



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING AT 4:30 P.M.

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

3. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

Present 11 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Chris Gibson; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent 1 - Charles Coleman

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver began the evening with the "State of the City" address. He stated that it is truly an honor and that he was humbled to be here giving his first "State of the City" address. Mayor Copenhaver stated that he was proud to stand before you as Mayor of the greatest City in Arkansas. It has been a long time in coming that we are all back in a room somewhat together, the best we can be. I am looking forward to that, it feels great.

I am blessed today to have some of my family here tonight. I want to say thank you to my wife Kathleen of 38 years, and my daughter Lauren. I appreciate you giving me the opportunity to serve the community in the way that I love. You give up and sacrifice in many ways, and I want to tell you both thank you and that I love you. I would also like to say thank you to our Councilmembers for your dedication to the City of Jonesboro. I also want to thank City Clerk April Leggett and City Attorney Carol Duncan for their commitment to our city as well. A lot of the time the community is not aware of their commitment to this city because they do not see it on a daily basis like I do.

Being my first "State of the City" address, I want to catch you up on the great work of what almost 600 employees did in the year 2020. I also want to tell you about the vision we have for 2021 and beyond. Because of this incredible team, we have the luxury to think bigger and bolder. Of course, the number one job is to maintain and expand the fundamentals of our infrastructure and safety that this first class city government provides, make no mistake. But, we also want to grow the opportunity, the opportunity for work, the opportunity for additional businesses, the opportunity for entertainment. All great things that a city provides for its residents.

Our administration has just been in office for ten weeks, but we hit the ground running,

and we are not letting up. We have plans many of which started on day one. We are learning. I am learning everyday about the many needs and wants and visions for our community, and make no mistake, I am excited about it. One thing that has become quite apparent to me and you know as well as I do, the key component that every city must have to move forward or we will be left behind, is technology. The key to Jonesboro's future lies in technology and forward thinking growth. I am talking about a transformation occurring among cities across America. We better be on the front of the train and not the caboose.

The consequence of not planning for the future is not the same as being prepared for the Model-T a century ago. We can't sleep on the technological revolution. Some cities are ahead of us and that's okay, but it is not too late though. But, it's time. My administration has already been in discussion with local providers on technology. We are visiting with D.C. executives charged with finding funding to move Jonesboro forward. We expect 2021 to have many exciting announcements. Building on Jonesboro's success will involve each and every person in this room. It requires team work, creativity, partnerships, and trust. These are absolutely critical for Jonesboro. This is where each and every one of you come in. Partnerships can mean a lot of things. I want them to mean a lot of things. I want them to mean ideas, even more importantly, I want them to mean solutions. Solutions to move Jonesboro forward.

In the two months of being Mayor, I have learned a lot about the hard work that our city staff puts in. As I meet with employees from every department, I stress that we cannot accept defeat in any area. Solutions must be sought. I have stressed to them that my door is open, bring your ideas, but more importantly bring your solutions. As a team we can and we will make Jonesboro and Northeast Arkansas the envy of the Mid-South.

2020 was a trying year. Covid, it was bad. Some of us in this room lost loved ones. We lost friends. I can't say enough what my dear friend, Dr. Shane Speights, did for our community. How he stepped up to the plate, as well as, all of the other community medical providers and their staff. We persevered and it was not easy. But, our city came together and now we are ready to move forward. As if Covid wasn't bad enough, almost year-to-date, we had a tornado. Our first responders answered the call. Our local media kept us informed. And, God kept us safe. Of all the millions of dollars that it cost and tons of debris, the one number that played the most important role was zero. We lost zero lives from this storm because of the passion and preparedness of our community.

Our first week in office, we set our sight on getting the damaged mall cleaned up. I am proud to say that as of Monday of this week, they have started doing so. This is key because it has set idle for almost a year and was an eyesore in our community to which it had previously provided a place for our community to visit, where some were able to do daily exercise such as walking, and it provided economic development for our community. We are doing everything we can to make that occur again. Our airport is rebuilding. Folks, this is an opportunity, we have an opportunity and a facility where businesses, corporations, and industry leaders can come into our community. They need to see the vision of what Jonesboro can provide. If it starts at the airport for them, that is where we need to be. We need to show them what our community is about.

