



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, August 7, 2018

5:30 PM

Municipal Center

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

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

3. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK DONNA JACKSON

Present 10 - Ann Williams; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner and LJ Bryant

Absent 2 - Charles Frierson and David McClain

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

[COM-18:049](#)

QUARTERLY NEADC REPORT PRESENTATION BY MARK YOUNG, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE JONESBORO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Attachments: [NAIDC City Council Presentation 8-7-18.pdf](#)
[NAIDC Handout 08072018.pdf](#)

Mr. Mark Young, Executive Director of Jonesboro Chamber of Commerce, said good evening. Thank you for the opportunity to be here today. It is a pleasure to be with you and share some information about our economic development efforts, and we very much appreciate the support that you provide. The support that you provide to us enables us to invest in property for industrial development purposes. It's key to have the proper infrastructure in place, the proper land in place to support economic growth in our community. It enables us to market our community outside this region and, actually, around the world, as well. It also allows us to do things like fostering partnerships, building that infrastructure that we talked about, and supporting other activities that in general support the overall economic health of our community, and for that, we are very appreciative.

Mr. Young said this report reflects our activity between January and June, so for the first six months or the first two quarters. The report that you have is a little more in detail, but I'm going to give you some highlights tonight. I know that you have a very lengthy agenda and I appreciate your time, so I want to be respectful of your time. So, I'm going to cover some of the highlights and if you have any questions, I would be happy to answer them. In June, we hosted Risever's groundbreaking in our community. This is an important project for us. When it's complete, Risever will have 130 jobs and invest approximately \$20 million in our community. They will build a 125,000 square foot facility in the Craighead Technology Park. We are looking forward to them and a

year from now, for their completion of that project. The project continues to move forward and we're pleased to report that they will continue to do a great job, and we'll keep you all posted of their progress. During that same amount of time, we've responded to 20 business retention and expansion projects. As all of you know, we're very blessed to have many different existing industries in our community. We have over 96 manufacturers in Jonesboro in the MSA. It's important that we continue to spend time, energy, and effort to support those that we have to help them grow and expand. So, the 20 business retention and expansion number that you see are companies we are working with on expansion projects or in retention efforts as their companies continue to be successful here in our community. Also, during that period of time, we responded to 20 new inquiries. Those are manufacturing inquiries and technology inquiries. The process includes responding to requests for information or RFIs. We spent a significant amount of time making sure that companies who are interested in vesting in our community have the proper data that they need to make good decisions as they move forward. So, we've responded to 20 of those over the last six months, and we've had 14 prospect visits, but this does include a couple of companies who have made multiple visits to our community, and, obviously, the process typically would include us receiving an RFI or request for information during the inquiry process. They would then select communities to visit. Often times, there is a selection process or a process of elimination. The more of those, obviously, that we can have come to Jonesboro, the better off we are for those prospect visits. So, we're pleased with that number. It is in line with what we typically would see for six months of the year. These numbers represent a good two-quarter's, and we expect that to continue to move forward as we make progress.

Mr. Young said I also wanted to mention workforce development. As all of you know, making sure that we have a strong workforce is extremely important as we continue to make progress. A couple of activities that I will mention briefly include the wage and fringe benefits survey that we conduct on an annual basis. We typically do this in January. We provide that report to all of the companies that participate in that and we also use it in our recruitment efforts. We have found that that information is extremely helpful to our local companies as they make plans for the future, but it also gives those companies that we are working with a realistic idea of the kinds of wages and benefits that certain job classifications have in our community. It provides them with a leg up as they are trying to evaluate both labor availability and cost of labor as we move forward. At the top of the slide, you will see our Tek Starz camp. Tek Starz is a manufacturing camp for eighth-graders. We started this several years ago. Some of you may know Shelle Randall in our office. She heads this program up where we invite eighth-graders to come in and we talk to them for an entire week about the importance of manufacturing, the kinds of careers they can expect in manufacturing, what type of training they need, and all the difference careers that they might enter into. We partner with our area industry to do this so that our students understand the wide variety of job opportunities that we have right here in Jonesboro. I think a lot of people often are not familiar with the kinds of companies we have here and the job opportunities that are here across the board. So, our partners do a great job in that process and we appreciate their continued support. Lastly, I'll mention the teacher externship program. It is a program we're working on right now. It's a pilot program where we have teachers come in and participate. They will go into a facility for three days to learn and understand the kinds of jobs that are in those manufacturing settings and what kind of skills are required. We're hopeful that this will give them an opportunity to better understand all the different types of careers, the kind of skills that are needed, and they can take that back to their classroom and express to their students how they might be able to get involved and work with all the career paths that are here in Jonesboro, Arkansas.

Mr. Young said, also, the development of infrastructure is extremely important. I mentioned earlier the land development that goes on and that we continue to work on in the Craighead Technology Park. If you've not been to the industrial park, I would encourage you to do that. It's a great resource for us. The industrial park is 1,500 acres. We have to continue to make sure that we have the infrastructure to support the companies who would be interested in coming here. City, Water and Light has always been a great partner with us to make sure that we have that infrastructure – water, wastewater and electricity. Not just in capacity, but in cost. They do a phenomenal job and we're very appreciative of that. I want to mention the Rail Master Plan. The City of Jonesboro, back at the beginning of the year, initiated a Rail Master Plan, which was important. The city owns a railspur, basically from the Jonesboro Industrial Park all the way to the Craighead Technology Park. It links up with Burlington Northern Santa Fe's main line. One of the things that we wanted to look at as a community was what are the constraints? How can we make sure that moving forward five years from now or 10 years from now that infrastructure would continue to support the kinds of business and industry that we are trying to locate here? So, we've started that process. That is wrapping up. We have a great report that I'm sure Mayor Harold Perrin has shared. We are pleased with the information that was provided. We brought the rail users group or all those companies together to evaluate that and give us input on multiple occasions with the city. It was very helpful in that process to really understand what might be needed in the future, and making sure that we have rail storage is important and making sure that that rail is maintained in a certain way. The city has done a great job of that. Again, I thank you for your support with that infrastructure.

Mr. Young said, also, East Arkansas Good Roads participated in the unveiling of the future Interstate 57, and while that's not located directly in Jonesboro, we're roughly 16 miles from where that would be located. Being located on Interstate 555 is extremely important to us when we are working with our companies. This happened this week, actually. I was talking to a company and they wanted to know the proximity to an interstate, and when they looked at the map and saw we are on I-555, that made a difference to them. Being 16 miles, hopefully in the future, to Interstate 57, is a tremendous asset for us, as well. So, we'll continue to advocate for that infrastructure, and hopefully, one day soon, future will be taken off and we'll just see Interstate 57.

