



# City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center  
300 S. Church Street  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

## Meeting Minutes Finance & Administration Council Committee

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Tuesday, September 28, 2021

4:00 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

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### 1. Call To Order

### 2. Roll Call by City Clerk April Leggett

**Present** 6 - Charles Coleman; Ann Williams; David McClain; LJ Bryant; Joe Hafner and Brian Emison

**Absent** 1 - John Street

### 3. Approval of minutes

[MIN-21:078](#) Minutes for the Finance Committee meeting on September 14, 2021

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

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

**Aye:** 5 - Charles Coleman; Ann Williams; David McClain; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - John Street

### 4. New Business

#### *ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED*

[ORD-21:044](#) AN ORDINANCE TO CONTRACT FOR PAYROLL AND HR SOFTWARE, WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND APPROPRIATE FUNDS

**Sponsors:** Human Resources

**Attachments:** [Vendor Selection SyncHR](#)  
[Master Subscription Agreement SYNC HR](#)  
[SyncHR by PrimePay Proposal for City of Jonesboro](#)  
[Email from Frank McNamara at PrimePay 09222021](#)

*Human Resource Director Dewayne Douglas explained that by switching to the SyncHR software we would be consolidating outdated software systems into one unified platform, improving the process for human resources and payroll. It is our goal to eliminate the manual process and minimize mistakes, ensure accuracy, and improve*

visibility across departments and systems. Employees will have access to all of their information in one easy to use application. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman commented that he liked the program, but more importantly wanted to know if there would be additional upgrade cost since this is a cloud based software. Mr. Douglas explained that the cost would be covered out of the normal operating daily basis. The only time extra fees would come into play is if we had to ask them to do some type of special reporting specific to us, thus resulting in man hours. Mayor Harold Copenhaver asked Mr. Douglas to explain the security features of the software. Mr. Douglas commented that he feels very confident with the security features of this software. By eliminating the other six software tools that we currently use, makes this a much safer option for securing cloud based data.

**A motion was made by Councilperson Charles Coleman, seconded by Councilperson LJ Bryant, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - John Street

[ORD-21:046](#)

AN ORDINANCE LEVYING A TAX UPON THE GROSS RECEIPTS OF PREPARED FOODS BY ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE CITY OF JONESBORO; PRESCRIBING THE PROCEDURE FOR THE COLLECTION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE TAX; PRESCRIBING THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH REVENUES DERIVED FROM COLLECTION OF THE TAX MAY BE USED; AND PRESCRIBING OTHER MATTERS PERTAINING THERETO

**Attachments:** [handout](#)  
[ORD-21-046 emails](#)

A&P Chairman Jerry Morgan, 1108 Dove, Jonesboro. The A&P commission was established in 1973 by the City of Jonesboro. The A&P commission falls under state statues, there is very specific state guidelines that all of the cities adhere to. So, there is dual control of the city and the state statues. The commission is comprised of seven members, we have four owners and managers of businesses in the tourism industry, currently three are restaurant owners, one is a restaurant and hotel owner, we have two city council members and one at large member from the public, which is myself. The purpose of the A&P Commission is to promote tourism in the city and to provide a positive economic impact on the business in the City of Jonesboro through the funding and promotion of advertising events held in the city. The use of the funds have very specific criteria for what they can and cannot be used for. They are not allowed to be used in the city's general fund. All of the funds that we have collected over the years are segregated into their own A&P line item and the A&P makes the decision on where those funds go. Our current funding source is a 3% tax on hotels, we bring in on average about \$641,000 per year, we fund multiple organizations such as the foundation of arts, HIJINX bowling tournaments, downtown Jonesboro events, Hispanic community events, disk golf tournaments, et-cetera. Some of the major projects that we have done over the years that we are quite proud of is the Joe Mack Campbell Park turf project where we did a \$1.1million improvement with the participation of the city, and the Jonesboro Baseball Boosters Club. We also helped fund upgrades to the Southside Softball Complex with new lighting system and other upgrades including new bathrooms and backstops. So, every year we are continuously making improvements on those facilities. One of the largest projects that we are quite proud of is the Embassy Suites Convention Center. As you know we did a \$2.5million reimbursement over ten years. Basically the tax revenue that that facility brings in we