E911, they answer a lot of calls. The numbers that you see above, the 108,556 dispatched for emergency is just a small number of calls that they did throughout the year, they processed over a quarter of a million calls. That is astonishing, and I commend E911 Director Jeff Presley and his team for what they've done and who they

provide services to. Again, investing in technology to keep us on the cutting edge of response and safety. Police, fire, public safety are priorities. Jonesboro is safe. We are growing. Things grow with Jonesboro, but protecting our community is imperative. We will be tough on crime. Police Chief Rick Elliott and I will be speaking together on how we are going to be moving this community forward. We are going to be committed to fighting crime. We are going to commit the resources necessary to bring you to justice if you commit a crime in our community. The Fire Department answered 4,200 calls over the previous year of 6,000. Covid had a direct reflection. But, our Firefighters continue to rise to the challenge that we put before them. It takes a special person to run into a burning building, but also takes a special person to deliver a newborn life in our community. So, I say thank you to both of your departments for what you continue to do for the safety of our community.

During my administration's sixth week in office, we were hit with a historic winter storm. Again, we had amazing responses from our first responders. Our Street Department worked around the clock, so that our first responders could get to our citizens. They plowed over 7,000 miles of our roads in one week. That is going from one side of the country to the other side of the country and back. I want to say thank you to Streets Director Steve Tippitt along with his entire crew, they worked 24/7 along with other departments as well.

I would like to talk about projects that are under construction. The Veterans' Village, is a great thing. We are providing an opportunity to our veterans that provided us the services and safety that we needed when we didn't ask. This Veterans' Village is being recognized not only through the State of Arkansas, but in neighboring states as well. I want to commend those that have always been involved. But, we have to find ways to continue to provide for those at the Veterans' Village. This community has stepped up with its efforts. The Shooting Sports Complex, this is an ongoing construction project. It is important for our community. This is something that our administration inherited and we have got to work together in finding public and private partnerships to move this forward so that we can get the economic development that it will provide for our community. Not only will this bring jobs to our community, it will bring people as well. We will continue that project. We are working diligently on a Homeless Shelter. We have a Homeless Committee that was formed and we are working with that Committee, as well as Crowley's Ridge Development Council and the HUB. When we are ready to make an announcement, you, the community, will be proud of what they have all accomplished. It will be an opportunity for others to begin their life again and we as a community to come together.

I want to give special thanks to the Salvation Army for what they did and the services that they provided during the 2021 winter storm. But, not only that, I want to say thank you to the community. For when we made calls and asked for their help, they did not say, "Mayor, how much?" They asked "What more can I do?" Everyone stepped up to the plate and I want to say thank you.

Cleaning up Jonesboro, this has become prevalent. We listened and we are starting the process. We have a Beautification Committee that will soon be kicking off a campaign in moving forward. I made a phone call at the end of last week to Breaking Bond Ministries and asked Nick Salmon if they would be willing to help this community. Nick said, absolutely when can we show up? They started work on Monday morning with our Street Department. I am asking you the community to be aware. Be proud of our community. You, too, can do your part. It doesn't take much. We need to be prideful. We don't have the ability to pick everybody's yard up. We have jobs to do, Sanitation, Streets, and other departments. So, if you see litter or trash, please help

and assist. We will do everything we can and especially for those that can't do for themselves. I want to say thank you to our Code Enforcement Department. Code Enforcement is going to be a big part of this as we move forward. And, we are going to be coming to you in the community. We've got to clean it up and they will have my full support.

We have dedicated staff, and I want to say thank you to: Tony Thomas, Brian Richardson, Shelly Anderson, and Tonya Hottel in the administration office. It is exciting to come into work every day because we work together as a team. We listen to what the community is asking. We come together on how we can solve that problem and which way to go. It is important that we communicate with our City Councilmembers and it's important that we communicate with the community.

Planning Director Derrel Smith has done a tremendous job in revitalizing our historical district. And, I want to thank you Derrel for taking the effort because that is important for investments in our community. We receive calls every day from people outside of our community wanting to invest here. That is a good problem to have. They see the possibilities of Jonesboro. Community Development Director Regina Burkett and her team has brought millions of dollars in grants to our community. But, I press Regina, and I ask her every day, and I am excited about additional opportunities that we are looking for. We are thinking outside of the box. We are looking for every opportunity for other tax dollars to come right back to our community and I thank you for your efforts.

Finance Director Steve Purtee and his team keep an eye on our finances. Most people don't know we are going through an audit right now. Do you hear anything? Do you see them? Do you hear them? I have seen the auditor's one time and that was just because they stopped in just to say, we are here. That is because Steve and his team have done a tremendous job in answering and preparing in keeping our cities budget and finances in line with State Legislative Auditors. We will continue to work hard in there. Thank you Steve and your team.

