I have done is that I have asked even though again, I was not here last week and that it was simply an email to me and to Mike Downing and to my office. So, if someone wanted to bring an ordinance to me or a resolution for us to look at I would be happy. The first step that I will ever take in order to do that is to address my city attorney. So, again, we have done that. So, I want you to understand that. We have done that. I am going to turn it over now to Carol Duncan to make sure and make a few comments on that on some things that she has looked at today. But, I thank you for being here.

City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I am not sure that I looked at anything today. I was also at the Municipal League last week. However, what I do remember from 2015 is two things. The first question is can we do it and of course, legally, the city council has the authority to make that change if they want a change. And, the question that was asked I think the last time it came upon us is do we need to do it in order to protect this class. And, that is a harder question, right. Under Title VII under the federal law, they give us a laundry list of protected classes and that is what is in our personnel policy right now, that laundry list. This is not included in that list under Title VII as I know that you all are aware. Do I think that may change in the future? I think that may change in the future. We are currently working on some changes just to other random things in the personnel manual. I made the suggestion that we change the language of that

*paragraph to say that we don't discriminate against any class protected under Title VII because that way if this change happens under Title VII as I anticipate it probably will, our manual will already cover that. But, what was addressed I think previously is the section in our manual that says all decisions on hiring, firing, promotion, demotion, are made strictly on qualifications which is subsection B of that. And, I think in 2015, I can't speak for councilmembers because I don't have a vote and they chose what they nominate and what they vote on, right. But, I think in 2015, they felt that covered this issue and I understand that is probably not what you all want to hear and that may not be the decision of this council. That is just what I think was their logic in 2015 is that subparagraph B says we are not going to discriminate against anybody based for promotion, for hiring, for firing, for demotion, it is strictly based upon qualifications. And, the paragraph before strictly quotes what Title VII authorizes us to quote under the federal law. I do understand again and they have been advised that they have the authority to make that change should they chose to and that is a decision that they have to make. So, I hope that answers the question.*

*Ryan Carter, 701 East Elm Street, said, I would like to mention that under Title VII in the federal statutes, veteran status is one of those protected classes and currently the Jonesboro Municipal Handbook does not include that in the statement so it is currently not up to date with federal standards. Ms. Duncan said, well again, that was a change I recommended is that we just say we cover everything under Title VII. Mr. Carter said, I know. I wanted to make sure that it is currently. It is not up to date. I would also state that I don't think that we can really count on changes at the federal level to end up protecting LGBTQ individuals. I do not feel as if that is a change that will be happening very soon so I think if the City of Jonesboro wants to send a clear message that they will protect LGBTQ individuals in their city employment, then they need to put this in their statement so they have that paper copy. This will not happen under Mayor Perrin or any of his employees and that they will be protected. Thank you. Mayor Perrin said, thank you very much.*

*Gwenda Gschwend, 408 Hunters Ridge Drive, said, I am a former volunteer at the HUB and I was glad to hear that Mayor Perrin went to that meeting last night. I was unable to attend. What I am here to propose is that the City of Jonesboro consider on the nights like tonight or the nights that are cold or there is storming out that you would open one of your Parks Facility buildings overnight for the homeless people. Especially since now the Railroad Company won't let them underneath the bridges so they have no place to go. I know of a gentleman that was on the streets of Jonesboro during one of these really bad, cold times during this year. He spent the night in a porta-potty and slept there so he would be out of the weather. Nobody needs to do that. So, I would like to propose that you all consider opening your facility. I know you open them during the day when the weather is bad until 9:00 p.m. Where do they go at 9:00 p.m.? That is the worst time of day to be put out somewhere. They need something. I am proposing this as a temporary fix until we can get a facility built for the homeless. Thank you. Mayor Perrin said, well thank you very much for your comment. I really appreciate that. We talked about that last night if you will remember when I was talking about that at the HUB and now that this is passed, now we do have a homeless committee that we will start to work on. Great idea. We will certainly bring that forward when I pull the committee for the first committee and then I will back out and let them do their work. So, we do appreciate that. We have been looking for property in Jonesboro. So, we have not forgotten that. Hopefully, we can get a building in the right location and get the building funded in some way. We are looking at that now. We talked about that today through our grants division and some others. We also have some families who say that they might have the possibility of naming rights or endowing a building and that is great. And, I totally concur with you in the fact that I*

*have gone to the Post Office late to pick up mail and they are there asleep. I have been to certain restaurants and they are laying in a booth asleep. And, I understand that. It is hard for me to do that when I am at home laying in my bed and worrying about those folks when it is 25 degrees outside. Thank you so much and God bless you for your comment. Thank you very much.*

*Councilmember Chris Moore said, before we close, is there something that we can do about the podium? It became obvious when this gentleman came to speak at the podium tonight, I could not see him. Is there something we can do to have better accommodations for people who are in wheelchairs? City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I guarantee that would have been brought up on our new ADA compliance thing that we are having done. Councilmember Moore said, we need to do that. Ms. Duncan said, we need to be able to lower the podium. Councilmember Moore said, when this gentleman spoke, he was on the other side. Mayor Perrin said, sure. I appreciate his comments. I think we can work on that. It is not a problem. Councilmember Moore said, whatever accommodations. Mayor Perrin said, for one thing, we can at least pull it up and get him in front of that. So, we thank you pastor. Councilmember Moore said, thank you. Mayor Perrin said, thank you very much.*

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Aye:** 11 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner and David McClain

**Absent:** 1 - LJ Bryant

\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Harold Perrin, Mayor**

**Attest:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Donna Jackson, City Clerk**