Mr. Young said I also want to talk a little bit about partnerships. We continue to market our community to a wide variety of people. To foster those relationships, as you know, we do a lot of work with the Arkansas Economic Development Commission and that happens on a regular basis. We talk to them every single week, maybe not every day, but certainly every week and they're a great partner of ours. Two things that we recently did, Mr. Mike Downing and I, you have met Mr. Downing and he's here tonight, actually went on a consultant trip to both Atlanta and Greenville in the same trip. We called on 16 site location consultants. The importance of that is the projects that we work on, about 70% of them, have a site location consultant tied to it. So, we want them to make sure that they know and understand the benefits our community has to offer. We want them to understand the resources that we have, and we want to answer any questions that they might have of us. Being face-to-face with them is important. Being in their office and being able to talk to them about what's going on in our community is extremely important. So, we've gotten great feedback from that effort. We'll continue to do that. Also, Jonesboro Unlimited supported Mr. Chris Schastok with C.B. Richard Ellis coming to Jonesboro. Mr. Schastok is a consultant, who actually kind of specializes in the food companies, and as you know, that's a target area of ours and something we really feel like we have assets to compliment. Mr. Schastok had never been to Jonesboro before. He had actually recommended us for a

project some time ago, but he had not had the opportunity to be here. We invited him. We brought him here. He spent a day and a half. He talked to a lot of our leadership, but more importantly, he got to know our community. He saw the industrial park. He saw the industrial sites. He understands our utility assets. He understands Arkansas State University, what they mean from a training standpoint and all the resources they have to bring. We will continue to bring in site location consultants, as well. We are looking at identifying one for this fall and bringing them in. So, we anticipate in October or November bringing another consultant in and doing that same thing. So, building those partnerships and those relationships continue to be of importance to us.

Mr. Young said we also tell our story. We look at how we can market and how we can get the word out about our community, and again, the benefits that we have to offer. This is a picture, very quickly, of some of our targeted industries. We've put together brochures on each of those different types of industries. Again, utilizing those with companies that we come in contact with, taking those to targeted tradeshows, which I'll mention in just a minute, and being able to communicate a specific message to a specific type of industry, because, as an example, what a food company wants is a little bit different than what a professional services company wants. We've targeted our messages to meet those needs and to answer those questions. Also, Mr. Downing did a great job of putting together a list of 409 site location consultants across the United States, and we communicate with those frequently. It's not on a regular basis. When we have items that are newsworthy, we want to make sure they are aware of that and things they would be interested in, so on the left, you will see a picture of one of our most recent newsletters that we sent to them. Again, it's a different way or another way of us being able to communicate or have them understand some of the benefits that we have to offer here. Also, we attended the Modex tradeshow. Logistics is one of our targeted industries and Modex is one of the major tradeshows for logistics. So, you can see there were 925 exhibitors representing 140 countries. It was a big tradeshow in Atlanta. Again, we were there to talk to companies about our community and continue to bring that message forward. So, we were pleased with the amount of activity that resulted through that visit.

Mr. Young said lastly, I want to visit with you for a brief minute about our overall economic health and there are many different ways to measure that. I have just picked two. We can talk at length about other ways to do that. One we are often asked about is unemployment. The information that is in your report was actually numbers from May because June was not out until the last couple of days and we had already printed the reports. These are June numbers that I have on the slide, so you can see that Craighead County and Jonesboro MSA are the same in terms of the percentages as compared to this time last year. That's something that we really look at. You can see our labor shed, which is 12 counties. So, when we are recruiting companies here and having conversations, we talk to those companies about where people will travel from to Jonesboro to work and that's 12 counties basically from Dunklin County, Missouri, to Wynne, Arkansas, over to Newport, and sort of that whole region. The unemployment rate in the labor shed is 4.7%. Arkansas, you can see is 3.8%, and the United States is 4.0%. We continue to run below the national and state average. We have done that for a couple of years now and we anticipate that we will continue to do that. We typically are about a one-half percent below the state and national average, and we think that will continue. Also, one thing that sometimes we might take for granted, but I wanted to point out was our cost of living. Jonesboro is a great place to live. It also translates into a great place to do business in terms of the cost of doing business. The map that I have up is from the first quarter. The second quarter is not up. We picked just a few selected communities. Over 350 communities participate in the cost of living index. If you looked at Chicago, as an example, they are going to be

over 100%. One hundred percent represents the national average. You can see Jonesboro is at 83.6%. So, we are well below the national average at the first quarter. Area Development Magazine rated us the eighth lowest cost place to do business in their recent publication, and we're pleased about that because, again, it helps us get our message out about what Jonesboro has to offer and that we're a great place to do business. Those are just a couple of factors and I know there are many more that we could talk about, but I'll leave it at that tonight.

Mr. Young said in conclusion, again, I want to say thank you for your continued support for our programs and for economic development. This council has always been a supporter of economic growth and economic development and I want to say thank you for that. I look forward to the opportunity of bringing you updates in the future, as well. So, thank you very much.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said I would like to ask a couple of questions. First of all, thank you for coming and doing this. It's real informative. For us who really don't know, when a prospect comes to visit, what's the typical process and who's involved? How does that usually work? Mr. Young said everyone's different. It depends on what they are looking for and what they want, but often times, they want to look at real estate and that may be an existing building or that may be a piece of property in the industrial park. Keep in mind that we've already communicated with them through a request for information, so they've gotten a stack of information about our community. They understand the data. Now, they're trying to refine that understanding, see for their own eyes, and really take a closer look. So, part of it might be real estate driven. One of the things that's happening more and more, and this won't be a surprise to you, workforce is a key issue all across the company. So, often times, when a client comes in now they often ask to visit with four, five, or six existing industries. Often times, they'll tell us whom they want to visit with. It depends on their type of industry in terms of what they might be looking for. We arrange that and we take those individuals to that company. We make the introduction and then we don't stay in the room. They need to have a one on one conversation with that business owner or that plant manager, whomever it might be. I will tell you that our existing industries are great and they do a fantastic job of telling our story about our community and what a great place this is to do business. Often times, it would include that. Often times, they'll ask to meet with the Mayor. Sometimes they'll ask to meet with a select group of business leaders in our community. Every project is different. I've never worked on a single project that is the same as a last one, and I say that smiling because every time we work on a project, the time that it takes, the amount of questions that they ask, who they want to see and what they want to see when they're here is all different. Training has become an issue, as well. Something they want to see is training facilities. They want to talk to trainers, so Arkansas State University and ASU Technical Center are extremely important to us. They want to talk to utility providers, so, we set that up. We really let them dictate to us what the most important critical issues are that they want to work through in the time that they give us. We've had prospect visits that have lasted as short as an hour and we've had them that have lasted as long as two days. So, you can imagine what somebody would want to see or do in a short period of time or in that longer period of time. I was all over the place. I hope I answered your question.

Councilmember Hafner said you did a good job. One of the things that I'm pushing for is hopefully between the Chamber, the city and ASU, just everybody working together as much as we can when there's these prospect visits. Hopefully, a lot of the key players are involved in working together. Mr. Young said they are, but again, we let that client drive who do you want to see, whom do you want to talk to and that value they

are looking for in terms of what they want to accomplish during that trip. I've made this comment before, but we have tremendous partners and you mentioned many of them. We're so thankful to everybody for always being there and helping in that process of making sure our clients have the best information that they can as they move forward.