*turn around and reimburse it back to them for qualified A&P and tourism and convention center expenses. So, basically the city is out no funds on that project.*

*Up until recently we did not have any full-time employees, we are all volunteer. Most cities has more than one employee, some have several employees. Some cities run their full convention centers, and visitor bureaus. Little Rock has 30 to 40 employees, North Little Rock has 10 or 15 employees that run their parks department. Again, we have been all volunteer, we do have one part-time person Christy Appleton, she has done a great job with the grants coordination, and we just hired Renee Golas as a Sports Marketing Coordinator, she is our first full-time employee. Mr. Morgan went on to explain the A&P collections for other cities in Arkansas, Jonesboro fell into the 11th spot for collections in 2020, several of those top cities have a prepared food tax, we do not, and as you can see on this slide there is a significant difference in our collection and theirs. This is how they are funding the majority of the Parks and Recreation Departments. All of the other comparison slides that follow in this power point, you will see what other cities hotel and prepared food tax revenues have brought in, along with their current general sales tax, all are higher than what we are, so, you can kind of see the disparity of where we are. The proposal by the A&P Commission is two-fold, we want to implement a 2% prepared food tax to be used for the construction and operations of a Community Indoor Sports Complex. The estimated income from the tax is \$2.9 million per year. Second increase the current 3% hotel tax to 4%. This increase would bring in an additional estimated \$225,000 to \$275,000 per year. These funds would be designated towards the sports complex and towards existing park facilities.*

*Parks and Recreation Director Danny Kapales explained that the next slides shows the different types of facilities in Arkansas and around the country. These are just some ideas of the types of facilities that Jonesboro could have, it is also why we need a feasibility study done. All of the facilities that you see in these slides range in size, cost and amenities within the facility itself, but, all have one thing in common and that is the positive economic impact they provide. Youth sports is the fastest growing segment of travel, and communities are supporting health and wellness. In 2017 \$15.3billion was spent on sports tourism, which is a 55% growth since 2010. The average family spends about \$800 per weekend on a sports travel event, that money could be spent in our community. I have travel teams renting our current facilities every evening, and when I pull up to those facilities I see other kids waiting outside just so that they can go in to use them, when the travel teams are done practicing. By building a sports facility complex we will pull those travel teams into it, and give the community centers back to the neighborhood families and kids like they were intended to be used, to go in and enjoy. 70% of children 6 to 17 are playing team sports. We have the athletes that other cities want to compete with, we just need the facility to play in. One of the biggest comments that I heard as I visited some of these facilities is that they wished they had built them bigger. So, as we look at this we don't need to build a good facility, we need to build a great facility. The next sheet is some comparison numbers from 2019, which was an up year compared to 2021 numbers. We have 10,000 youths competing in just youth sports alone. Those are the kids that are looking for that facility, those are the kids and families leaving every weekend. I want to touch on our elementary basketball for just a moment. Just in elementary basketball alone our big number was 536 kids. Those are some of the kids that are going to be our future, and by having a facility like we vision that brings every elementary kid to Northeast Arkansas to Jonesboro, to have a place to be able to compete. One of the hardest parts for elementary sports is looking for a space to play and practice in. We would have that with this type of facility in Jonesboro. You can keep going down the list and see the numbers, you realize that when you give us a facility we know what to do with it, we just need the facility to be able to do it with. One of the other sports that we*

*struggle with is volleyball tournaments. When I say struggle, I mean that I have to go to different gyms around the city to set it up. My Fridays, when we have a tournament is running from one court to the other and setting them up, and a lot of times it is anywhere from 2:00 a.m. to 4:00 a.m. before the set-up is complete, then we start the games at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday and play into the evening and then it is tear down time, and that goes into the early morning hours of Sunday. If we have this type of facility like other cities have we will just have to go in lower the nets and be ready for 250 teams, instead of capping it at 80 teams because that is all we can handle. With 250 teams you are looking at an approximate economic impact of \$500,000 every weekend, we could have six or eight of those tournaments in Jonesboro easily. We can also do that with AAU basketball.*