Communications Director Bill Campbell and his team have a task that I have asked them to do, and that is to keep up, and keep the citizens of Jonesboro informed with what we are doing about our cities matters. What we are doing on a daily basis, where we are going, and what our different departments are doing for the community.

I wish I had all the money I could give Parks & Recreation Director Danny Kapales because he is at my door every day asking for more. He does a tremendous job in the Parks Department and he wants to stretch every penny he can and I appreciate that. I firmly believe we have some of the finest parks in the region. We will continue to press that for our residents in this community. I could go on and on about all of our staff. Some of you I haven't mentioned, but I want to thank you all for your dedication to Jonesboro. Even though she likes to kill a lot of our fun between Brian and me sometimes, thank you Carol Duncan. Thank you all.

Things to come, this is the fun part. Youth Council, we just announced it two weeks ago. We have had an overwhelming response of students throughout this community. From seniors, juniors, and sophomores that want to be active. We are already looking at expanding this, because of their interest. Thursday, at the "State of the City" at Embassy Suites, I will have them there throwing in their bright ideas from these young minds at work. I want people to see what these young people are doing in our community. We need to retain them. We need to empower them. They have bright minds and we need to provide them the opportunity to let them know our community

has a 4-year college, 2-year school possibilities, or they can go directly to work straight out of High School.

We have all of the opportunities right here. They see the world differently than we do and they have a different perspective. Additionally, we are working with them on some ideas to change our city for generations to come. So, in conclusion, you know where we stand and now I hope you have a better idea of where this city stands. It is very clear we have a hardworking city government that interacts like family among departments. We have a commitment to Jonesboro, as do you. Every city faces challenges. Great cities arise when they use those challenges as motivation for positive changes. Burying our heads in the sand is never a solution and avoiding hard truths can mean real problems never get solved. In today's world, you either grow or improve as a city or you fall behind. There is no neutral. We must push our limits, explore every avenue for advancement, and invest in our future.

The question remains on how we move forward. The answer is complex, but it is simple. We lock arms. We build a team and we go to bat for Jonesboro. Teamwork doesn't mean complaining about a problem and expecting someone else to do all of the work. Teamwork means that we band together with a common goal that we move forward with a purpose and that we find new solutions to old problems. Together we can and we will. We have to lock arms folks. Cities that win, lock arms. And, our city's administration is working daily to grow relationships that we must have to win. But, folks we can't do it alone, and I'll be honest with you, we need you. We need your help, we need your ideas, we need your trust, and then we need your voices. Our combined voices mean we can and we will improve the quality of life in Jonesboro, that we can, and we will make our city feared by the elements of crime. That we can and we will invest in technology and economic infrastructure. That we can and we will win.

Looking around this room, I see leaders who have been instrumental in Jonesboro's success, and leaders who have a passion for Jonesboro's future. I see a team that in any city in this country they would envy. I see a team that will win. I am proud to say that Jonesboro's past has been bright, I'm even more excited to say with this team Jonesboro's future will be brighter.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Councilmember Chris Moore motioned, seconded by Councilmember Bobby Long, to pass the Consent Agenda less RES-21:040. All voted aye.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Charles Coleman

[MIN-21:018](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MARCH 2, 2021

Attachments: [MINUTES](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-21:039](#)

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ACCEPT A PERMANENT DRAINAGE EASEMENT FROM BRASHER INVESTMENTS, LLLP FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

Attachments: [03.02.2021 Resolution Attachment - RGB Easement](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-043-2021

[RES-21:042](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH CRAIGHEAD COUNTY TO LEASE SPACE IN THE JUSTICE COMPLEX BUILDING

Attachments: [03.09.2021Justice Complex Lease Agreement 2021](#)
[03.09.2021 Justice Complex Lease Addendum](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-044-2021

[RES-21:043](#)

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, CERTIFYING LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENDORSEMENT OF BUSINESS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TAX BACK PROGRAM (AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 15-4-2706(d) OF THE CONSOLIDATED INCENTIVE ACT OF 2003).