Councilmember Hafner said you mentioned Jonesboro is a great place to do business and we get all these prospect visits. What would you say is one of the hurdles that makes the prospect choose somewhere else besides Jonesboro? I know you all recently went to Greenville, and I'm not sure what all you learned there that might help with some of the issues we ran into in the past with people choosing somewhere else. Mr. Young said the two things that probably come up with greatest frequency, and again, every project is different, so every project is going to focus in or key in on a different item. So, there's a top two or three or four things that may be different from one or the other. Geography plays a big role in it, and there's not anything we can do about that. So, we've been included in site selection before where we're working on a project that may include three or four states. It may include two communities in each of those states. In the end, we're eliminated and we're told you're too far west or you're too far east. We can't move Jonesboro, alright. So, from a geographic standpoint, that's a difficult thing to hear. We don't have any control over that. The second thing that often times we are faced with, and more often than not, actually, we're able to overcome this and be successful is that most of our competition is much larger than us. So, when they're looking at statistics on metropolitan areas and they're looking at the Jonesboro MSA at 130,000, and they're looking, as an example, they have a certain number of jobs to fill. I'm picking these communities out and I'm not saying that these have been our competition, but we're in competition with Tulsa, St. Louis, Jackson, MS, and other communities that are much larger. Often times, we have to be very good at explaining, yes, we have the workforce here. It's not just Jonesboro proper. It's not just Craighead County. It's our labor shed and here's what that looks like. We can prove through zip code information on where people come from and how far they'll drive to do that. I would say that those are two hurdles that we often encounter, which is geography and, then again, not always, but often our competition is much larger than us.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman asked what is our connectivity with the local legislators with the Chamber and maybe pulling more industry into Jonesboro. Mr. Young said we have a good relationship with our legislators, both at the federal and state level. Mayor Perrin and I have actually have spoken recently because of his role with the Arkansas Municipal League about what are the topics moving forward that we might need to pass on to our state legislators that would impact economic development. We have a good relationship and we communicate with them, and in particular, when there are pieces of legislation that are either being introduced or that people are discussing that would have an impact pro or con on business, we communicate that to them. Councilmember Dr. Coleman said I asked the question the other day, not here, but to an individual, which might not have been the proper way to do it, but I asked if there was an assigned person who works for the Chamber who keeps up with the legislature and the newness of possible companies coming to Jonesboro or is it just the group itself. Mr. Young said there are a couple of us who do that. I do that. For those of you who are part of the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce, you know when the state legislature is in session they do a great job of actually putting out information on a daily basis about legislation that's been introduced. The Municipal League kind of does the same thing. We try to stay up to date on all of those things and in particular those pieces of legislation that have an impact on business. We make sure that our voice is heard and we communicate with that, especially if there are challenges or issues that we think would have an impact on

our community.

Councilmember L.J. Bryant said when you're talking to industry, how does quality of life play in? Do you see them asking questions about quality of life? Mr. Young said I do. It plays a role. It usually plays a role toward the very end. What I mean by that is if you think about this, if a company is going to spend \$1 million or \$100 million, they go through this process to make sure it can be successful in, in our case, Jonesboro, AR, or can it be successful in these other communities. Often times, it gets down to the top two or three communities. At that point and time, it no longer is a process of elimination; it's a process of selection. So, that's when we have seen quality of life topics come more to the forefront. Whether that's education, healthcare or all different types of quality of life amenities, we've seen that that's where that comes into play. Not early. Early in the process, it's more about land, infrastructure, utilities, cost and all those things, but quality of life certainly has a role. Again, normally it's toward the latter part of that process when they're getting ready to make that selection. At the end of the day when it's down to those final two or three, obviously, we're working extremely hard and we want them to select our community. It's a very competitive business and so, again, your support and what you do for us, and the fact that you make sure that our community is in a good spot in terms of being business-friendly is so helpful to us and we appreciate that because that makes a difference every single day in what we do. Mayor Perrin said thank you very much. We appreciate the partnership and what you all do in regards to economic development in our city. Mr. Young said thank you Mayor. I appreciate all of you.

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[COM-18:054](#)

JET Transportation Development Study Update from Alliance Transportation

Attachments: [JET_CityCouncil_Presentation.pdf](#)

Tim Simmons, Alliance Transportation, said thank you for allowing me to give you a brief presentation and update on the comprehensive transit plan for Jonesboro Economic Transit. I will make this brief so we will have time for questions. The study goals, we sought out to, right now we are in the beginning phase, to develop a local knowledge of the Jonesboro service area so that we can find out the strengths of the existing system and build upon those to improve transit for the community. What that means is that basically, we are in analysis phase. We are doing a market analysis, existing service analysis, and doing robust public engagement effort. So, the market analysis and all of these others will inform our ultimate scenario developments. There will be multiple scenarios that will end up being our recommendations. The market analysis involves looking at demographic profiles, key destinations throughout the area, and conducting a Gap Analysis. So, who does transit serve? Where does it go? How can transit serve more people and places? Our existing service analysis really looks at the transit system, the existing routes, how they are set up, how the schedules are set up and identifying areas for improvement and opportunities to improve the service and connectivity. This also looks at digging down into ridership data, where people get on and off the bus, which routes people are transferring to and from. Public engagement started from the beginning of the process and will be carried out through the end of the process and is probably the most critical element that we communicate and we really have a conversation with the public for those who JET is currently servicing, but also those who are potential future passengers of JET. With our Public Engagement, we have an online survey. If there is one take away that you get from this tonight is please know that we have a survey that is available online. You can go to the JET website and look for there is a link for transit study and we have a page there that shows a brief overview of the study and has a link where people can go

and take the survey. I would encourage any and all of you to take the survey as well because it is set up not just for existing passengers, but it is for anyone who lives in the area because we want to hear about everyone's perspective, not just the current passengers. The survey will be on there through the end of the month. We also have hard copies of this survey available if people prefer that is available throughout the community and on the JET buses and at the JET Transfer Center. Please encourage everyone you know, everyone you represent to take that survey because that will help form our ultimate recommendations and that is what is important. We will also be having some events. Obviously, we are here today. I was riding the buses today. It was very informative. We will be here next week at the JET Transfer Center on August 15th and 16th. Those times are also on our webpage on the JET Transit website. We will also be here on August 16th at the Alive After Five event downtown interviewing people and having a conversation about the community and how we can improve transit. We will also be riding the buses more and interviewing passengers and bus operators. The next step is that we take all of that analysis, all that public engagement, and develop our scenarios. It will be a cost mutual scenario because we always know that funding is an issue. What happens if we don't have any funding? We can still look at how to improve and work with what we have. We will have a couple of exploratory scenarios that will look at improving transit should there be additional funding. These are kind of the tools of the transit that we are using. It is looking at frequency, how often the bus comes; span of service, how early service starts and how late service ends; and route design, where the bus goes and how it gets there. That is my brief presentation. Right now, in the process more or less, we are done with the transit service analysis, the market area analysis, and we will be wrapping up public engagement at the end of this month. I will open it up to any questions and thanks again for your time.

Mayor Perrin said I think there is going to be some good information on the JET System. We know that JET is increasing each year somewhere around 12-18% on ridership every year. Last year was a record year for that. This will give us more data to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our JET System. Also, maybe look at additional routes, etc. There are a lot of things that will come out of this report. So, I am pleased that we are getting that done.

Councilmember Gene Vance asked, could you give us that web address for the survey? Mr. Simmons said you go to the JET website. Councilmember Vance asked what is that address? Mr. Simmons said just go to the city's website and go to JET. You will see the transit study and a link to the survey. Mayor Perrin said thank you very much. Mr. Simmons said I appreciate it.

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Mayor Perrin said that one of the presentations that was not on the agenda, but we do have with us, a group that has done a great job for our community, particularly our veterans and all of that. Mr. Everett Evans is with us tonight with the Purple Heart Program.