*Mayor Harold Copenhaver asked Mr. Kapales to give a quick overview to all of the citizens that are in this room on the impact of people that came to our city this past weekend for different types of events. Mr. Kapales said that we had close to 70 teams here for softball. In talking with someone that had gone out for supper to one of the local restaurants that evening, the person stated that when they pulled into the parking lot it looked fairly empty and thought there would not be a long wait, not realizing that there was a couple of buses out there and the wait was one hour. We had 1500 kids out at the soccer fields this weekend along with flag football. There were 15 teams for the 1st inaugural trap shoot meet at the Shooting Sports Complex. This was the second weekend of us actually being open, and what did we have, we had a tournament. Again, you give us a facility, we will make sure it is full, we will make sure it is active, and we will make sure that our citizens are actually using it. We fill up the city with what we have, and we will fill up the city even more given the opportunity. This up-coming weekend there will be another tournament and camp out at the softball complex, along with a 70-team baseball tournament at Joe Mack Campbell. You will also see soccer and football at Joe Mack as well. We also will have a disk golf tournament out a Craighead Forrest Park. Come out to our parks, and you can see the activity that is happening in our city and the economic impact that it is having.*

*Mr. Morgan explained that with the events that we have had so far this year we have seen a significant increase in our hotel tax revenue, which also carries over into retail shopping. So far this year through August we have seen an \$114,000 increase over 2020 on hotel tax revenue. Obviously we had a lot of things canceled, travel was shut down, and that is a very hard one to compare it to. But, if you compare it to 2019, which was a normalized year as far as tournaments, for the first 8 months in 2019 we had brought in \$442,000, and so far for the first 8 months in 2021 we have brought in \$486,000, that is an increase of over \$43,000. What we are doing is working, and what we will do with this facility will work even more, plus it will be a huge addition to our city. The project timeline, running two items at the same time we will request the approval of this tax, obviously that is going to take some work on the city's part to help us with those collection efforts in getting that started, also, it will help us establish an estimated amount that will come in each month. We think that that process will take anywhere from six to eight months to do. We need that time frame and those collections to be able to go to the bonding company and show them our history before we can bond a facility and start construction. Also, during that same time frame the A&P Commission will be conducting a feasibility study, we will send out RFP's to companies that do these around the nation. Estimated cost to do that is going to be anywhere from \$45,000 to \$50,000. Obviously I'd love to save that money, I'd love to be able to say, hey we need twelve volleyball courts, 24 basketball courts, and an aquatic center. I can't tell you, and I don't think it's fair for the A&P Commission to tell you the citizens of Jonesboro what's best for the city. So, these companies will come in and evaluate our area, our market, our geographic area, look at competitive*

*analysis, what venues we already have in our town so that we are not duplicating that. They will give us the best type of sports to put in it, the type of facility the location, a timeline for the project, and that will also help us with the estimated cost of the operations and maintenance of the facility, that way we can figure all of that into the process at the same time that we are beginning the tax collections. I think it's all very well understood that we need this facility, we have talked about this for ten years, if not more. The last five years that I have been on the A&P Commission, Bill Hurt has always set to the right of me saying we need a prepared food tax and sports facility. The feasibility study will tell us the items that's listed here, make sure we do it right, and make sure we get it right for the citizens of Jonesboro. Also, during this time we will ask for naming rights, sponsorships, I think there is some potential that we could get a major sponsor to name the facility after. I have ask the Mayor to give us a lot of money for that, so we are hoping we can do that. I think a lot of people are just sitting back and thinking we've done a lot of projects before, we've talked about a lot of projects but, we've never gone through with them. I think if people see that this is going to happen and that the funding is actually going to be there that they will come through with us.*

