



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, June 18, 2024

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

PUBLIC SERVICES COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING

PUBLIC SAFETY COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

3. ROLL CALL (ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE) INITIATED AND CONFIRMED BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

Present 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver stated, I want to make a few presentations myself council. Well, good evening council. It is always a pleasure to stand before you and especially when I get to make recommendations and highlight the services of you the councilmembers. I would like Chris Gibson to come forward please. And, while he is doing that, I want to give you the reason why he's coming forward. He has been awarded the Marvin Vincent Commitment to Excellence Award. In honor of former Mayor Marvin Vincent of Clarksdale who served as league president from 1992 to 1993 and hereby bestowed upon you Chris Gibson, Councilmember of the City of Jonesboro. This is in dedication to your service for the past twelve years at AML. And, we just wanted to say thank you from the community and AML as well. This is from your dedication and we appreciate your service from the community. Councilmember Chris Gibson said, thank you Mayor.

Mayor Harold Copenhaver stated, the next special presentation, he doesn't like to come up much, but I'm going to ask him to anyway and that would be Councilmember Chris Moore. And, as he approaches as well, council, I would just like to say that this is a dedicated individual. Many of you have worked with him. Hopefully, many of you have seen his work and his commitment to our community. And, I can't say enough about this. He's been a good friend and also an individual that has provided guidance to this council on many occasions and to my office as well as we began our career four years ago in this role. So, this is a 25-year pin. How about that?! 25 years, so it is an honor that I am able to bestow it to you on behalf of the citizens of our community. Councilmember Moore, I appreciate your dedication and service to the City of Jonesboro. Councilmember Chris Moore said, thank you very much Mayor. Mayor

Copenhaver said, thank you.

Mayor Copenhaver stated, I am going to move on then to continuing of the special presentations. Before we do so, I'm going to have our legal counsel go ahead and speak on how this is handled. So, that way, we are all on the same note when it comes to the process of the next two Communication Files. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, it just so happens council that we have two appeals from MAPC tonight on your agenda. And, I know it has been a long time since we have had an appeal from MAPC to the council, so I just wanted to remind you and also remind the audience that these are just like a legal appeal. So, your decision is based on not what would you have done if you were on MAPC, but do you think, much like when it is appealed from this body to court, you know, the standard is were they clearly erroneous? Did they not follow our statutes and our ordinances to such an extent that the decision is not justified by our rules and regulations. So, we don't have public comment on an appeal. It's taken strictly on the record. So, it would be, and I know you all have had an opportunity to review the notes from staff about the rezoning, the minutes from that meeting, which should include commentary that was made at that meeting, and the appeal letter from the appellants on each of these issues. So, that's just a reminder and I am sorry if anyone in the public came with the intent of speaking, but if the appeal should be granted, and it goes on to the City Council agenda, then it would go through it's three regular hearings, at which point, of course, you would be heard. So, that's the basic rules unless anyone has questions.

Councilmember Joe Hafner asked, can you clarify that a yes vote. Ms. Duncan said, yes, the vote. So, since it is an appeal, at the end of each of these appeal hearings, we will need to cast a vote whether we are affirming the lower decision. So, I think, for the point of clarification, a yes vote is you are granting permission for it to be placed on the agenda and a no vote would be the same as denying the appeal. Does that make sense? That way it is less confusing. I know when you make a motion, I will say it one more time, a yes vote means you are granting the appeal which means you are allowing the rezoning to go forward to the City Council agenda. A no vote would mean that you are denying the appeal and that's the end. Okay. So, the first one is C.W. Post Road. Mayor Copenhaver asked, what is the willingness of the council? Ms. Duncan said, I think you have the appellant here to make a presentation and then I will answer any questions if you all have any of me and I am sure he will do the same. Mayor Copenhaver asked, if you would please come forward and state your name and address.

[COM-24:024](#)

APPEAL HEARING ON THE DENIAL OF MAPC OF A REZONING REQUEST FOR
5500 C.W. POST ROAD, JONESBORO, AR

Attachments: [Appeal Letter](#)
 [Proposal](#)
 [Staff Summary](#)
 [Plat](#)

Scott Troutt, attorney for the appellant, said, ladies and gentlemen, with regard to the reasons for the appeal, it is fairly simple, fairly straightforward, in the MAPC bylaws, it is required of the MAPC to do two things. To have their deliberations in their regular meetings and to provide the reasons for their decisions. That didn't happen in the matter of my clients. It's just that simple. Apparently, in the time between whenever I did the first of the hearings for my clients of the adjoining property that's in front of the property that we were asking to be rezoned this time, so between then and the second time I went before the MAPC, it appears that they have taken up a practice of

basically holding a pre-meeting. I'm certain that that's the benefit, that's innocent, that is for the benefit of the people that are actually requesting a change. But, in practice, what it lead to was basically a presentation that I made that got absolutely no questions and that was ultimately voted down. The question simply stated to me is that is rather or not the process was followed, plain and simple. And, council, you can see the documents that are before you, it was not. There is no explanation, at least not that I am aware of unless there is some document that I did not receive as to why it was denied. It's that in particular that is a major problem here because going into this, in the event that I am unsuccessful here and in the event that I have to go back before the MAPC in six months, I am going to have no idea what to argue, what to fix, what needs to be amended here, what the concerns were, I just don't. All that was given at the time of the MAPC meeting was a single member of the public who spoke on it in objection. And, am I to rely on what that person said? How much did that weigh on the MAPC's decision? We have no idea and I never will I suppose short of calling each and every individual member, but then again, all I would get from that is the understanding from that individual member. The way that I understand the bylaws, the decision, the adverse decision would come with what amounts to, it doesn't say that it is a formal opinion or anything like that, but it's supposed to be a detailed denial. And, I am supposed to have more of an understanding of this, might be what the individuals want of the MAPC, but this is the MAPC's position in general and that is what I need to be able to work with, to be able to amend my request to the extent necessary. That's what I need to rely on. We don't have it. And, we are asking that this appeal be granted so that we can go forward before the city and hopefully some of those issues can be resolved. Thank you.

City Attorney Carol Duncan said, so, the only thing that I will say is that I know that Mr. Troutt cited a couple of cases in his brief that state that because they didn't follow their rules exactly that the decision is invalid. And, the case that he cited was Taggart, I believe, yes, Taggart and Taggart Seed Company vs. Augusta which was a case that was decided by the Supreme Court of Arkansas in 1983. I think the facts are important in that case because in that case what happened was a city council that did have a MAPC just circumvented the MAPC completely and ruled on a rezoning without it going through any of the planning process. There was no action of the Planning Commission at all. And, so, what the court said was there was a total failure to comply with the zoning code and that is why they determined that the decision was invalid. There is another case that was cited that is Mings vs. Ft. Smith which is a 1986 case in which they talk about Taggart, but the ruling in that case says while we recognize that a city may not ignore the procedures that it has set up for the participation of citizens in municipal government, we have held that a city's actions are not invalid when it has substantially complied with the proscribed procedures. So, the question is do you believe they have substantially complied with our zoning code and the rules? I understand that MAPC sets bylaws and those are rules of construction to follow, but one failure in the bylaws is not a complete disregard of the rules of the City of Jonesboro would be my argument. And, they distinguish Taggart in that same way and said in Taggart, there was flagrant abuse and no hint of substantial compliance. So, again, your standard is similar to the court standard of arbitrary and capricious which is similar to clearly erroneous. I think those two standards are used and they are similar. When it goes to Circuit Court, it is arbitrary and capricious which means there was really no basis in the zoning code. So, that is where we are. I am not necessarily arguing. I just think since a case was cited, I needed to clarify the rule on that.

Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you. So, council, we will go ahead and take electronic vote. Councilmember Chris Moore said, we need a motion first. Ms. Duncan said, well, really it is just if you vote for you are granting the appeal and if you vote against you are

denying the appeal. I don't know that you actually have to have a motion. Councilmember Moore asked, would a motion make it clearer for the record? Ms. Duncan said, I don't know, April? Councilmember Moore asked, or do you want us to vote it straight up or down? City Clerk April Leggett said, it has been explained, but sometimes those get lost in explanation as well. Ms. Duncan said, the motion needs to be worded that a vote for it is the same way I said it. Mayor Copenhagen asked, Chris, if you would go ahead and make a motion then stating. Councilmember Chris Moore said, I'll make a motion to approve and we have a second on that and a vote up would be to send it to full council and a vote no would be to turn it down. Councilmember Chris Gibson said, I will second as stated. Mayor Copenhagen said, we do have an active motion on the floor council. A vote yes would send it to council and a vote no would not. If you would please cast your ballot?

The vote cast was 1 yes – Johnson and 11 no – Porter, Emison, C. Coleman, Moore, Williams, Gibson, McClain, A. Coleman, Hafner, Bryant, Street. The motion FAILS to pass.

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

Aye: 1 - Mitch Johnson

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

[COM-24:025](#)

APPEAL HEARING ON THE DENIAL BY MAPC OF A REZONING REQUEST FOR 5415 SOUTHWEST DRIVE, JONESBORO, AR

Attachments: [Appeal Letter](#)
 [MAPC Meeting Minutes](#)
 [Staff Summary 1](#)
 [ZoningApplication5415SWDrive](#)

Councilmember Chris Moore asked the record to reflect that he is recusing himself from discussion and voting on the Appeal Denial COM-24:025 because the appellant is his brother. Jeremy Moore said, congratulations brother on your 25-year pin.

Jeremy Moore, 2013 Jamestown Drive, said, so I am here due to the fact that of course I am appealing the or I did not receive a favorable approval by the MAPC back on Tuesday, April 9, 2024. I believe that the MAPC did not take into account all of the available information that I provided while also blurring the lines between a variance and a rezoning hearing. So, the property that I own sits on the corner of Darr Hill and Southwest Drive. Y'all can see in the packet that was provided whenever I turned that in. There are four corners at that intersection and the other three corners that are currently there are all rezoned commercial, anywhere from C-3 to C-4. The lot that I am looking at rezoning is currently residential and I was trying to get that rezoned as well to a commercial use. In the past, that property has been used, even though it was far in the past, it was previously used as a commercial site as a former neighborhood grocery store. That property also sits with the city planning staff whenever they review the proposed zone change, they reported that the current future use recommend that was a high intensity growth sector to go along that and it also fell along in the same lines for the future land use plan. The guidelines in your packet, you will see I received six check marks from the planning commission. To go along with that, so the guidelines outline in the approval criteria Chapter 117 show compliance in all six

categories set forth for consideration for the rezoning. So, right now, I am batting 100 going across. All of my other corners are commercial, the city future land use plan call for it to be commercial. I've got six out of six checkmarks going along with that. I think part of what the problem was as well was I was told that I was going to seek a variance at the same time, just simply to move my setback 5 feet. So, I applied for that variance at the same time that I applied for my rezoning. And, I believe there was a little bit of a miscommunication there, some blurring of the lines. If you will go back and look at the video, at video mark 31:20 of the MAPC meeting on that Tuesday, Paul Ford, one of the members of the MAPC, asked one question and one question only. "Is it correct that you requested a variance?" And, that was the only thing and I believe that that blurred some lines there as well. Since then, I have dropped the variance. I really don't need that rear setback to be dropped back to 5 feet. I can live without that rear setback, but I believe that probably in turn turned around and blurred the lines with him and some of the other commissioners that were on that board as well. I realized that there were a couple of people that spoke up neighbor wise that are currently living in houses there. If you look up and down Southwest Drive, everything commercial butts up to residential as well. I own another house on Southwest Drive that butts up to Sonic and it doesn't get any more commercial with that, but I realize that the future plan for the city that's already been laid out by the city calls for that to be commercial. So, that's part of it. I just really feel like even though those couple of people came up and showed opposition to that, I have a list of 40 people as well that I have spoken to on Southwest Drive, Darr Hill, and Jamestown that have no issue with it what so ever. So, it's just the fact that I didn't have those 40 people show up so even though you have two or three show up, there are still hundreds out there that have no issue with it whatsoever. So again, I feel like all my boxes were checked, everything aligns for it with the city. MAPC is here to represent the city and what y'all have laid out for the future plan, I don't feel like they went by that plan. Any questions? We're good?

City Attorney Carol Duncan said, he didn't state any case law that I felt like I needed to clarify. So, I don't have a dog in this hunt. Mr. Moore said, no, no case law. Mayor Harold Copenhagen asked, what is the willingness of the council? Councilmember Joe Hafner said, I make a motion that we approve the appeal and place it on the agenda for the next meeting. Councilmember Mitch Johnson said, I will second that.

The vote cast was 8 yes – Porter, Emison, C. Coleman, Williams, A. Coleman, Hafner, Bryant, Johnson; 3 no – Gibson, McClain, Street; and 1 abstain/recuse – Moore. The motion does carry. Mayor Copenhagen stated, that appeal denial request is approved. City Attorney Carol Duncan stated, that means this will be on your next council agenda for the first reading. Automatically April? or do you need anything from the appellant? City Clerk April Leggett stated, they provided an ordinance. Ms. Duncan said, okay, so automatically it will be on the next council agenda. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you very much.

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

Aye: 8 - Brian Emison; Joe Hafner; Mitch Johnson; Anthony Coleman; Janice Porter; Charles Coleman; LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Nay: 3 - Chris Gibson; David McClain and John Street

Abstain: 1 - Chris Moore

[COM-24:026](#)

UPDATE ON THE CITIZEN MOSQUITO SCIENCE PROGRAM BY THE ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY ENTOMOLOGIST TEAM

Attachments: [Jonesboro City Mosquito Meeting 6 18 2024](#)
 [ASU Mosquito Handouts](#)

Mayor Copenhaver stated that this is Dr. Tanja McKay from Arkansas State University. I have asked her to come forward and kind of give you an update of where we are in the community. I am real excited about this partnership that we have grown into here in the last year and a half with Arkansas State University. And, what they are going to be doing is they are going to be using the Mayor's Youth Advancement Council as well, but it is also going to be holding Vector more accountable, I feel, in the process of what they are doing in exactly what we have been asking for. So, Dr. McKay, I'm going to turn the floor over to you.

Dr. Tanja McKay, said thank you very much. I'm from Arkansas State University in the Department of Biological Sciences and tonight I want to introduce my team here. These are grad students as well. Undergraduate and graduate students all coming to support the project. So, we thought we would give you an update on what we are doing as our partnership. So, we are the Jonesboro Citizen Science Mosquito Survey and we are educating. The idea is educating the community about mosquitoes. We just had a mosquito here. You know, we could talk a little bit about biology, but one of the main, really important parts of any type of mitigation program for any insect including mosquitoes is to do some monitoring, to actually doing trapping, to figure out what the populations are in any location. So, that is what we are doing and have been in collaboration. So, I will give you a little bit of background of what the project is about and just to get the word out in how we are, where we are to this point, and where we intend to go.