Everett Evans, Commander with the NEA Chapter 708 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart located in Jonesboro, said the Purple Heart is specifically a combat declaration and is our nation's oldest military medal. It was first created by General George Washington in 1782. It was created as a the Badge of Military Merit. It was cut from a single piece of purple silk in the shape of a heart and across the center of it, it was embroidered merit. He awarded this to three non-commissioned officers and that

was the only ones who received it. Then, we jump forward to 1932. In 1932, General Douglas MacArthur decided to revive that medal, but in the form of a purple heart, today's version of that which is a heart shaped trimmed in gold with the profile of General George Washington in the center to signify that he was the creator. It is odd to say that General MacArthur was the very first one to receive the modern Purple Heart. The Purple Heart is awarded to members of the armed forces of the US who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of an enemy and posthumously to the next of kin. The names of those who are killed in action or die of wounds received in action. The heritage it represents is sacred to those who understand the price paid to wear it. We have the Purple Heart Trail. The Purple Heart Trail was established in 1992 by the Military Order of the Purple Heart. The purpose of the Purple Heart Trail is to create a symbolic and honorary system of roads, highways, bridges, cities, counties and other monuments that give tribute to the men and women who have been awarded the Purple Heart medal. The Purple Heart Trail accomplishes this honorary goal by creating a visual reminder to those who use the road system that others have paid a high price for their freedom to travel and live in a free society. Signs placed at various locations annotate those highways, cities, and counties that have been legislated into proclamation by the cities and counties and passed by the city council as you have. That designates them a Purple Heart Entity and in this case, a Purple Heart City. The material for the Purple Heart was formed in 1932 for the protection of the mutual interest of all combat wounded veterans and active duty men and women who have received the Purple Heart medal. The material of the Purple Heart medal was chartered by Congress and signed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Richard Nixon on August 26, 1958. The MOPH as we call it is unique among veteran service organizations in that all of its members were wounded in combat. So, it is an exclusive club so to say. All of our members have received their Purple Heart. The MOPH promotes patriotism, fraternitism, the prevention and the preservation of American Military History. And, most importantly, we provide comfort and assistance to all veterans and their families, especially those requiring claim assistance with the VA. Programs of the MOPH include suicide awareness, homeless veterans assistance, ROTC, and Junior ROTC leadership awards in the springtime. Scholarships, Purple Heart Trail cities, counties, and numerous community services with all of the objectives of service to the veteran and their families. This is the 7th of August and the 7th of August is National Purple Heart Day. The Military of the Purple Heart takes this time to reflect upon all those who have received this award over the years. I want to reinstate the City of Jonesboro as a Purple Heart City. In Arkansas, we have approximately 60+ Purple Heart Cities and 30+ Purple Heart Counties. Interstate 555 was designated as a Purple Heart Trail in 2011. Interstate 55 will soon be designated as a Purple Heart Highway also. On May 1, 2012, Mayor Perrin signed a proclamation signifying that Jonesboro was now a Purple Heart City. The significance of this is that Jonesboro is the very first one in the state of Arkansas to become a Purple Heart City. So, this is very significant to us and we are proud to live in the city that has started this movement here in Arkansas. At this time, I would like to present a plaque in recognition to the City of Jonesboro for the dedication and support of honoring American Combat Wounded Veterans and becoming a Purple Heart City. It is presented by the patriot members of the NEA Chapter 708 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Thank you very much.

Mayor Perrin said I will add that after we did our resolution on that, we do have designated parking in all of our facilities for Purple Heart Recipients that are displayed. I noticed that many people have picked that up, particularly in the Mall and all of those other areas. We appreciate your service and we thank you and godspeed to you. Thank you very much.

5. CONSENT AGENDA*Approval of the Consent Agenda*

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

Aye: 10 - Ann Williams;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner and LJ Bryant

Absent: 2 - Charles Frierson and David McClain

[MIN-18:073](#) MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON JULY 17, 2018

Attachments: [CC Minutes 07172018.pdf](#)

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

[RES-18:112](#) A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH KIWANIS CLUB OF JONESBORO FOR SPONSORSHIP OF ONE OUTFIELD SIGN AT THE MIRACLE LEAGUE COMPLEX

Attachments: [Exhibit A](#)

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

[RES-18:117](#) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO AMEND THE CONTRACT WITH 1ST SECURITY BANK, INTRUST, N.A. AND NESTEGG CONSULTING INC, TO PROVIDE SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO NON UNIFORMED EMPLOYEES 457 (b) RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN AND TRUST

Attachments: [Amendment Two to COJ 457\(b\) Plan](#)
[City of Jonesboro 457\(b\) Plan - Restated Loan Policy\(2\).pdf](#)

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

[RES-18:118](#) A RESOLUTION TO ALLOW THE MAYOR TO ADVERTISE A REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR A CONSULTANT TO STUDY IMPACT FEES IN THE CITY OF JONESBORO

Attachments: [resolution to advertise for impact fee consultant.pdf](#)

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

6. NEW BUSINESS

[RES-18:111](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT 406 N. DRAKE; OWNER: VERNON WOOD

Attachments: [Inspection.doc](#)
[title search.PDF](#)
[county data.pdf](#)
[pic4](#)
[pic3](#)
[pic2](#)
[pic1](#)

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

Aye: 10 - Ann Williams;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner and LJ Bryant

Absent: 2 - Charles Frierson and David McClain

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

[RES-18:113](#)

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF DIVERSE IDEAS AND THOUGHTS RESULTING IN A WIDE RANGE OF PERSPECTIVES; AND COMMITTING THIS CITY COUNCIL TO ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT ALL CITIZENS OF JONESBORO TOWARD PUBLIC SERVICE.

Attachments: [BLongAmendments.pdf](#)

Councilmember Chris Gibson motioned, seconded by Councilmember Ann Williams, to adopt RES-18:113.

Mayor Perrin said Councilmember Bobby Long called him and I think he has given everyone tonight a copy of possibly some amendments. Would you like to make a comment on that please? Councilmember Bobby Long said there are a couple of things here. I like the resolution. Most of the first paragraph is the changes that I would have made, mostly grammatical in error or grammatical in nature. Resolution recognizing the critical importance of diverse ideas and thoughts resulting in a wide range of perspectives; and committing this City Council to encourage and support all citizens of Jonesboro toward public service. The second amendment would be in the third paragraph. Whereas, a wide range of adults in our community can provide, that is just a grammatical deal. I would strike out allowing and where it would read as that continuity can only be secured by encouraging a diverse generation of adults in our community to become engaged.

In the last section, it has the most changes. In Section 2, I discussed some ideas with the Mayor on how we can actually increase awareness of possible ways that people can serve. A suggestion was to put a link on our website to where when someone links or pushes that particular button or section or get involved button, it would have a drop down section where it would list all available openings on committees, ways to volunteer, how to get involved. Once you identify what you are interested in, you will come to a page, that page would identify the mission statement, the length of service, the goal, and then down at the bottom, you would actually have an apply now to where you could actually apply for consideration for that committee or how you would get involved or who you would contact. I think what we can do as a city in order to increase diversity on these groups is to make it easier for them to apply and make it easier for them to know what they are applying for and to make it easier for them to understand

what would be asked of them or any requirements of them.

So, in order to do that, I suggest the changes to Section 2. That the City of Jonesboro will commit ourselves to: 1) increasing the awareness of opportunities for public service to all citizens of Jonesboro, 2) reduce barriers which may impede citizens from public service thereby encouraging a diverse group of adults to engage in our political process and begin forming their own understanding of the mechanics of municipal government. Those would be the changes I would suggest be amended to this resolution. Councilmember Chris Moore asked are you making a motion to amend on the floor. Councilmember Long said I make a motion to amend the resolution on the floor to these changes. Councilmember Moore said he would second that motion. Mayor Perrin said he had a motion and a second to forward. Do you want to pull that or do you just want to make a motion. Councilmember Moore said he said we will vote up or down on his motion to amend. Mayor Perrin said you make a motion that we adopt the four amendments that he just read. Is that correct? Councilmember Moore said his motion is to amend on the floor and I second it. That is correct. All voted aye.