*Once the items listed here, the A&P Commission will make a final recommendation to the City Council for approval of bonding for the facility. This plan will have overall cost estimates, location information, operating and maintenance cost projections, and a request for a bond approval to construct and pay for the facility. It will take final approval from the City Council to approve the bond and start the facility. In the next slide you can see the benefits of bringing outside visitors to Jonesboro, I could sit here and talk for over an hour on each one of these. A lot of these are common since and we have talked about them over and over again, and the same goes for the existing citizens of Jonesboro. We have statistics from across the nation for everything we have talked about here this evening. All of them have the same theme, youth sports is not going away. Youth sports is one of the major economic drivers of tourism in our nation right now. It was kind of one of the first things that pulled towns out of the recession from COVID, people start traveling with youth sports quicker than anything. The Jonesboro A&P Commission has been a great steward of the tax payer's money and we respectfully request approval of our request to forward this onto the City Council. Bottom line is what do you want Jonesboro to look like? That is what we are asking today, and we would ask for your approval.*

*Councilmember David McClain asked how many restaurant owners were on the A&P Commission. Mr. Morgan stated that four served on the commission. Mr. McClain then asked if they were all in support of this, Mr. Morgan stated yes. Councilmember McClain said when you mentioned that youth sports was one of the driving factors that got small towns out of the COVID Fog. In the article it states that youth sports investing in these types of projects is competing with the NFL, as far as a \$19billion market in the United States. The NFL is a \$15billion industry, these numbers are fascinating to me. Thank you for the presentation, I believe this is a tell-tell sign of our future and where we should head.*

*Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman commented that he has personally known and has been fighting for this as well, and my statements have become redundant. We have a population of 85,000 or more in this town and we have one open swimming pool. As far as I am concerned that is an embarrassment, it does not make since to me. We have a lot more children moving into Jonesboro and I think the census is wrong, we have a lot more people living in Jonesboro then people actually know. I think if we don't do something we are going to have more problems than what we have now.*

*Trey Harding, 4901 Inverness Run. I am the Athletic Director for Jonesboro High School. We hosted a 14-team volleyball tournament this weekend, it is usually one that we host at ASU. Financially we have not been able to do so. We scaled that down, because we had to actually pay Valley View to use their facility because their facility is one of the largest. We had it so spread out that you had to pay more for extra security at each gym, and then you had extra gate and concession workers that you had to pay. If we had a facility like what is being talked about this could have been a 60-team tournament. It has been proven that the more kids participate in sports the better their grades are, and they are more likely to stay out of trouble. I love trying to get kids to participate in things. One of the things that is dying at JHS is our swim team, and that is because during COVID we do not have a place to go and practice. Some kids were able to get memberships to local Athletic Centers and practice on their own. But, looking at this past year and into the future we do not have a place to practice swim. Between volleyball and basketball we are looking at over 50 team sports just in Jonesboro Public Schools and we don't have that many facilities to work with. I talk with Danny just about every day trying to get and help him with gym space. We both are having to turn teams away. Someone told me that there is a local AAU Basketball team that drives to Osceola just to practice. A city this size with the sports history that it has should support a facility like this, and be proud of it.*

*Kraig Pomerence with Embassy Suites Hotel. We are actually sold out tonight and have a Convention going on in the hotel. This tax if it would have been in place over the last 12-months would have generated over \$75,000 in tax revenue just from my hotel. I think Mr. Morgan was saying \$641,000 is what the tax brought in last year. \$75,000, that is 11% out of one building, and guess what, they are all from out of town. They are all going to spend the money, they are all going to pay the tax. People in Jonesboro can certainly choose if they want to go out and eat and save on the tax, but people in our hotel they've got to do it and they don't bat an eye at it. I would strongly encourage you to do this. The taxes are there and the facility has got to be done. I have worked in a lot of different markets and I have seen a lot of different places and these facilities always pay for themselves.*