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-045-2021

[RES-21:044](#)

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE 2021 BUDGET TO INCLUDE GRANT FUNDING FROM THE DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY TO EXPAND RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-046-2021

[RES-21:045](#)

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE 2021 BUDGET TO INCLUDE GRANT FUNDING FROM THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE TO EXPAND RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-047-2021

[RES-21:046](#)

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE 2021 BUDGET TO INCLUDE GRANT FUNDING FROM THE FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION TO EXPAND RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-048-2021

[RES-21:047](#)

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE 2021 BUDGET TO INCLUDE GRANT FUNDING

FROM THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR
MODIFICATION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO RAIL CROSSING

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-049-2021

[RES-21:048](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS
TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXECUTION AND MAINTENANCE OF A LETTER OF CREDIT
TO BE ISSUED TO THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND
ENVIRONMENT, DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (DEQ)

Attachments: [DEQ Letter of Credit Expiring 4-7-2021](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-050-2021

RESOLUTIONS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

[RES-21:040](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS APPROVING A
CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES WITH TCHERNESHOFF
CONSULTING, INC. FOR ADA EVALUATION SERVICES AND THE DEVELOPMENT
OF A PLAN FOR IMPROVEMENTS AS NEEDED

Attachments: [Exhibit B to Jonesboro Contract for year 2021](#)
 [Jonesboro, AR Contract for year 2021](#)

Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road. I am for it, but I do have a couple of questions. I know that City Attorney Carol Duncan just stated that the reason we have this is for a couple of lawsuits that the city has had. Why did we pick this consulting company that is out of Alabama and why did we not pick someone from Arkansas? Ms. Duncan explained that this company is an expert in the field of ADA compliances and they are recognized nationally. Also, they were recognized by defense council that we negotiated with for the settlement of the lawsuits and they were comfortable with them as experts in the field of ADA compliance. There are very few experts in the field of ADA compliance. They also do work all over Arkansas. Ms. Lack said, okay, that makes it more understandable. I was looking over some of these and I see that Allen Park is being charged for 40 hours of ADA compliance work to be done, but I also noticed that there is no reference out at the Southside Softball Complex for work to be done. How did we pick and choose the locations checked or double checked for ADA compliance?

Ms. Duncan explained that eventually all locations will be checked and double checked to make sure that we are in compliance. It is being done in phases because it is a big project for the City of Jonesboro. They picked places that they believed were traveled by the citizens frequently. We are just working our way around the city and eventually every city property will be touched. Ms. Lack said, okay, there is a number of parking lots that will be impacted, like the one right here in front of this building that is indicated on the report. So, basically what they are doing is reviewing everything here in Jonesboro? Ms. Duncan said, yes, everything we own. Ms. Lack asked, is this a continuation of work and will we contract with them for the next several years? Ms. Duncan said, yes.

Councilmember Chris Moore said that he does have one question, and the reason that

I asked that this resolution be pulled from the consent agenda. My question involves project 124, the Veterans' Village, which isn't quite complete. There was 35 hours included in the survey of the Veterans' Village for ADA compliance. Would that not be the responsibility of the architect on record? City Engineering Director Craig Light explained that they are reviewing the plans for the Veterans' Village project, what we have currently built, and the Community Center to verify that nothing was missed. The architect is responsible for fixing anything that is found to be non-compliant. Again, they are looking to see if there is anything that is non-compliant that needs to be fixed before the warranty period runs out, since they are the experts in the field of ADA compliance. Councilmember Moore said, we hire an architect, then the architect develops a plan that is ADA approved. I guess I don't understand why we would pay 35 hours of labor review to review an expert that we have hired in the field of ADA compliance. An architect is an expert in the field of ADA compliance. Mr. Light stated that he would disagree that an architect is an expert in the field of ADA compliance. Take for instance this building we are in, we have already had it inspected and we have found a lot of deviations from what is actually ADA compliant. Councilmember Moore said, I can understand that. This building is 40 years old. Mr. Light explained that this building was renovated under the direction of an architect. Councilmember Moore said, but we are talking about a project that is not even complete yet. Mr. Light said, correct, again this is just a review of the plans, and of the site to make sure that there is nothing missing. The 35 hours is just an estimate. They are billing by just the actual man hours that they spend on the project. As the year goes on, things may go faster than anticipated. Then, we will add other facilities into the review process, but that was just their original estimate of how many man hours that they thought it would take to do each one of the tasks on the project. But, again, from design to construction the architect may be very well versed in ADA compliance. They will stamp other plans and say everything shall be ADA compliant, but Mr. Tcherneshoff, who is the consultant, is actually certifying to us that we are compliant for the ADA lawsuit. Councilmember Charles Frierson stated that this sounds like bureaucracy to me.

Councilmember Bobby Long said, I assume that the answer would be the same pertaining to the Shooting Sports Complex as well. There are 12 hours allocated there. Mr. Light said, correct. Councilmember Long said, so, if they stamp off on it and we are found to be ADA negligent, who pays for what? We are paying the consulting group to stamp off on it and we are paying the architectural firm to design it properly. So, if there is a negligent aspect that causes injury who's responsible?