Councilmember Chris Gibson motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore, to adopt RES-18:113. All voted aye. Councilmember LJ Bryant said, Mayor, we kind of did this copy of North Little Rock and worked with your office. I think we are already doing a lot of good things. Citizens Police Academy and I think the Neighborhood Leadership Program is going to be good. Who knows who will be sitting here ten years from now so this is something good to say the City of Jonesboro seeks to do this regardless of who is Mayor or who is on the Council or whatever the case may be. Mayor Perrin said I totally concur with you Councilmember Bryant on that and this will be good. We will work on that. On the website, I know that Mr. Campbell is working on the website right now.

Bill Campbell, Communications Director, said I think this is a terrible idea. The concept of these committees is to be appointed by the Mayor. I think you won't find a governor having a button on his website and saying please apply to be Fish & Game Commissioner. I don't think you will find a president having a button on his website saying please apply. Please send in your resume. I think it will create conflicts with you and your constituents. I think people who get passed up for this will feel like they have been shunned even though they are not qualified. I think it is the Mayor's duty to know who is qualified and your duty to make sure he gets the right recommendations. I don't think it is a raise your hand and ask to be on a committee because these committees are for expertise. We do, obviously, need to have diversity in that. I think a request or a requirement of diversity is important, but I think the free all for everybody to decide that I want to be on every important committee, commission, or board is a bad idea. Mayor Perrin said so noted.

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 - Ann Williams;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner and LJ Bryant

Absent: 2 - Charles Frierson and David McClain

[RES-18:120](#)

A RESOLUTION TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE ABANDONMENT OF A 16 FOOT DRAINAGE EASEMENT AS REQUESTED BY THE JACK HILL FAMILY TRUST

Attachments: [RESOLUTION.pdf](#)
[Survey.pdf](#)
[Engineering and Planning.pdf](#)
[NOTARIZED PETITION.pdf](#)
[All Utility Letters.pdf](#)
[ORDINANCE.pdf](#)

Mayor Perrin said the next time that we will meet will be on Tuesday, August 21, 2018. So, we can set the public hearing for August 21, 2018 at 5:20 p.m.

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: 10 - Ann Williams;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner and LJ Bryant

Absent: 2 - Charles Frierson and David McClain

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-18:050](#)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO ACCEPT THE FY2017 JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) PROGRAM AWARD AND AMEND THE 2018 BUDGET

Attachments: [Grant Award JAG FY 2017 DJ-BX0833](#)
[FY 2017 JAG Program Budget Narrative](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-18:050 by title only. All voted aye.

Councilmember Street asked Mayor Perrin if this was time sensitive. Mayor Perrin asked Police Chief Rick Elliott if there was any time sensitivity on this. Chief Elliott said that money has been appropriated and we have equipment that we need to order.

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember LJ Bryant, to suspend the rules and waive the second and third readings. All voted aye.

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

Aye: 10 - Ann Williams;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner and LJ Bryant

Absent: 2 - Charles Frierson and David McClain

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[ORD-18:042](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 117-34 TO PROVIDE FOR THE PLACEMENT OF SIGNS TO PROVIDE NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF REQUESTED PROPERTY USE CHANGES

Attachments: [Rezoning Sign Placement.pdf](#)

Councilmember John Street stated that we agreed to hold ORD-18:042 to three readings. Mayor Perrin said that is correct.

Placed on third reading

[ORD-18:043](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE SECTION 117-164 AND 117-175 TO AMEND PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT CHANGES

Attachments: [Planned Development District.pdf](#)

[Current Code as of 06182018_Sec 117-164.pdf](#)

[Current Code as of 06182018_Sec 117-175.pdf](#)

Councilmember John Street stated that we agreed to hold ORD-18:043 to three readings. Mayor Perrin said that is correct.

Placed on third reading

[ORD-18:049](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR HORIZON BISTRO, INC.

Attachments: [Horizon Bistro Application Revised 07262018.pdf](#)

[Horizon Bistro Application.pdf](#)

[AN ORDINANCE FOR PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT.pdf](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned that we hold ORD-18:049 to the third reading as well. Mayor Perrin said ok. It will be on the agenda for the next meeting for the third and final reading.

Placed on third reading

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-18:047](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM RESIDENTIAL, R-1 TO COMMERCIAL, C-3, LUO FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 6614 STADIUM BLVD. AS REQUESTED BY STEVE MORGAN

Attachments: [Rezoning Plat.pdf](#)

[Application.pdf](#)

[ordinance.pdf](#)

[Property Owner Notifications.pdf](#)

[Staff Summary for City Council.pdf](#)

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

Aye: 10 - Ann Williams;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner and LJ Bryant

Absent: 2 - Charles Frierson and David McClain

[ORD-18:048](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE

PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM AGRICULTURAL, AG-1 TO LIMITED INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT, I-1 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2601 AND 2603 MOORE ROAD AS REQUESTED BY CARLOS WOOD ON BEHALF OF JAMES BEST AND WILLIAM COURTNEY.

Attachments: [Staff Summary - Council Report.pdf](#)
[2603 Moore Road Rezoning Plat 6-26-18.pdf](#)
[Rezoning ordinance.pdf](#)
[Application.pdf](#)
[Notification Map.pdf](#)
[Rezoning Plat.pdf](#)

Mayor Perrin said James, you are fixed up. Mr. Best said thank you. Mayor Perrin said I saw you in the audience a while ago. I knew you were wanting to get that done and that is the third and final reading. Mr. Best said I appreciate that. Mayor Perrin said thank you very much James.

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

Aye: 10 - Ann Williams;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner and LJ Bryant

Absent: 2 - Charles Frierson and David McClain

ITEMS THAT HAVE BEEN HELD IN COUNCIL

[ORD-18:026](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 62-40 and 62-41 OF THE JONESBORO CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF MODIFYING THE DEFINITIONS TO INCLUDE AND LEVYING A TAX UPON RESIDENTIAL BUSINESS RENTALS

Attachments: [ORD 18-026 Revision.docx](#)

Mayor Perrin said that he thought that Councilmember Long has a comment. Councilmember Bobby Long said he was looking at the ordinance and there are a couple of things that jumped out at me. I think one of the main things that we all, many of us on here try to do is to protect the value of the residential neighborhood and residential areas. I know that I wouldn't want a business running out of my neighborhood. At the same time, I want to make sure that if we do levy a tax that we make sure that it is a legitimate business. I know that there are some people who buy residential property for the sole purpose of doing Airbnb's and things like that. I also know that there are some people that you know that are not going to be here for the big game because they don't want to worry with the traffic and they might lease their house out for the weekend. I want to make sure, first of all, that we have something that is fair and balanced to make sure that if you are running a business, that you pay your tax. At the same time, I want to make sure that we protect the liberty of the homeowner. At the same time, they can have some leeway as to what they do with their property.