*Pattie Lack, 4108 Forrest Hill Road, Jonesboro. I just want to first commend Danny, I think he does a really good job. We are looking at a Sports Complex and thinking about investing in, and looking at some of those complexes in the slides that he presented ran from \$5million all the way up to \$49million. I think there was only one of them that had a swimming pool on it. So, I guess my question is during the feasibility study are we going to be specific in asking what this facility is going to hold? Looking at the ordinance it says that the tax is going to be starting at the beginning of next year, but, what Mr. Morgan said is that it is going to take 6 to 12 months to implement and 2022 is coming up on us very quickly. Is this tax going to go away after a certain period of time? City Attorney Carol Duncan commented that there is no sun set clause on this tax, meaning it will not end. Chairman Joe Hafner also stated that he believed that no other town in Arkansas has a sun set clause written into their prepared food tax ordinance. Mrs. Lack said okay. If this place opens up and it starts making a profit, who gets the profit, is it the A&P Commission or is it the City? Mr. Hafner explained that he thought the feasibility study will have answers for that. I think at the beginning of Mr. Morgan's presentation he said that in some cities the A&P Commission ran the complexes and in other cities the city ran it. It could also be a hybrid method. If it turns a profit that is something that will have to be worked out between the city and the A&P Commission. Mrs. Lack stated my last question is on the collection of funds. The money comes in, how does the money go out? Mr. Hafner explained that it would be just like now, the money that comes in is dedicated to the A&P fund and they dictate how the money is spent. Mrs. Lack asked if there is two signatures required for*

*withdraw. Mr. Morgan came back to the podium to try to explain some of Mrs. Lack's concerns. Again, I think we all agree that an aquatics center is needed in Jonesboro and I think the study will show that. I said it once and I'll say it again, it would be prudent for me to get up here and say what I think Jonesboro needs, that is why we are going to hire a company. I don't want to spend the money, but I think it is wise to do so. I spoke with Ms. Duncan with regards to implementation of the tax and it will take about 2-months to get that process set up, we will try to start collections at the first of the year. Ms. Duncan explained that if you think about the fact that it is going to go through this committee and then 3-readings through the City Council Committee, and then it will take 30-days to go into effect after that we will essentially be at January 1. It would work the same way that we collect other A&P taxes now. I'm sure that the finance department can explain that more if needed. Mr. Morgan stated as far as the profit from the facility, we are greedy the A&P Commission would like to keep it all and give it back out. There is a very good dual control within the city and the A&P Commission, those funds that come in, we review those and we want all of those monies and funds to go back into recreation for our city. We will be watching that with the City Council also. We are very fortunate in having a great City Finance Team that handles the A&P funds. We get a designation, we know how much money is coming in, but we know that they write the checks for us, we have dual control there. They also do the collections for us, a lot of the A&P commissions have to hire that out separately. The City of Jonesboro does a significant amount for the A&P Commission for free that most other A&P Commissions have to pay for. As far as the outflow of the funds we never touch cash, I never touch cash, we never sign checks, what we do as a Commission we vote on where the money goes, we have quarterly meetings, all of those things are approved by the full Commission and then we request those funds to be sent out by the City's Finance Team. We also report quarterly back to the A&P Commission all the funds that go out, the city sends us a monthly report of all of the funds that go out and the collections. We are also reviewed annually by Legislative Auditors.*

*Howard Weinstock, 208 Wilkins Avenue. This is a fund raising letter that was published in August. I am going to speak on behalf of some people who cannot make ends-meat, and I am also going to speak on behalf of people that just don't feel like it is their obligation to fund something with tax payer's money that is better served by the private sector. 49% of people living in our coverage area struggle to make ends-meat at the end of each month. 19% live at or below the federal poverty level, and the other 30% qualify as ALICE (Asset Limited, Income, Constrained, Employed). They are working and have an income above the federal poverty level, but they are struggling to have a livable, survivable budget. Again, this is August as of the census, there is about 20% that are below the poverty level for a total of 50% of poverty in ALICE. ALICE households are typically those essential workers who prove to be so critical during the COVID pandemic. We realized over the last 18-months just how vital they are to our community but they don't make a livable wage. Many of the clients served in our funded programs are these essential workers who are not able to cover monthly bills when they have an unexpected expense or emergency. Some of our funded programs assist with appropriate work clothing, childcare, food and other basic necessities that can help individuals and families get back on their feet. A lot of people just can't afford this little 2% tax, it's as blunt as that. I would guess that every single person, probably up there, but also out here knows that the United Way does things for the entire region and a big part of that is what we have here in Jonesboro. You've got this tax, and you've got the other tax going on. We just beat taxes two years ago on a one-cent tax increase and half of that was for Public Safety, we don't hear any more about that now.*