So, this is the team. Here, we have myself, Dr. Tanja McKay. This is also with Dr. Karen Yanowitz. She is a psychologist in the Department of Psychology and she is helping coordinate some really cool surveys that we are going to be putting out when we actually go out and do some monitoring. We also have my technician Laura Starkus, Becca Lett, Norman Hunter, James Stone (a high school teacher), Berenice Reyes (who is from Queretaro, Mexico, part of our campus), Ashley Lestina, and Marin Hirata. We are a group of faculty as well as students in order to put this forth to the city and how we can figure out some solutions here. So, the goal of this project is basically to do some monitoring. So, when I say monitoring is looking to see how many mosquitoes we have in particular areas in Jonesboro. And, what we are going to do is we are going to rely on the citizens of Jonesboro to kind of help us with that. And, so, the idea with this is we are going to work with the members of our community to educate them about what we can do with mosquito mitigation in our own backyards. We are here, not to solve a problem of figuring out how to get rid of mosquitoes. We will leave that up to Vector. But, the idea of helping to get data to help Vector make decisions, that is what we are here to do. When we talk about any type of getting rid of an insect, like a mosquito, we talk about integrated pest management. What that is it relies upon a multifaceted approach where the first thing we look at is monitoring, to figure out what our numbers are. If numbers are at a particular point, we have to do some prevention. What that is to go in our backyards to see perhaps we have a container of water that we have left behind, the tires in our backyard that could be issues where mosquitoes could be developing. And, so, that is what our objectives, how this project works is we are going to ask the citizens to actually contact us and we will go out to your backyards and place a mosquito trap. This is actually used by the CDC, Center of Disease Control, and to actually monitor. A trap looks like this. It is basically a little air, a little fan where mosquitoes come in the back and then will be sucked in. The team will come place it, come visit you in the evening. You can sign up. There is a QR code. We also have some other mechanisms for signing up. We will

come out. We will contact. We will actually set the trap in your backyard. The next morning, we will come and collect and the team will actually count. The idea figuring out what the count is. The other night we had 960 at a location overnight. We won't say where that will be. But, with those decisions, so, we are just starting this. So, we have been, this is our second week of actually monitoring and putting out the traps. We will be working with Vector, giving that count number to them, knowing exactly where they are located, where the location is in Jonesboro, and then they will make the decision if it is a decision, if they need to mitigate where that particular population. So, it is kind of a back and forth plan. We are working with the citizens here in Jonesboro. So, we have had a great start. We have eight different trapping sessions that we have conducted so far. Over 1,700 mosquitoes and over 900 capture in one trap in one night. That is over 900 in one place. So, we do have issues here in Jonesboro. But, the idea that we all as citizens can actually contribute to actually mitigating some of our issues in our own backyards. So, here is how you can set up. We have a QR code, but you can also contact myself at the university. There are multiple ways that you can get on the list. So, then we can come to your backyard. We are going to be doing surveys. So, the idea is that this is hopefully a start to a larger project. We are collecting data so we can actually write a National Science Foundation grant where we are going to hopefully have more citizens science projects that kind of envelop upon this. We thank the city. Thank you so much for funding, but the idea of hopefully making Jonesboro a little bit better place and hopefully figuring out ways to kind of mitigate. Monitoring is the key here. I am here to help and answer any questions.

Mayor Copenhaver said, Dr. McKay, before you go any further, I would just like you to go ahead and state the cost that is involved because these traps are just not inexpensive. So, they are limited in number and then you are also checking these traps every day, correct? Dr. McKay said, correct. One of the issues that we had the traps, I have actually used, there has been some kind of supply chain issues in the entomological world if you really believe it. One of the main entomological supply companies in the United States actually stopped. The company went down about three years ago. That is where we would actually collect, we actually got our traps ten years ago. When we went to look for more traps, the traps now, and in one company, is averaging about \$900 per trap which is ridiculous. But, we can actually get those from another company. The number of hours it takes to actually go and sample, the idea of counting, we want to give Vector also the species. We will be giving that data set as well. Here in Jonesboro, there are about 18 different species of mosquitoes. So, it is very complex and in every mosquito, the biology is very, very different. It is a much more difficult situation. Each mosquito is different in its biology.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman asked, Dr., you said you were going to give that information to Vector? Dr. McKay said, yes. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman asked, but you will be giving it to the council too also, right? Dr. McKay said, definitely, you can have access to that as well, yes. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, if we are putting money to help do what we started here. Dr. McKay said, most definitely, yes. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I don't want Vector to have an edge upon us. Dr. McKay said, I understand, that data is for you. Mayor Copenhaver said, as you mentioned, you are going to incorporate possibly schools and our youth as well. Dr. McKay said, very much. So, one of the things here, we have five individuals. It is the human power to actually do this. The idea of working with youth, we would love to get them, to educate them too, to have them come to the lab, to have them help us. The more people that can help us, the better so that we can have more locations, more traps put out. We are limited to ten traps per night. We are also limited with ten, that is significant. So, right now, we are at, what are we at Becca? Becca Lett said, the most we have done so far in one night is four. Also, we are still in the sign-up process.

Our team could probably set out for Tuesday night. We are bringing back anywhere from 50 to 900 mosquitoes in a night. That is one person counting and going back through them to identify. So, that takes time. Dr. McKay said, that is a lot of work. We would love volunteers, any folks that would love to learn about mosquito biology, we will train you. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, you should reach out to our East Lab teachers at the different schools? I think some of them would find this an interesting project. Dr. McKay said, most definitely. And, the idea to promote science, we need more scientists. We need the next generation to do what we do. If you think about disease management and mosquito management, integrated pest management, we need the next generation. So, the idea of getting folks excited about what we are doing. We are not going to solve the mosquito problem in Jonesboro, but we can attempt to show exactly what it takes to start that, what a mosquito mitigation program is all about. Monitoring is the first step. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you Dr. McKay.

Councilmember David McClain said, when you said, you will determine, you said there are 18 different species of mosquitoes. Dr. McKay said, in a study done in 2012, we trapped in six locations and we collected over 92,000 mosquitoes over a year over a six month period, of which there were about 18 different species of mosquitoes. Councilmember McClain said, so would you, and this is just me trying to understand, educate myself just a little bit, do you treat the different species, do you treat them differently or do you treat them all the same? Dr. McKay said, pretty much treating them the same. Now, there are different sectors. There is a nighttime mosquito and daytime mosquito. I can say you can likely treat those a little bit differently. Now, treating, you use insecticides most of the time, but there is some other mitigation. So, the small daytime feeders are actually in tires. They are actually container breeders. They are in standing water and even in the small, little bottlecap and those are specific so those are very different from the floodwater mosquitoes that you would have breeding in our ditches and in our rice fields. So, that would be a totally different story. But, yes, it's pretty much the same. There are a variety of different techniques. The first thing to do is to get rid of your standing water too. Councilmember McClain asked, when it comes to mitigation, what are your thoughts, I am just curious as to your thoughts on introducing, there is some breed of mosquito that I understand that has been introduced in different parts of Florida and I want to say in Texas, there is a certain breed that you introduce into the population and what are your thoughts on that? Dr. McKay said, okay, are you referring to genetically modified? Councilmember McClain said, this is a genetically modified mosquito. Dr. McKay said, yes, I am in favor, that is actually, one of the companies is called Oxitech. And, what they are doing, you have to remember what they are doing, they are releasing males and males are non-biters. It is the female that is causing the disease issue. So, you have a genetically modified male, when they breed with that female, that is going to cause a stop in the cycle. And, also, that gene gets incorporated and there is less hatching. It stops the actual cycle of continuing that mosquito population. Unfortunately, that is one specific species that is not encountered here. It is used for issues of Zika. It is 80's aedes aegypti which we had in the past, but we have actually had some other mosquitoes push it out. So, there's really a lot. If you would like to talk more, you can come visit me. We don't want to use aedes aegypti.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, I know we are coming up to the discussing or trying to renegotiate or whatever his contract. I just wondered if you had communication with other companies besides Vector. Dr. McKay said, I do not. I am not in that business. So, I actually also work in stored rice and making sure that insects don't get into your stored rice. So, I have a variety of projects and this is just one of them. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, thank you. Dr. McKay said, you are welcome. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, I have one quick question. This is

a curiosity question. Which part of town were the 900 mosquitoes in? Becca Lett said, its past Craighead Forest. I think it was Lawson. Dr. McKay said, it was on Lawson. But, we will get that data to council. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, well it's not just the data. You mentioned a few minutes ago, I think the Mayor mentioned about his team, are they the ones that are going to be going, the educational part. Dr. McKay said, yes. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman asked, how are you going to handle it? I mean, from house to house? Dr. McKay said, so what we are doing when we go to the house, we actually have a survey and we are asking them, are you familiar with mosquitoes? Are you familiar with your backyard, like what are some of the strategies for mitigating mosquitoes in your own backyard? And, so, it is a series of questions. It is a questionnaire. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I guess the other part of that question, not trying to tell you what to do, but can that also be extended because a lot of people, even though you are doing this science part, there's also a part of individual's that might not quite understand what you are doing, but is there pamphlets that can be handed out during that process of the whole community to get them educated on it. Dr. McKay said, yes, and Becca. Becca Lett said, I actually have some in my car if you would like for me to run out and get them from my car. Dr. McKay said, yes, we have pamphlets. We also have it translated in Spanish. So, Berenice Reyes on the team has translated everything into Spanish including some of our presentations and some of our pamphlets and things like that. So, we are trying to get at all areas, all community members. Norman Hunter said, also social media pages that have been created that we put information out on a regular basis with technology shared. Dr. McKay said, and Facebook, things like that. Instagram and we have little tidbits about doing things in your backyard to mitigate mosquitoes. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman asked, could that also be put on the city's webpage? Dr. McKay said, very much and we will share that with you. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, you may have mentioned this and I just missed it. I apologize if I did. Is there a chemist on the team? Dr. McKay said, there is not and what is your question? Councilmember Hafner asked, I often wonder about we are told that we are using this, this, and this and just kind of verify that they are using this, this, and this. Dr. McKay said, I understand, that is not something I am, that's not my specialty. Councilmember Hafner said, okay.