So, my suggested changes to this ordinance is to further identify what a residential business is and what it is not. I believe the IRS has a guideline that you can actually rent your property or rent your house for 14 days and not declare it on your taxes as income. I think that there is absolutely no person that is going to be in business renting their property for only 14 days out of the year. I think they would want to rent it

for more than that. So, my suggestion would be in Section 1, it says provided it shall not include the renting, leasing, or furnishing of private residential accommodations leased or rented less than or equal to 14 days in a calendar year or upon month-to-month tenancies. I think that would help define. Also, the next paragraph, it reads residential business rentals mean the renting, leasing or otherwise furnishing of accommodations of residential properties, utilizing online web sites or agents such as Airbnb, newspaper ads, direct marketing methods, Craigslist, word of mouth and all other methods of searching rental engagements, for an aggregate duration of greater than 14 days during any calendar year. So, what that means is that would say that a residential business rental is anything that is rented for more than 14 days during any calendar year provided, however, that it shall not include the renting, leasing, or furnishing of accommodations leased or rented less than or equal to 14 days in any calendar year. All that does is that it says, hey, you know what, a residential rental is something that is rented more than 14 days in a calendar year. If you want to rent your house out because you want to go to the lake or whatever and leave the city when everything goes crazy during football games or during big conventions that are coming up that you can do so. However, if you are going to rent your property for more than 14 days, then yeah, you are running a business and you need to pay your taxes as such. And, that was my only suggestions as far as this goes.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said I guess the question I have and maybe it might have already been explained and maybe I missed it, but in order to have a business anyway, don't you have to have a privilege license from the City of Jonesboro? Mayor Perrin said yes. Assistant City Attorney Jessica Thomason said yes, to run a business in Jonesboro, you would have to have a privilege license. This would be a tax separate from your privilege license. You would have to have your privilege license as well. Councilmember Joe Hafner said that this is A&P tax only. Mayor Perrin said yes. This is the A&P tax only. Councilmember Coleman said I understand that. Councilmember Gene Vance asked on a Hotel/Motel, what tax do they collect besides the motel tax? Mayor Perrin said I think they would probably pay a charge to the state as well as the one cent. I believe I am right. I am not for sure on that. Councilmember Vance said I think you are right and that brings up my point. Why are we just looking at the hotel/motel tax? Why are we not looking at sales tax for the state, city, and county because it is going to cost the Chief money to run his police out there? Councilmember Joe Hafner said I think the reason for that is that this came through the Advertising & Promotions Committee. So, it was specific for the A&P tax.

Councilmember Vance said I know we have tabled this once before and we had an ordinance come through the Public Safety Committee that we turned down because I felt it wasn't strong enough. I still feel that we have got to have some regulations. Can we table this again and ask the administration to come up with a good plan on this that would include the restrictions, possibly even limiting the zoning that it is part of? I think if you take all of your R-1 out of it, you are going to take probably 90% of our problems out of it. So, can we table it again? Councilmember Chris Moore said you can make a motion to postpone temporary. It doesn't stop anybody from having rentals for bnb. Mayor Perrin said it doesn't. Councilmember Vance said it doesn't stop them anyway. My intent is not to stop, but regulate as other home-based businesses are regulated. Mayor Perrin said I agree. You are also talking about tying zoning to that too. We know of 43 of these that are done and they are in R-1 Residential. People are renting their houses on a nightly basis or two or three days or whatever.

Councilmember Vance said some other cities a lot larger than us have put some very strict restrictions on Airbnb and one of the restrictions is that if it is not homeowner occupied, it can't be in an R-1 district. Councilmember Vance motioned to postpone it

temporarily. I ask the administration to come up with a better ordinance that includes restrictions and also check on the other taxes and see whether they are included. Councilmember Coleman seconded the motion. Mayor Perrin said I totally concur with that. We will come up with that. I know that she is looking it up and I have visited with our City Attorney Carol Duncan about this as well. We do need to put some more stuff in there. Councilmember Long, I did like your comments here, but I think, again, if we have people who have hotels in the zone, pay a privilege license, collect the A&P tax, then these folks ought to pay the tax. Councilmember Long said I agree. Mayor Perrin said it is not fair at all. Just like you have 43 people in this place and there are a lot of people. I get emails every day about John has just bought two houses. I got one today. He bought both houses and he is renting those out by the night and not charging any tax or collecting anything for that.

Councilmember Moore said just as a point of order, a motion to postpone is non-debatable. It requires an immediate vote with no further discussion. You have to call the order. Mayor Perrin asked all who signify aye, any opposed. All voted aye.

Councilmember John Street said I believe Felicia Johnson, a local real estate educator, is here and I think she had some input for this. Councilmember Moore asked if it was on the bnb? Councilmember Street said yes. Councilmember Moore said as I stated, when you have a motion to postpone, there is to be a vote with no further discussion. Councilmember Street said it is not about postponing it. Mayor Perrin said it is still discussing the same subject. Councilmember Moore said once the motion to postpone has passed, it is no longer on the agenda.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gene Vance, seconded by Councilperson Charles Coleman, that this matter be Postponed Temporarily . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 10 - Ann Williams;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner and LJ Bryant

Absent: 2 - Charles Frierson and David McClain

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Perrin reported on the following items:

Mayor Perrin stated that everyone should have received the Airport Commission Financial Statements. They are having a good year and that is great. A lot of people are coming to our city and hopefully, they will be looking to locate businesses and/or industries here in Jonesboro.

Mayor Perrin stated that you all also received all of the financial reports that Chief Financial Officer Bill Reznicek sends out to you all every month on those.

Mayor Perrin said I just have a few comments to cover on the Mayor's Report.

Mayor Perrin said, first of all, on last month's permits that were issued, we had almost \$8 million worth of permits. We had 26% in commercial and 75% in residential. Which again, is a good balance there.

Mayor Perrin stated that on our recycling carts that were sold through July 31, 2018, we had actually sold 6,699 carts. The year-to-date amount of carts sold is 6,706 and we are getting real close to 7,000 number of carts that have been sold. Also, eight dumpsters have been sold. We bought ten and have already sold eight of those.

Mayor Perrin said that next is the Earl Bell project that Woods Construction has been working on. If you haven't had a chance to go by and look at it, it is absolutely gorgeous on the front of the Earl Bell. We are now getting prices to possibly change the front entrance in there. Maintenance Director Ronnie Shaver is working on that. As soon as we get that, we will go back and take a look at that on Earl Bell. Also, we are doing some drawings on Earl Bell to possibly apply for a grant with the Department of Parks & Tourism where we can add a walking trail, the complete area around Earl Bell, as well as, to add some other amenities that we are doing. We are looking at that. We are going to meet tomorrow on that.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said, on the subject of Earl Bell, didn't we get a grant from Blue and You for a dog park or something by the Senior Center. That may be a question for Community Development Director Tiffany Calloway, but I thought we had gotten a grant. Mayor Perrin said no. We applied for a grant through another company and we did not get that grant. Councilmember Hafner said ok. Mayor Perrin said, however, I am going to talk about that in just a minute.

Mayor Perrin said in the Street Department with Director Steve Tippitt, they have done 138 miles of striping and 26 miles of thermoplastics. I guess school starts again next week, maybe this week. I think this is zero week. Teachers come in. But, all the streets around the schools have been striped as well as all of the crosswalks. Steve, we appreciate that for the safety of our kids. I know that Chief Elliott did a nice presentation on Channel 24 for public safety and children's safety around these schools. We do appreciate that.