*Iris Stevens, Coordinator for the NEA Tea Party. This was a phenomenal sales job, you almost convinced me. I wanted to point out to Dr. Coleman, I agree with you 100%, it is awful that we in a city of this size has basically one part-time pool. I have been saying it for years, where is there a pool in North Jonesboro, East Jonesboro, where's a pool in South Jonesboro that we can have our neighborhood kids walk to go swimming and things like that. That doesn't mean that we can't have a facility or team sports, but we are not even doing things for our neighborhood kids that we used to have. I know, my kids grew up here in town. They could walk to the YMCA, I have walked to Earl Bell to swim. We don't have that now, why? Another thing that I have a problem with, this is the number one thing that people have been getting into contact with me about. This comment was in the Jonesboro Sun, unlike general use and sales taxes advertising and promotion taxes can be levied without voter approval. So, basically you take money out of our pockets but we didn't get to vote on it. I know it's supposedly representative, but that's an issue with a lot of people. I am going to state some facts, as well as my own opinion. You are going to be asking for a tax before a feasibility study, you ask for the tax because you need the money to pay for the feasibility study, but yet Jonesboro's coffers are overflowing right now. That is according to your own material and your own website and the Jonesboro Sun. This has happened once before a couple of years ago. Before the tax payers even knew what the specifics were for what they were going to be paying for they were asked to write a check. If the feasibility study were to come back negative, would that even happen, and since an entire city government is totally on board with this project that's not likely to happen.*

*But, if it did, then would we be paying this tax for the rest of our lives for something that was not going to be put in? I think this is backwards, let's do the feasibility study, get all of our facts together, specify what we are going to do, then ask the people to pay for the project. Once again this tax goes toward a want, it's a very nice want. I'm not saying, I have no problem with what they are proposing as far as the facility. But, it's still a want not a need. Where's the funding for those new Fires Stations coming from before our rates go up, that is not mentioned anywhere, we are not taking 2% out of our income for that, but are we going to have to when it becomes necessary when it gets right down to the time period? Yawl could answer me on that one if you would. Are you going to come back for another tax, because it's absolutely necessary that we fund the fire stations or our rates are going to go up? I don't see where we've been asked to fund any of those with this money. Chairman Joe Hafner stated for clarification, A&P funds cannot be used for general operations. Ms. Steven said, I know that. But, you see my point. As the city grows the sales tax income, and I know that they are separate, it's like a pile of money here, and a pile of money there, we used to do it in education. Sales tax automatically go along with it, we've seen that, automatic tax revenues from businesses. Inflation is increasing and this is affecting the people that are out there living that don't have a \$100,000 a year income. You know the ones with \$20,000, or \$30,000, \$40,000, and \$50,000 incomes. Inflation is increasing, according to most economic indicators right now 5.4%, which gives a leading annual rate of 3.444%, the highest since 1991, except for 1-year. That's inflation and it doesn't look like it is going down. According to the Jonesboro Sun, sales tax were up 16.15%. Sales tax collection received by the county was up more than 30% in 2020, for Craighead County that was over \$2million, that's about \$300,000 more than the same tax produced a year ago. Jonesboro's sales tax produced almost \$2million, up 13.4%. This don't even begin to tell us how the sports facility will be used, and that is what I have questions about. According to the sales pitch here you all wouldn't be able to answer these question until you get the feasibility study. Who gets to go, if I wanted to walk down to the corner and shoot hoops would I be able too, or would I have to buy a membership, what about my granddaughter does she get to zoom down and go swimming in one of the pools or will she have to buy a*



*membership, or does she have to sit back and wait for all of the tournaments and things like that to end? I have not seen any answers for those types of questions. Again, wouldn't it be better to have a feasibility study to answer all of those before we have a tax.*