Mayor Copenhaver said, Dr. McKay and your team, thank you very much and we look forward to seeing how it moves forward. Dr. McKay said, thank you so much. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you so much. I appreciate you being here tonight. Dr. McKay said, thank you. Let me know if you have any questions.

Filed

[COM-24:027](#)

2023 Year End Report by NAIDC

Attachments: [NAIDC Report Annual Report 2023 - FINAL](#)
 [NAIDC Report 1st Quarter 2024](#)

Mayor Copenhaver stated, Mark, this is going to be hard for you to follow that, but we appreciate Mark. I know he has got other members of NAIDC here. Mark is going to come in and give us kind of an update. I think we have done a year-end up date already. He is going to give us a little bit of a presentation of where we have moved into this year. So, Mark, the floor is yours.

Mark Young, President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce, said, what is the saying, don't follow children or animals. I will count the mosquito as an animal. Is it an animal? Maybe, I don't know. She did a great job and it is exciting to see what they are doing in partnership with the city. I really appreciate Arkansas State and all that they

do. It is great to see you and thank you for the introduction Mayor. I really appreciate the opportunity to be here among the councilmembers. We have had an opportunity to see each other a lot recently at a lot of great events and activities to celebrate whether it improvement of infrastructure, etc. So, good to be with you today. As the Mayor mentioned, I want to do a couple of things today. One is to kind of give you an update of what has gone on in the last six months. So, we will start in January and bring you up-to-date to today. Really focus more on that and what a couple of initiatives that we are working on moving forward. You have all of the information in regards to last year here and even the first quarter. So, again, good to be with you.

I'll start off by saying what we have experienced the first part of this year, the first six months in terms of inquiries, prospects, visits, etc. Things are better. So, when we look at 2023, both in a quantity standpoint and a quality standpoint, the number of inquiries that we are receiving and the quality of those inquiries have gotten much better. So, we are encouraged by that. The first six months, we have had 14 inquiries, 4 prospect visits, 12 business retention and expansion projects, and we talked before about those are specific to our existing business and industry and 13 market research requests. And, those market research requests are typically commercial and retail related as well. So, activity has been positive and good and it has actually continued to pick up and we are encouraged and enthused by that.

A couple of things that have occurred over the last six months, Hytrol Distribution Center opened in February. This is located in the E-Commerce Park, developed by Haag-Brown. We are excited that this is on line. If you pass by in the evening in particular, it is beautiful all of the time, but if you come in in the evening, it's a great entrance to our community. 150,000 square feet of new space for Hytrol really has, according to them, has helped them in terms of their efficiency and distribution. And, they are excited about what this continues to do for them and what this will mean for the future. So, we are excited to see that, that great opportunity. In addition to that, not far from there also, Amazon recently announced a new facility in Jonesboro. A last mile facility and we are excited that they selected our community and wanted to be here renovating 58,000 sq. ft. on Moore Road. Renovations are underway. And, again, good news for our community. Jobs are being created and investment being made here locally which is what we want to see occur.

A couple of key, important infrastructure items that you all had an important part in. Number one is the \$5 million grant from the Economic Administration. It is extremely important to the community as we continue to grow as a community, having air service is important. It is critical. And, making sure that we have a facility that can not only meet our needs today, but meet our needs in the future is important as well. So, we were excited to work with the Airport Commission and others to work on this project and really appreciate the fact that EDA saw fit to invest \$5 million in Jonesboro. I think it is extremely important. I also wanted to mention the \$500,000 infrastructure grant for CTP South. That is the Craighead Technology Park. Recently, when I was before you last, we talked about the 612 acres that we acquired south of the existing Craighead Technology Park. Infrastructure improvements are needed and we were pleased to receive this grant to help us with that. And, I will talk a little bit more about another program that we are pursuing right now that that I want you to be aware of as well. But, good news for the community and good news for our continued growth.

We spent a lot of time talking about building a pipeline of workers in making sure that Jonesboro, again, has the workforce that we need today, but also the workforce of the future. I am pleased to report that this year's draft day was a huge success. If you remember, three years ago, the first draft day which is a partnership with the state

Chamber of Commerce and Be Pro, Be Proud, occurred in Jonesboro, Arkansas. Two years ago, I believe it was at four different locations. This year, it was at seven locations and continues to be here as the first location it ever occurred. We had 150 high school students who are getting ready to enter the workforce that had an opportunity for interviews with our companies in our community and in the region. It is very important to make those connections. As part of that day as well, there is a career fair. It is important that our students know and understand the types of careers that are available to them in all aspects. So, hundreds of students participated in that activity. Those were sophomores, juniors, and seniors, primarily and those that interviewed were only seniors. So pleased with those results. Building on that in the future and encouraging more students to participate, more schools to participate throughout the region.

TekStars is a manufacturing camp. We talked about the importance of career exploration and awareness. TekStars is one of the ways that we do this. For eleven years, this is our eleventh year, we have hosted roughly 15 students per year who are junior high to expose them to the manufacturing careers and technology careers that are available here in Jonesboro. They spend several days with us, tour lots of plants. You can see some of the activities that they are involved in. And, probably most importantly, they actually build something. They build a lamp and they are able to see from design to construction of that or implementation of that and then distribution of that product, what manufacturing really looks like. But, in addition to that, all of the careers within manufacturing are considered as well. So, if you want to be a nurse, you can work in manufacturing. If you want to be an accountant, you can work in manufacturing. If you want to be an engineer, you can work in manufacturing. And, making sure that our students understand and are exposed to that is important. So, we had a great year this year. It literally wrapped up last week and we are pleased with the results of that. I will quickly tell you an anecdotal story that actually occurred here a year ago. I was before the MAPC talking about a rezoning request for a piece of property. There was a young man who was there who looked familiar to me, but I really couldn't place him. In the short version of the story, he is a young man who went through our camp nine years before and he had just graduated with his engineering degree and was here. So, planting that seed early on as a seventh grader is important. You can't start early enough and that's what TekStars recognizes and what we continue to do.

A couple of other important activities over this last six months, I can't say enough about NYIT. For those who are familiar with what they are doing, over the last couple of months, they held both their match day and graduation. And to see the students and where they have matched is incredible. They are making a difference in the healthcare of our region and the healthcare of Jonesboro and throughout the Delta. When you look at their statistics, you can see that that continues to happen. That will continue to be the case. It's important, it's needed, and we are excited for what they are doing and the economic impact that it has on Jonesboro. In the middle, you will see a picture of Stephanie Issacson. Stephanie is with the Office of Skills Development. We hosted a lunch and learn with many of our employers and what we were there to talk about was work based learning and the importance of that. When you engage a college student in particular or any student, but a college student in particular with an internship, with an apprenticeship, they are more likely to stay in your community. If they have those employment opportunities and those good experiences early, that's best. And, so, giving them an opportunity to do that is something that we are focused on and something that program will allow them to do. So, Stephanie, who was here to talk about that, how Office of Skills Development can assist with that from a funding standpoint and we were really pleased with that outcome.