Mayor Perrin said I received a letter concerning Animal Control Director Larry Rogers from a company. It says a special thanks to Sgt. Larry Rogers for his infinite knowledge of animal cruelty and investigation. For those of you who do not know, Sgt. Rogers is considered by most to be one of the best animal abuse investigators in the state of Arkansas, if not in the south. He teaches animal abuse investigations at the Police Academy. He helps all of the Animal Control Officers learn better investigation and he shares his investigation knowledge with many law enforcement agencies and reputable rescue agencies at no charge. This is one that we had picked up that Sgt. Rogers had done the investigation on that and the dog had been in the back of this house for about two-three weeks. That is terrible, but anyway, I just wanted to tell you that our Animal Control Officer Larry Rogers is known throughout the state of Arkansas on this. And, so, I just wanted to pass that on to you.

Mayor Perrin said the other things that we are working on is that we want to increase better lighting for all of our city parking lots in the downtown area. We have been working with CWL on that. Also, I have met with the Parking Authority because they do have some funds in that. They have not been meeting on a frequent basis. The Parking Authority was really a spinoff of a resolution that was passed many years ago to do a bond issue to do improvements on the downtown and the parking areas. So, all of that has really been done. What I will do after visiting with them is probably come up and have a resolution to abolish the Parking Authority, take those funds which is about \$130,000 and we will take that and do all of the parking lots in the downtown area as well as trying to work on some of the alleys that we have here in the downtown area. This will also include the lights on the downtown on Main Street to make it brighter where we can see. We have looked at several lights. The ones that we do like are like the ones at St. Bernards at the new ER. If you walk in the parking lot, you will not only be able to see the car, you can see under it as well as through the car. That is just safety for our people when they park to get out and walk into the downtown area. I

will be working on that with CWL.

Mayor Perrin said that we had two city employees that graduated from the Delta Regional Academy. That is a very hard course that they have to go through. Congratulations to MPO Director Erica Tait and Community Services Manager Hilary Starnes. Ms. Starnes is a new employee. She was already in the program. She was the Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce in Cape Girardeau, MO. Both of these employees are graduates. That is real good, particularly with Ms. Starnes doing the grants in our Grants Department.

Mayor Perrin said in the area of Earl Bell where you had just mentioned it about a dog park, we do have a layout and we are getting costs to put in, hopefully, a dog park where the old swimming pool was on the very top of the hill. We will tie that into the walking trail all away around the Earl Bell. We have had several people in Jonesboro in the public/private sector that are willing to contribute to that. It is going to be somewhere around \$40,000-\$50,000. They want to pay for that so no money will come out of this general fund in order to pay for that dog park. We started this, if you remember, about two or three years ago. Gary Rogers that works with Jonesboro Country Club and others, but we have had others to come in and to give us a commitment and/or checks. We will not start on that project until we get all of the funds collected. That is going to be a private dog park at Earl Bell. I think that is real good. We have been needing that for some time. We have had a lot of comments on that where people can go and relax and visit their neighbors or people they don't even know and then turn their dog loose for exercise. That is going to be a big addition to the City of Jonesboro.

[COM-18:052](#)

Airport Commission Financial Statements ending June 30, 2018

Attachments: [JAC Jonesboro Airport Financials 06_18.pdf](#)

Filed

[COM-18:056](#)

CITY OF JONESBORO JUNE FINANCIAL REPORT

Attachments: [June 2018 deposit Collateralization .pdf](#)
[June 2018 Expenditure Report.pdf](#)
[June 2018 Hotel Tax Comparison.pdf](#)
[Required Reserves June 2018.pdf](#)
[June 2018 deposit Collateralization - Copy.pdf](#)
[06-2018 Revenue Report - Copy.pdf](#)
[06-2018 Sales tax - Copy.pdf](#)
[06-2018 State Turnback Report - Copy.pdf](#)
[2018 June Franchise tax report - Copy.pdf](#)
[2018 June Rev. Exp and Changes in FB - Copy.pdf](#)
[Jan. to Dec. 2018 401A Non-Uniform Pension Funds - Changes in Positions.](#)
[Jan. to Dec. 2018 Non-Uniform Pension Funds - Changes in Positions.pdf](#)
[June 2018 A and P.pdf](#)

Filed

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember LJ Bryant noted to Felicia Johnson that public comment time is coming so surely you have something to say.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said my Finance committee may kill me, but at the last meeting, I had asked if we could move our meeting to Friday because I am going to be gone on that Tuesday at the regularly scheduled time. I am going to be out of town that Friday too so if you all want to go ahead and have your meeting on the regular day and one of you all can run it, that is fine with me. But, my work schedule is kind of crazy right now so I am going to be out of town again. Mayor Perrin said he will get Chief Financial Officer Bill Reznicek to get that and you all can choose a chairman of that when you have the meeting. Councilmember Hafner said his only other question, and this just popped in my head when you were talking about Earl Bell and stuff and I think Councilmember Gene Vance may have mentioned it last year, but are there any cost estimates on the old YMCA. I thought at one time there had been some plans to, maybe, redo the inside basketball courts and stuff like that. I didn't know if there was anything on the horizon as far as updated costs for that. Mayor Perrin said we have not turned the architects loose to do that. We did do the inside and got the offices in there for Parks and Rec, but we have not gone back to the back to do anything on the basketball courts you are talking about. We can do that, but, again, that is where you start in-sprinkling the building and it is going to be expensive. Councilmember Hafner said I didn't know what the costs would be. Mayor Perrin stated that the status is that we have not done anything at all. Councilmember Hafner said ok. I just didn't know.

Councilmember Bobby Long said during the presentation on the economic status of Jonesboro, that I was really proud of everything that was said. I am proud to live in this city. I am proud to be a part of it. I was beaming with everything you said. When you can look at our unemployment numbers and see them as low as they are, then that is really good. Also, I wanted to get a status update on where we are as far as maybe looking for properties for pocket parks out towards the NEA Hospital, out towards that way. Mayor Perrin said we have not done anything or set a committee together to look at that. We did, at the last council meeting, have a map, and I think I gave you all a smaller map, of all of the parks inside of the City of Jonesboro. There is a void in some areas of that. We are going to look at that starting in 2019 on the budget. We are right in the middle of budgets. We will start those. Actually, we are starting those now, but in September, we will be looking at those and see where we want to identify those parks and then come up with a price for that. Councilmember Long said thank you.

Councilmember Chris Gibson said that Parks Director Danny Kapales is going to give us a general idea of those at the next Public Services committee meeting in September.

Councilmember Chris Moore asked, do we have any update on the Citizens Bank building. Mayor Perrin said yes. Councilmember Moore said good deal. Mayor Perrin said that we or I have met in the last two weeks, and it is kind of ironic that you go for a long time with no activity at all. In the last two weeks, I have met with three groups from out of town. All, in my opinion, are prospects. They have the financial backing and background that they could take and do that. We are working with them. We have correspondence back and forth. I have asked that the people who are involved in that to give me exactly a hard dollar cost of what it would take to get everything cleared up so that these people would know exactly what that would cost them to go in to get the

building, to get the land underneath it, the parking lot, and all of that so that they can start putting their figures together. But, they can't do that until they get the hard dollar cost to what the building is going to cost, the tower, as well as the land underneath it. The two owners and then the four other owners of the parking lot to the west. I met with Mark Young. I met with First Security Bank. And, I am meeting with the other owners, I believe it is tomorrow so that I can get that hard dollar cost so I can go back to those three groups and start telling them that. I will tell you that there has been a lot of activity on that building in the last two weeks. I mean real serious, real serious activity on that building. Councilmember Moore said I think it would be in everybody's best interest if it could be redeveloped. I mean if someone would come in and redevelop that building. Mayor Perrin said the people, and I think I can say this and again, I am under confidentiality, that I can tell you that all of the people who are looking at that is a mixed use development on the lobby, which you would have coffee shops, Starbucks, Shadracks or whatever. They all will do a boutique hotel. There is no hotel. Every study that this city has done has said that we need a boutique hotel downtown, no question about it. Then, the other group would want to tear out the three walls and take a tower up and go up all the way to another full tower all the way up to the seventh floor. These people are extremely serious about that building. Councilmember Moore said good deal, that is good to hear. Mayor Perrin said I will give you all that information as soon as I can get it to you.