*Katie Hill, 2201 Doral Drive, Jonesboro. I come her more on expert study of running large scale tournaments, and I am mainly here to speak on the economic impacts of something like this. Just 90-miles from here I run two tournaments in Memphis, back-to-back weekends in January. They did not stop for COVID. A tournament with 20 volleyball courts will bring in about 160 teams for the weekend, it is a 2-day event. Players and their parents stay overnight 2-nights. So, if you say you average let's say on the low end, especially here it's going to be about 70 to 80% of out of towners. You have to assume that some of the teams are going to be local. The numbers run anywhere from \$336,000 in hotel revenue for the weekend and up to \$450,000 for those teams coming in for one weekend. That's bringing in around 1600 players 2400 to 3600 parents, again on the low end. So, in food you are looking at about \$240,000 to \$340,000 for the weekend. This is a small scale tournament, this tournament that is run in Memphis it's over 2-weekends because we can't get all the teams in in one weekend, it is split up into two age groups, 14 and under, then 15 to 18 in order to accommodate that. So, it's really 320 teams that are coming in over 2-weekends. In 2-weekends that's about \$1.6million just from the out of towners. That doesn't include the citizens of Jonesboro going out to eat with their teams and spending money during the weekend because they are here for a tournament.*

*Tracey Owens, 2400 Paula Drive, Jonesboro. I am a restaurant owner, and I have also worked with children and students my entire life, I am also a member of the A&P Commission. I appreciate all the work that you all do, and I appreciate all the work that has been done just on the thought process of this. One of the comments that was made early on when we were talking about this was that it does give back to the local communities. We are going to be able to give back the Community Centers to the neighborhood children and that is very important. When I look around over the years of working with children having a group, someone to identify with that's positive with adult mentors that are near them, close at hand that is a positive thing. I know as a restaurant owner, I'll use the disk golf tournament as an example, when that tournament comes in our restaurant it is full and it's not just full for one meal it's full for several days, and that puts money into the pockets of people who work for me, then in turn they are going back out into the community and spending that money. When I look at the economic impact of the facilities very similar in size to what we are looking at, to hope what we can get, but the population of our town, my goodness we want to talk about being able to hire more people, to raise people out of poverty to give them more income, to give them jobs to go to, I think this is a win situation for all of us.*

*Howard Weinstock, 208 Wilkins. Just for clarification, you said that A&P money cannot be used in the general fund. Mr. Hafner said, correct. Then you said that at some point for profits that there could be money transferred from A&P to the general fund. Which then makes it available to whatever. The A&P money that I referred to is money raised from the alcohol tax, the money has to be used specifically for A&P purposes. City Attorney Carol Duncan commented that it would pretty much have to be Park and Recreation related, But, that would relieve money that's going from the general fund into the parks department. Mr. Weinstock appreciated the clarification.*

**A motion was made by Councilperson Charles Coleman, seconded by Councilperson David McClain, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - John Street

*RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED*

[RES-21:204](#)

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE 2021 BUDGET TO INCLUDE GRANT FUNDING FROM THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, HERITAGE AND TOURISM AND THE CITY MATCH TO DEVELOP UNION STREET PARK IN DOWNTOWN JONESBORO

**Sponsors:** Grants, Engineering and Parks & Recreation

**A motion was made by Councilperson Ann Williams, seconded by Councilperson Charles Coleman, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - John Street

[RES-21:208](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO APPLY FOR THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS AND RECORDS COMMISSION, ACCESS TO HISTORICAL RECORDS, ARCHIVAL PROJECTS GRANT

**Sponsors:** Grants and Parks & Recreation

**A motion was made by Councilperson Charles Coleman, seconded by Councilperson David McClain, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - John Street

[RES-21:209](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH THE ARKANSAS STATE POLICE AND ACCEPT THE 2022 SELECTIVE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM (STEP) SUBGRANT AWARD

**Sponsors:** Grants, Police Department and Finance

**A motion was made by Councilperson Ann Williams, seconded by Councilperson Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - John Street

[RES-21:210](#)

A RESOLUTION TO RETAIN EFS GEOTECHNOLOGIES FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO REVIEW CITY OF JONESBORO WARD BOUNDARIES AND OFFER GUIDANCE ON ANY NEEDED WARD ADJUSTMENTS TO ENSURE FAIR AND EQUAL ELECTORATE REPRESENTATION

**Sponsors:** Mayor's Office

**Attachments:**     [Jonesboro Mayor Redistricting Proposal 09222021](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Ann Williams, seconded by Councilperson LJ Bryant, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

**Aye:** 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - John Street

**5. Pending Items**

**6. Other Business**

**7. Public Comments**

**8. Adjournment**

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

**Aye:** 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 1 - John Street