In the upper right hand corner, you will see mention banking leadership program that was implemented this past year. We had twenty people that graduated from that. When we conducted our strategic plan a few years ago, one of the things of a skills gap that was identified by our financial institutions was helping those from entry level to sort of that mid-management level of financial services. So, we wanted to be able to do something to help with that. With their support, with our local lenders support and input and the Delta Center for Economic Development, Arkansas State University, a program was put together. It is a five month program. They meet once a month. Had great evaluations. This is going to happen again. They are actually starting registration right now and that will start in September and go through February. So, the 20+ people that participated really spoke very highly of it. I can't say enough good things about the Delta Center and their delivery of that. And, we think we are going to help make a difference in that need moving forward. Lastly, Thrown to the Wolves is something that we are pleased to support and promote. It is a business plan competition for high school students for the region. I'm glad to be partnered with that and I'm glad to play our role in that process.

Speaking of partnerships, we partnered with the City of Jonesboro, now, a year and a half ago I guess to look at a study on soft track trails around Jonesboro. The International Mountain Biking Association conducted that. That ribbon was cut on April 23rd after the city did a wonderful job with construction and partnering with all of the appropriate things to do. That is already yielding positive results. I keep talking to people and ask who are mountain bikers, what is it like? I am not a mountain biker. I probably need to be, but I am not. And, those who have ridden it say it is phenomenal and stacks up with any mountain bike trail that there is. So, doing this and doing more types of these efforts is important for our quality of life overall and to continue that moving forward. So, we are pleased with the activity and look forward to lots of good things to come.

We talked about jobs and how to connect people with jobs. A little over a year ago now, we started myjonesborojobs.com that you see represented here. And, I wanted to give you some results related to that effort. So, since January of this year, so in six months until the first of June, we actually had 30,389 unique visitors to that site. It is a site dedicated to local jobs. We have a marketing plan around that so we can reach out to people who are in our region and people outside of our region to encourage them to look for employment opportunities here. To bring the skills that they have here. We think that is critically important as we move forward. And, I will mention another initiative that we are working on now. But, it has had tremendous success and we look forward to more success. We continue to work with companies to make sure that they are aware of the site to get them to participate in the site and to list those jobs which is critical.

On the right hand side, the other thing that I will mention is our internship page. So, I mentioned the importance of work based learning. We partnered with Arkansas State University and through the College of Business and the College of Engineering, started an internship page of this as well. It is free for any employer who has an internship to list it. It is there to connect those students who are looking for that internship opportunity. Again, having success there, but working with every single business that we can come in contact with to encourage them to have an internship. We have a guide on how to develop an internship program to help those companies who might be concerned with how to do that, what kind of program to put together, etc. And, then we continue to have a marketing initiative effort around our students and with our students and through the faculty and staff at Arkansas State University to encourage more

students to have an internship, to do an internship. I did an internship a few years ago. I'm not going to tell you how many. And, it was one of the most worthwhile things that I did throughout my college career. So, it's important. We think this is going to give our students a great opportunity to do great things. We have had 2,200 unique visitors to the internship page as well. So, good success being shown there.

When we talk about recruiting people, I want to give you a head's up. If you are on Instagram or Facebook, please follow [alwaysjonesboro.com](https://www.alwaysjonesboro.com). If you know Bethania Beret Harrison as part of our Jonesboro Unlimited team, she is doing an outstanding job. She is four months into her work and doing a great job of promoting quality of life and the kinds of things that people might want to live here, who are thinking about moving here, answering those questions, engaging with those individuals, and providing support services to them. Currently, you can find her on [alwaysjonesboro.com](https://www.alwaysjonesboro.com) on Instagram and Facebook. And, I will announce that [alwaysjonesboro.com](https://www.alwaysjonesboro.com) website is coming soon. The first week in July after the 4th of July, it will be rolled out. The important part of the website, it will include tools for HR professionals to use. So, as all of HR professionals throughout our community are reaching out and recruiting people to our community as well, we want to make sure that we can provide services and tools to them as well. So, the cost of living calculator is on there. So, if you want to compare how far your dollar goes in Jonesboro versus Chicago or wherever you might want to compare to, I think there are 300 communities to compare to. It gives you that opportunity to do that. There are other tools there as well. So, we encourage you and around April 7th-8th rolls around, login into [alwaysjonesboro.com](https://www.alwaysjonesboro.com) and check it out. I think you will be pleased with some of the activity.

You will see an individual in the right hand corner. One of the things that we are working on is to have community ambassadors and it is people who love our community, love Jonesboro, and want to tell other people about our community. And, so, each of them sort of have a niche role to play as you will. And, as questions come in, if you are an outdoor enthusiast, we want to partner with somebody that is an outdoor enthusiast. If you are somebody that is interested in the shooting range, we want to partner you with somebody that does that. So, this is a way that we can do that. People can reach out and get additional information which we think is important. More of that to come, but we are excited about what we are doing and the progress that has been made.

Many of you have seen this slide that I will mention. The next two slides, one is population growth over the last three years. This goes up through April 1st 2023. You can see the growth that Craighead County and the City of Jonesboro has had. The City of Jonesboro and Craighead County have sort of outpaced the state if you will. What's interesting is the number of people who are moving to the south in general. So, you can see down below, significant number of people moving to the south and see that increase there. And, so, we are doing well. We want to do more. That's part of that whole effort that I just mentioned with [alwaysjonesboro.com](https://www.alwaysjonesboro.com). So, I want to encourage people to come take our opportunities in Jonesboro and take a look at the opportunities that we have and bring those skills with them. In addition to that, one of the things that we have talked about in here that I think is incredibly important is looking at the civilization labor force. And, we always want to see the civilization labor force increase. So, in the future we can meet the needs of our current businesses and continue to grow that. On the left is a chart that demonstrates to you the number of people employed in Craighead County. And, on the right is the total civilization labor force. This is from the federal reserve. The reason I like these two charts is that it does illustrate that every community economic ebbs and flows. So, when you look at this, you can see the chart kind of goes up and down, but in general, the trend

continues to go from left to right. So, we are continuing to grow, continuing to increase, and that is a good thing. What you can't see on here and I apologize for that, actually, I can see it on that screen. The gray shaded areas are recessions and covid. So, as you look at that, you will be able to see how our community responded during those times as well. And, that's when you'll typically see fairly significant dips in employment or in the civilian labor force. Something that we continue to monitor, something that we continue to pay attention to and I think is important for our future, so I wanted you to be aware of that, but also where that, again, the good news is historically, we have continued to see that trend line going in the correct direction that we want to see and we will do everything we can to make sure that continues to be the case.

Lastly, I want to talk about two initiatives that we are working on and have just started. The first on the left, you will see the Arkansas Site Development Program. Some of you may have read about this. The State of Arkansas really wants to continue to promote communities and to promote available developed industrial sites across the state. So, about two weeks ago, they announced this new program that puts \$10 million out there for competition if you will for grants for communities to apply for. What's interesting about that across the U.S., and in particular across the area where we see our touch states, several states are investing significant amounts in that regard. I think that one of the things that we will see as a state is what that pent up demand is for that support and that help for development of property. So, \$10 million is going to be interesting to see how far that goes. We intend to submit a grant application on the Craighead Technology Park South. We will keep you guys posted as we do that. If I am not mistaken, they will not award funds until November. So, it is a process to participating in, but we are encouraged the state is doing this. What I anticipate happening is that the demand is going to far outstrip the amount of resources available and I would hope and expect the state to come back and maybe increase that amount moving forward in terms of what might be available as we go forward as a state. So, it's good news for the state. I am encouraged that they have done this and think that there is going to be a lot of desire for people to participate in it.