Councilmember Moore said the other thing I wanted to say was at your last meeting, you said that the council had been getting relatively sloppy on our rules and procedures. I didn't mean to call you to order over that, but I intend to start whipping the council back into rules and procedures. So, it won't be just you. It will be the rest of the council too. One of those just happened to be glaring tonight when a motion is made to postpone temporary, that is the highest order of motion. It is non-debatable. Once someone makes a second, you have no other discussion. You have to stop immediately and vote. Once that vote is taken, if it is tabled, it is no longer on the floor. So, I just wanted to explain that to you. The other thing that we get kind of sloppy about is allowing under public comment discussion of other items that already appear. The reason for that is that it doesn't give both sides the ability to debate. Somebody might have gone home. There are about six things that we are doing sloppy so don't take it personally if I bring it to your attention. Mayor Perrin said we may do a little exercise on that too because I'll tell you this, is that people will come through the chair. I don't need two people talking at the same time to somebody. Councilmember Moore said let me address that for you. The council can only enter into a discussion once you recognize them. Mayor Perrin said that is exactly right. Councilmember Moore said, the rules say when an item is on the floor, the council speaks one at a time and they only speak when the mayor recognizes them and then they have to yield the floor to the next speaker. I think we should observe that. A lot of times, I don't hear well. A lot of times, we get two or three people talking, people in the community, council talking back and forth between people in the public so I would ask that the council refrain from discussion until they are recognized by the chair. Everybody will be given the opportunity to discuss in full before a vote is taken. So, we speak one at a time and you recognize us. If that doesn't work, then, we will call them to order. Mayor Perrin said I agree. The other thing is on public comment, and again, I always say that, but public comment is for any subject that has not been discussed on this council. It is not for discussion or not for anybody to ask questions of this council nor for us to answer anything under the area of public comment. It is only for notation for the record of whatever that person is saying on whatever subject they want to say it on. They are totally free to talk about anything that they want to do, but they cannot direct to anybody on this council or ask what do you think. You cannot get into discussion under public comment. It is strictly for the record and then we will look at that and pick

that up. Councilmember Moore said that is correct. You have to recognize the person in order to speak. Mayor Perrin said that is correct. Councilmember Moore said members of the public have to address their comments to you and not to the individual council. Mayor Perrin said that is correct. The administration will take that under advisement. We will be glad to get with anybody at any time or any comment.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said I have two announcements. Saturday, at Fisher Street United Methodist Church, we are going to be training youngsters and maybe some of us old youngsters on bicycle safety and also giving away some bicycles, hats, and food from 10-1. If it starts raining, we will just take it inside of the church. The second thing is, while working at ASU, I was in contact and had networks with a lot of companies and they found out that I was the President of the Fisher Street Community in Action. They donated an \$8,000 grant for me to teach CAD to young kids in the community. We are going to start doing that in October. We are working on a building right now.

Councilmember Gene Vance said he is getting a lot of mosquito complaints. I'm going to call Jim Starks with Vector Mosquito Control tomorrow.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Melvin Thomason, 4910 E. Nettleton, said I am sorry that I missed you Tuesday. Mayor Perrin said he told me when I went by there. Mr. Thomason said do you want to make an appointment? We will figure something out right now. Mayor Perrin said that I can probably come by there sometime tomorrow. I have been waiting on the Highway Department. I had talked to them last week about that. But, I will still come by there tomorrow. Will you be there all day tomorrow? Mr. Thomason said I will be there all day. I don't have a chance to leave tomorrow. We are still going to have problems with handicap parking. They are still talking about the stairway and that is not going to work. I talked to the Highway Department guys the other day and asked why they couldn't put a box culvert to where they could cross the street. They said no. I hate to be a pain like this on this, but I plan on working another six years and then selling that barbershop business and all to supplement my retirement. This is going to kill me. Mayor Perrin said that Engineer Mark Nichols is not here. I know that he has been in contact with the Highway Department again. We went to Little Rock. I guess I missed you. Then, the next day, I went to Little Rock, if I am not mistaken, and met with the Highway Department on that. They are trying to look at that for some type of ramp or something on that. I know what you are talking about the ADA Compliance and that is the issue that they are looking at now is ADA Compliance. Mr. Thomason said I know a lot of people, like Mr. Ashley, who is one of my customers, who won't be able to do anything. When they start construction, that is going to be a mess. Those are the main things I have. Water is going to be coming off that into the street big time. That ditch back there won't handle it unless they are going to clean it out. If we get an 1 ¼ inch of rain, it backs up on the street then. Mayor Perrin said I will look at those. Like I said, we pulled those and went to Little Rock and met with them on that. They were going to do some tweaking or something on that. I can't tell you where they are at right now on that. Mr. Thomason said, I guess that is all I got. I'm trying to get this thing going. Mayor Perrin said I will certainly try to do everything that I can. Mr. Thomason said that is my livelihood. Mayor Perrin said I understand.

Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road, said I have two things that I want to say. Out here in the parking lot, where the telephone poles are between the two spaces where the cars are parked, there is a real low metal stepping thing that I assume that people that climb the telephone poles use for a step thing. That is pretty low and I am almost

hitting it. Maybe just a suggestion that you paint it a bright color so no one hits it because I can see someone hitting their head on it. Mayor Perrin asked, are you talking about the one that holds the lights? Ms. Lack said yes. The pole is right there in the middle that separates the two parking lots there on that. I noticed that I almost hit it again today and last week. Mayor Perrin said that all new poles are ordered. Ms. Lack said yeah. Second thing is just a little transparency. I have been going to a lot more meetings. Sometimes the meetings are listed in the paper and sometimes they are not. If they are listed in the paper, it doesn't say the time. It doesn't say the location. Just maybe a suggestion, for like in the Sunday newspaper, is that if the city ran a consistent ad listing every single meeting that the city and the county had that week and have a central location in the newspaper, that it would be transparent to everybody to see if they needed to go to that meeting because I think when you go to Jonesboro.legistar.com, it is really hard to navigate on that. But, I think if you had something in the newspaper that listed every single one of the city's meetings, where it was, the time, and then, also too, on the Jonesboro City Facebook page, you could do the same thing once a week so people could do that because I know there is a lot of members on the Facebook page. I think it is just getting more people involved. That would be easy to see where the meetings are, what time, and they can plan it every single week on that. But, I think like on the Jonesboro Sun, you know most people get the paper on a Sunday and so they could plan on going to a certain meeting. I think that I have found that it is really difficult to see on some of the meetings. You have to do a little research on where the meeting is on that. So, I think, just to be transparent and to get more people involved that way on there.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 10 - Ann Williams;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner and LJ Bryant

Absent: 2 - Charles Frierson and David McClain

_____ Date: _____

Harold Perrin, Mayor

Attest:

_____ Date: _____

Donna Jackson, City Clerk