Lastly, on the right, you will see a picture of Ted Abernathy. Jonesboro Unlimited engaged Ted Abernathy recently, just within the last month to start working with us and help us with a couple of projects. Most importantly, we want to make sure our community continues to do what we need to do to be able to support the workforce and have the workforce pipeline that all of us want. So, what Ted Abernathy is going to help us with, number one, is to look at our labor and employability. So, he's going to look at the different types of skills that are out there, what are transferable skills and how that can go from one type of profession to another. So, what's out there, etc. Another key component of what he is going to do is really take a look at is career and technical programming at all levels, k-12, 2-year college, and a 4-year university, to ensure that we are aligned correctly with what the needs of our businesses and industries are. We are looking forward to his final report which should be toward the end of October. I'll come back to you and visit with you about what he found and what suggestions or recommendations he has made. But, all of us know that the world changes quickly around us and while we have a plan in place that is a five year plan and things can change in 2 ½ years and we wanted to engage with someone to help us ensure that we are on the right path doing the right things as a community to continue to support our business and industry and grow. So, we think it is an important process and are looking forward to the results of that. And, we will share that with you guys when we get it.

With that, I know it wasn't, I didn't have like cool little graphics there like big

mosquitoes, so I apologize for that, but I would be happy to answer any questions that you might have. Councilmember David McClain said, I have a question. When we look at the big industrial, I know that has been our main focus for a long time. Hino announced recently that they are closing in West Memphis. So, I think it is 1,300 jobs or more. When it comes to those type of things happening, that sometimes gives me concern with our focus being so heavily on it. What are we doing, I know you said the five year plan, but what are we doing to try to diversify ourselves so we don't get a call that, hey, this company decides, depending on what happens in November, a company may say well we are going to shut down operations in the states. What does that look like? What are we doing to go forward? Mr. Young said, so in our plan, we have four targeted industries and part of the reason we targeted those industries is they all pay at or above the current wage rate in Craighead County. We are trying to raise the economy here. And, while one of those is advanced manufacturing another is logistics and distribution. Another one is healthcare. And, another one is professional services. And, we are working in each of those areas to recruit companies, talent, etc. So, IT when you think about, so IT fits into the professional services, but when you think also about accounting, engineering, all of those types of things, we are working in each of those areas. The other thing that I would add is one of the reasons why it is so critically important to have a good existing industry program as well. We communicate with our businesses and industries, every single day. One of the reasons why that is important is, you made a great point, if there are concerns, you want to be able to anticipate what those might be. So, moving forward if there are concerns with any one type of business or industry, etc., this really being challenged and we need to be aware of that. So, we do that in a number of ways. One of those things is that we have regular plant manager, we visit plant managers. We talk to them. We have plant manager roundtables. We have an existing industry association that we can communicate on a regular basis. In addition to that, we communicate with them via a couple of surveys. And, what is interesting about that is we've conducted these surveys over 25 years. And, I will give you an example. So, one of the surveys is called a new and expanded industry survey. And, so, companies report to us the amount of funds that they typically have invested in new machinery and equipment. They will talk to us about the number of employees that they have added and one of the interesting things is that you can look over time and I will ask this as a rhetorical question, if the City of Jonesboro doesn't invest in technology over a period of time, that is a concern. The same with any business or industry. If a business or industry, if we see someone has not invested over a period of time, that is a concern and we will typically have a conversation with those folks to say, is everything okay? What is your gross cycle look like? What does your business cycle look like? Because, again, we are trying to make sure if there are concerns or issues that we can identify if there is assistance that, when I say we, collectively, the community, that the state and others can provide, then we will do that. So, you are spot on, great question. So, thank you. Any other questions? I really appreciate your support. I appreciate your continued efforts. What you do makes a difference for our business community, so thank you. Mayor Copenhagen said, Mark, thank you very much for your presentation. You know our floor is always available. So, any time you need to bring us updates, please feel free to do so. Mr. Young said, will do. Thank you so much. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you.

Filed

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Councilmember Chris Moore motioned to adopt the Consent Agenda unless there is an

item to be removed. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman seconded the motion. Councilmember David McClain said he would like to remove a couple of items. I would like to remove RES-24:064 and RES-24:065. Councilmember Chris Moore amended his motion. Councilmember Joe Hafner seconded the motion.

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

Aye: 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

[MIN-24:053](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON JUNE 4, 2024

Attachments: [CC Minutes 06042024](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-24:050](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH MARCK INDUSTRIES, INC TO PERFORM RECYCLING PROCESSING SERVICES

Attachments: [Bid 2024-01 Recycling Processor Tabulation](#)
[Recycling contract with Marck--one party signed](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-050-2024

[RES-24:052](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 504 BELT STREET, PARCEL 01-144074-16200, OWNED BY AMY HUTSON IN THE AMOUNT OF \$415; LEGAL DESCRIPTION: WAGNER SUB

Attachments: [1. Notice of Violation](#)
[2. Billing Request](#)
[3. 504 Belt St Invoice Notice](#)
[4. 504 Belt Council Notice](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-051-2024

[RES-24:054](#)

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ACCEPT A DRAINAGE EASEMENT FROM WILLIAM CHILDERS THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

Attachments: [Permanent Drainage Easement](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-052-2024

[RES-24:055](#)

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO

TO UTILIZE FEDERAL-AID MONIES FOR THE FOLLOWING PROJECT: HIGHWAY 49/CHRISTIAN VALLEY DRIVE INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

Attachments: [ArDOT 04302024](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-053-2024

[RES-24:060](#)

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 2024 Agreement](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-054-2024

[RES-24:061](#)

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 2024 Agreement](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-055-2024

[RES-24:062](#)

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH EAST ARKANSAS BROADCASTERS FOR RENTAL OF JOE MACK CAMPBELL SPORTS COMPLEX

Attachments: [JULY 4TH 2024 EAB](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-056-2024

[RES-24:063](#)

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH SAGA COMMUNICATIONS OF ARKANSAS LLC D/B/A JONESBORO RADIO GROUP FOR RENTAL OF SOUTHSIDE SPORTS COMPLEX

Attachments: [JULY 4TH 2024 JRG](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-057-2024

[RES-24:066](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO ACCEPT A FY2023 SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL GRANT AWARD FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND APPROPRIATE GENERAL FUND RESERVES

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-058-2024

[RES-24:068](#)

A RESOLUTION DECLARING AN EXCEPTIONAL SITUATION AND WAIVING THE REQUIREMENTS OF COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR REPLACEMENT OF THE FIRE STATION #3 ROOF, 2212 BRAZOS, WHICH WAS DAMAGED DURING A HAIL STORM ON MAY 22, 2024

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-059-2024

RESOLUTIONS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

[RES-24:064](#)

A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN FOR THE JONESBORO PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Attachments: [Sloan email 05162024](#)

Councilmember David McClain said, I have a question. Mayor Copenhaver asked Parks Director Danny Kapales to come forward. I think you wanted to address a question that was brought up earlier and make a correction on the Beatrice Park. Is that correct? Mr. Kapales said, yeah, I believe there is a section in there on the Beatrice Park where it stated that it was a purchase and it should have stated it was acquired, that piece of property because that was donated as opposed to being a purchase. So, that needs to be adjusted or amended within the plan. I'll do a request on that to be adjusted.

Councilmember David McClain said, the main question I had in both of these Master Parks Plan and Health Accelerator Plan, in the past, when we are adopting a plan, I am curious as to why we put it as a resolution instead of reading it three times via an ordinance. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, we looked at the ones that we passed in the past. The ones that we adopted by ordinance we thought had more included in them that gave actual guidance that would need to be, I mean you can give the specifics, I can't remember right now but it's not illegal to adopt them by resolution. Right, it is allowable to adopt them by resolution or an ordinance. But, I feel like it had more like actual guidelines for how things were to be done than the others as opposed to a plan. Chief Administrative Officer Brian Richardson said, yeah, our, Carol and I's conversation was that like the One Jonesboro Plan contained, was adopted by reference that had that very specific, technical data that couldn't be detailed such as cross sections and street types and path widths. It was highly technical as far as street cross sections go that would be implemented through that plan. So, this is more of a guidance type plan and the technical data will come later as you do individual park plans as far as drawings and schematics. Mayor Copenhaver said, and at that point in time, it would be done under ordinance. Ms. Duncan asked, does that make sense? Councilmember McClain said, no. Ms. Duncan said, of course not. Councilmember McClain said, I am just trying again to understand the bike or the One Jonesboro Plan has been referenced. I understand that we had technical things in there. Ms. Duncan said, it had more technical to the point of like this is how wide you are going to build this, this is what it is going to look like, this is how, you know, it had that type of technical stuff in it that we adopted via ordinance because that was going to be the rules people had to follow when they developed those pathways. That was the difference. I mean, really, it can go either way. It can be a resolution or it can be a ordinance.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, can I ask a question? So, that really kind of stems to my question that I was going to ask. My concern was even in the prior committee meeting was this plan does not give specifics. We are not parks experts

and so on and so forth. And, so, my concern was with the plan, is that it does give just generalities and I understand some of those details. But, what is the point in adopting the plan if it's just a general recommendation and it's not telling us, okay you need to consider this and do that. To me, based on the questions that I asked the gentleman, what are specific needs, the areas, you know, what are you suggesting? Okay, you are telling us you want us to consider this area, but what in that area? So, I don't understand the purpose of even adopting a plan if it is not giving us specifics and it is generalities. Can you help me in understanding that? Councilmember Joe Hafner said, you can answer, I mean, I have a comment and a question. Mayor Copenhagen said, I think ultimately through this the community was asking for direction in what would be our overall viewpoint of where our parks are, what our parks are doing, how we are connecting our parks, what are the future things. We are missing out on inclusivity in many of our parks. It gives us directions and I think they did prioritize. I can't quote the page number on specific areas that we need to address in our community pretty quickly with parks. And, then to what degree we need the evolution of those parks. So, it does give us guidance and priorities that we will be bringing back for to council based off of the information that was provided to us because if we don't have that information, then the other question is going to be how are you getting your information. What is the reason for having a park in east Jonesboro, north Jonesboro, as a priority and what needs to be accessed in that area. So, again, this is a guidance for us as a community to say yes, we have done this. We visited other parks and utilizing those concepts and ideas of what other communities are doing, it will provide us a road map that we will provide you then more details on with your help of the priorities of those each parts of our communities that will be addressed.

Councilmember Hafner said, thank you. I will say that the appendixes do offer specific recommendations for each park, each current park. It provides cost estimates for those repairs or improvements. I think it offers programming recommendations, you know, programs that are performing greatly or very successful programs that are not as successful as they may be once were that maybe we need to look at. But, they are not directives. They are recommendations. I think, you know, when you look at the \$4.8 million or \$4.9 million, whatever it is of improvements that need to be made to our current parks, some of them, like in the Beatrice Park case, you know, some of them may be a little bit premature or not how it is going to be handled because of the deed restrictions and things like that. But, I do think it, you know, like in the overview, it doesn't get specific, but in the appendixes, there are some very specific recommendations and directions that are given to us. As far as it being a resolution versus an ordinance, this process has been going on for months, a year, over a year. It got in front of public services two months ago. I can't remember exactly when. So, there has been a lot of time for discussion in committee. I think questions were ran the first time in public services, it was a presentation where we were able to ask questions and then the next time it was it, it was on the actual agenda. That was another time we were able to ask questions. So, to me, this is a little bit like a budget. Budgets aren't exactly. They are temporary. This is, hopefully, a little bit of a longer term than just a yearly budget, but, to me, I don't really understand if it's adopted by resolution or adopted by ordinance, what difference that it holds as far as the legal ramifications of it. Ms. Duncan said, it doesn't. I mean those are both legal, right. They both give guidance to the city. I always think of ordinances typically as things that are changing something in our code, those, if you have something that was adopted by ordinance previously, obviously you would amend it by ordinance. It's usually something that's making a change to our code. You also, if you have anything attached to it that you are adopting by reference, you know if you don't publish the whole entire thing, if you adopt something by reference by placing copies in the Clerk's office, you have to do that by ordinance. You can't do that by resolution. Some of them

are just rules like that that apply that require it to be an ordinance versus a resolution. But, typically, I think of things that we codify that go into our code and whether parts of them are going to go into our code. It could be that the previous one could have been done by resolution, we just didn't for whatever reason. But, legally, I think that it doesn't change. Councilmember Hafner said, that was one of my earlier questions was why are we doing this one by resolution instead of by ordinance. Ms. Duncan said, it doesn't really change the force and effect of it. But, all of these are just plans. It is sort of like the Land Use Plan. It is an ongoing moving document. Sometimes when we adopt a Land Use Plan in one direction, we think that the growth is going to be in this part of the city and then all of a sudden, the growth is in this part of the city and it kind of changes and we end up changing our Land Use Plan. They are all guidance and plans. We try to follow them as best we can or make changes, but I don't know if it, legally, I don't think there's a big difference.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, I would just like to comment and say that my question while I understand the response somewhat, to me, I could receive it as cynical, but I wasn't asking the question as if I didn't understand. It was just I had specific questions regarding the plan itself. And, so, that's what I was really referencing, not holistically the fact that I do understand that we do need a plan and we need direction. Thank you. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you councilman. Thank you Danny.

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

Aye: 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Enactment No: R-EN-060-2024

[RES-24:065](#)

A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE JONESBORO HEALTH ACCELERATOR PLAN FOR THE JONESBORO PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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

Aye: 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Enactment No: R-EN-061-2024

[RES-24:048](#)

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING FREE UTILITY SERVICES FROM CITY WATER AND LIGHT FOR TRAFFIC SIGNALS

Councilmember John Street asked that the record reflect that he is recusing himself from discussion and voting on RES-24:048 due to his membership on the CWL Board of Directors. Councilmember Joe Hafner stated he would like to thank City, Water and Light. Mayor Copenhagen noted absolutely, they are a great partner.

Councilmember David McClain had no recorded vote because he removed himself from the Chamber before voting and discussion on this matter.

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

Aye: 10 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent: 1 - David McClain

Recused: 1 - John Street

Enactment No: R-EN-062-2024

[RES-24:049](#)

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING FREE UTILITY SERVICES FROM CITY WATER AND LIGHT FOR CITY-OWNED PROPERTY

Councilmember John Street asked that the record reflect that he is recusing himself from discussion and voting on RES-24:049 due to his membership on the CWL Board of Directors.

Councilmember David McClain had no recorded vote because he removed himself from the Chamber before voting and discussion on this matter.

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

Aye: 10 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent: 1 - David McClain

Recused: 1 - John Street

Enactment No: R-EN-063-2024

6. NEW BUSINESS

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-24:015](#)

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTED PURSUANT TO ACT 1112 OF 2017, AND APPLICABLE ABC REGULATIONS APPROVING THE RESTAURANT PRIVATE CLUB APPLICATION OF BRICK OVEN OF JONESBORO, INC. D/B/A LA TORCIA BRICK OVEN PIZZA AT 604 E. HIGHLAND DRIVE, JONESBORO, CRAIGHEAD COUNTY, ARKANSAS

Attachments: [Brick Oven Application_Redacted](#)
 [Publication Receipt](#)

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

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

Nay: 1 - Janice Porter

Enactment No: O-EN-019-2024

[ORD-24:016](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE APPROVAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR THE ARTS ANNEX INC.

Attachments: [Application Redacted](#)
 [Publication Receipt](#)

Councilmember Joe Hafner stated I would like to say something. At the last meeting I think I inadvertently kind of got lost in the weeds when I was asking about the food. I think we are only supposed to look at, as council, we are supposed to look at location and the people on the application. And, also, it was brought to my attention that, you know, we've already dealt with this once this year. Back on February 6th, we approved the transfer of a license from the Parsonage, is that correct?, not the Parsonage. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I don't remember where it came from. Councilmember Hafner said, we approved the transfer of a license to this location for the same applicant, but I think that there was an issue with the license or something so it came back to us and we approved that 11-0. So, it's not the first time this has been in front of us. I think that if there is any issues outside of our scope that the ABC will deal with that at the appropriate time. So, I didn't mean to get lost in the weeds last time. Ms. Duncan stated, I think the issue with ABC was that a permit can only be inactive for a short amount of time and by the time they got through our process and back to ABC, they were like a month or so outside that scope. So, it had been inactive for too long which required them to go back through the new process to have a new application. I believe that is what happened. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you council. Councilmember Hafner said, I'm sorry. I said the Parsonage. I know that is not right.

James Elwin Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, said, I didn't speak on the other one because I needed to reserve most of to this one. And, by the way, I want you all to know, it seems like you all say, actually, we don't approve these, we just send them onto ABC, but you know what happens? Have you ever been to an ABC Board meeting on any of these? All they do is pretty much rubberstamp whatever and they say the City Council decided this. You all need to get with ABC and decide who is actually doing the granting of the permit. They say it is you. You say it is them. Nobody wants to accept responsibility. This is a facility that most of the time is used for children and folks, to have this and say well when the kids are present we will keep the liquor cabinet locked, is just not good enough. We do not need this facility that is used most of the time for children, but then after the children leave, we break out the liquor. Please vote against this one. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you sir.

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

Aye: 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Enactment No: O-EN-020-2024

[ORD-24:017](#)

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 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 6103 DALTON FARMER DRIVE FROM R-1 TO I-1 AS REQUESTED BY JOHN EASLEY ON BEHALF OF FARMER ENTERPRISES

Attachments: [Ordinance and Plat](#)
 [Staff Summary - CC](#)
 [jeasley](#)

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

Enactment No: O-EN-021-2024

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported on the following:

I'll try to keep this simple. I know you all have been here for quite a while today.

So, summer is in full swing and now we have a new pool. Jonesboro residents are utilizing and summer is here. So, the heat is here. We celebrated the grand opening at the pool at Parker Park on Friday and were joined by many of the community. I want to say a special thanks to Danny Kapales and his staff for all of their hard work in preparing the pool to have it open for this summer. As a matter of fact, Danny, I want to go ahead and extend it to Engineering and many other departments as well that participated to make sure that the opening of the park is a reality. So, Craig, I am even giving you a shout out there buddy. So, I appreciate your staff's hard work on that to make that a reality and stay on top of the architects and that project coming to fruition. I know it was a dream project to Dr. Charles Coleman and he was one of the first to wade off. I hope you saw him on the front page. You couldn't miss it. But, again, this is a reality and it's due to communication. It's a zero entry pool. And, again, I am having a hard time getting those legs out of my mind. But, as we move forward, councilmembers that were present were Dr. Charles Coleman, Ann Williams, Dr. Anthony Coleman, Janice Porter, and John Street. And, I want to say thank you for officially opening and helping us open the pool. It was wonderful. We had a great crowd there with city staff, community leaders, and dozens of kids were ready to dive in. It was heartwarming to see the line of children lining up. It is a wonderful facility. I did want to give a shout out to LaToshia Woods who did the honors of cutting the ribbon on the new pool in memory of late Councilman Rennell Woods who advocated so highly for our Jonesboro youth. I want to say thank you to Bailey Construction team and Brackett-Kennerich Architectural Firm for their hard work to take the design of this facility. And, folks, we completed that in under a year. So, that was a great feat, especially in this day and time. Projects like this are not only to improve the quality of life in Jonesboro, but to provide activities for our young people, keeping them safe and productive. The pool opening was a monumental event that many of us drove straight from Little Rock where we came from AML Summer Conference. I want to thank the councilmembers who joined us as well at that conference. It's always encouraging to gather and hear from city leaders, Mayors, and experts as we continue to find solutions for our challenges. And, that is good to know that Jonesboro, though, isn't alone. Many cities are finding themselves facing similar challenges as Jonesboro. And, I must say, many more difficult situations. We are a very fortunate community and people really lean on us for a lot of ideas and support for their communities as well throughout the state. And, I want to say that is a due reflection on all of our city employees because

they work to make this community better. And, I appreciate our city employees.

Speaking about outstanding employees, our city June Employee of the Month was Teresa Shaver. She's a quiet one. She is behind the scenes. Nobody knows who Teresa is. She remains, though, a consistent and constant presence bringing balance and experience. She's ASTATE's biggest fan and we are thankful for First Security Bank for sponsoring the Salute to the City Award and employees like Teresa who embody our motto, Jonesboro always moving.

Jonesboro is home now to some of the finest and always residents. I was able to honor one of our own, Christie McNeill, with a key to the city in celebration and appreciation of her 60-years as owner and dance instructor of Christie McNeill Dance Studio. McNeill closed the curtain with a final performance celebrating her retirement on May 18th at the Jonesboro High School Performing Arts Center. Now, get these figures. McNeill's influence within the community has impacted over 400,000 lives through her dance career of 60 years. We are thankful for her measurable impact on the lives of so many of our local families.

June marks half way through the year and as I mentioned before it is hard to believe that. In our monthly Neighborhood Clean-Up Service continues to grow. Now, in reflection to what we had a presentation earlier on mosquito control, keep this in mind. In the first six months, we have collected 57 tons of trash, almost 58 tons of trash and 512 tires. We have already collected in six months of 2024 more than we did on tires of all of 2023. That was, I think, 473 tires, and we are already over 500 tires. We want to keep fighting those mosquitoes and so the community is doing their jobs. So, we have got to keep that going. So, please mark your calendars for the July cleanup on July 13th. We did move it to a second Saturday of the month due to a holiday weekend. It gives you a little bit more time to prepare for that.

The other upcoming events, we have got Juneteenth in Jonesboro Proclamation and Fireworks will take place tomorrow, that is Wednesday, June 19th at 8:30 p.m. at the Lions Club University Park. So, be prepared. There will be fireworks. So, I know we do have some residents that their animals will need taken care of that and be aware of the surroundings tomorrow evening.

The Grants Department is hosting the 3rd Outdoor Recreation Matching Grant Public Input Meeting. Again, this is for the public to come and attend and ask your questions from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on June 25th, at Allen Park Community Center. Your input is important. So, let your voice be heard for an inclusive playground structure.

The July Low Cost Pet Vaccination Clinic is coming up on July 13th. So, be sure to preregister by noon on July 10th for a \$10 shot clinic. Thank you to Animal Services and NAFA Rescue for their hard work to make sure these clinics are possible. And, I will give you an update on some of the animals that were not eligible for adoption due to an unsightly house several months ago, by the way, which has cost the city \$137,000 to upkeep those pets during this time. Over fifteen have now been adopted. So, we are proud to say we are moving in the right direction for that.

So, please make sure and take care of yourselves during the summer heat. Stay hydrated, stay weather aware, and please stay safe.

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Janice Porter said, I am very thankful for the opportunity to get to

attend the Arkansas Municipal League meetings. They are informative and very helpful and I appreciate the opportunity. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you councilmember.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, I want to thank the Mayor for my 25-year pin. I think it is the first one I have ever received since I have been on the council. So, I appreciate it Mayor. I appreciate you engaging ASU. I know David McClain and I have been asking for that. I am looking forward to their results with mosquitos. When it comes to quality of life, I can't imagine an item any higher on the list. So, I look forward to that. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you for your comments.

Councilmember Ann Williams said, I want to say the pool is beautiful and I have heard a lot of comments from people that have seen the pictures on the city's Facebook page, just marveling at how beautiful it is. It really is. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you.

Councilmember John Street said, the pool looks great. It is going to take a long time to get those legs of Dr. Coleman's out of my mind. Some of those things, once you see it, you can't unsee it. Too bad the Sun shared it with the community, but it was on the front page. I have gotten calls. I know some of you others may have too about the potholes. I know Steve Tippitt and the Street Department are working hard to take care of those. The winter was bad, but some of the streets that the city is catching blame for are actually highway department property. Everybody thinks that since they are driving in the city limits it is a city street. It is not. Check those things, but the state is working on it as well. It was a bad winter and everybody is working on repairing those as soon as they can. I think Craig can attest to that as well. But, asphalt is coming now. Hopefully a lot of those will get filled. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you councilman.

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

_____ Date: _____

Harold Copenhaver, Mayor

Attest:

_____ Date: _____

April Leggett, City Clerk