Mr. Light explained that if there is something found at the Veterans' Village that is non-compliant, then we will work with the architect or the contractor to get it repaired and brought into compliance and that would be the same with the Shooting Sports Complex. As far as the Municipal Center, it has been multiple years since this facility has been built and we moved in. I don't know that we could necessarily go back on the architect and ask them to make those corrections now. That would be the City Attorney and the Mayor's decision on how they wanted to move forward with that. Mayor Copenhaver said, I know that we have addressed issues at the Shooting Complex for things that need to be fixed and they have been done so by the contractor. Mr. Light said, correct. When we identify something that is wrong, they are correcting those things. There is a one year warranty period on the work that they do but after that period, it is going to be hard to get them to come back and do corrections.

Councilmember Long said, so after the one year, let's just say on the Shooting Sports Complex, the architect, and the contractor are no longer responsible, but the consulting group stamps off on it and says that it is good to go, would they be responsible? And, how long do they have regarding the responsibility? Mr. Light said, if

we were sued for a certain aspect of the facility not being in compliant, we would still be required to bring it into compliance. City Attorney Carol Duncan agreed with Mr. Light. She said, basically, it goes towards the intent of the city. The court would look at the fact that we followed the advice of an expert and did everything we could which would go maybe toward the damages that would be provided in such a lawsuit as opposed to whether you have to correct the ADA issue. It's kind of two different things, but I think a court would look at the fact that we hired a consultant on the matter, followed their recommendations, and therefore the city acted reasonably in good faith. Mr. Light explained what the consultant is doing is preparing the transition plan for us as though somebody attempts to file a lawsuit against us for a particular item, if it is part of our transition plan then it essentially will not go to court. It will be just part of our transition plan and we will get to it as soon as funding becomes available. The entire plan is basically our insurance to stay out of future lawsuits.

Mayor Copenhaver asked Mr. Light if the consulting firm would continue to evaluate and keep us up-to-date, and inform us of the man-hours they use? I think what Councilmember Long is saying, basically, we are paying for estimated hours. Will those be credited for the remainder of the hours that are not used? Mr. Light said, yes. Basically, the projects are paid by the hour. We spent right at \$100,000 last year. We did the Municipal Center, Craighead Forest, Joe Mack Campbell Park, Southside Softball Complex, and the Miracle League. We did a lot of different facilities last year in addition to the sidewalk training for our own people to do those inspections. We are just going to work through and get all of the facilities. Originally, it was estimated to be approximately a \$350,000 project. Currently, with this contract, it will be the first \$200,000. So, we are looking at least another year, possibly two years to complete the plan.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Charles Coleman

Enactment No: R-EN-051-2021

RESOLUTIONS NOT ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

[RES-21:041](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS REQUESTING CITY WATER AND LIGHT (CWL) TO PROVIDE A CONTRIBUTION TOWARD THE PURCHASE OF A NEW JONESBORO FIRE DEPARTMENT LADDER TRUCK

Councilmember John Street asked to be recused from consideration and voting on RES-21:041 due to the fact that he serves as a member of the CWL Board.

Councilmember Charles Frierson asked to be recused from consideration and voting on RES-21:041 due to the fact that he serves as an attorney for CWL.

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

Aye: 9 - Ann Williams;Chris Moore;Mitch Johnson;Chris Gibson;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent: 1 - Charles Coleman

Recused: 2 - Charles Frierson and John Street

Enactment No: R-EN-052-2021

[RES-21:052](#)

A RESOLUTION TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE ABANDONMENT OF A 5' PORTION OF AN EXISTING 25' DRAINAGE EASEMENT LOCATED WITHIN THE BRENDAR VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT AS REQUESTED BY CITIFIRST PROPERTY GROUP, LLC

Attachments: [PDF sent from Petitioner](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - Charles Coleman

Enactment No: R-EN-053-2021

6. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-21:010](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 117-2 AND ORDINANCE 117-139 TO DEFINE AND PROVIDE ZONING CLASSIFICATIONS FOR HOMELESS SHELTERS
Councilmember Mitch Johnson motioned, seconded by Councilmember Bobby Long, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-21:010 by title only. All voted aye.

Councilmember Chris Moore asked that ORD-21:010 be read at three separate readings.

Held at one reading

[ORD-21:011](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR SUPPORTING ADVANCEMENT, INC. D/B/A LOST PIZZA CO. AT HILLTOP TO BE LOCATED AT 3410 E. JOHNSON AVENUE

Attachments: [Lost Pizza Private Club Permit Application](#)

Councilmember Bobby Long motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-21:011. All voted aye.

Councilmember Bobby Long asked that ORD-21:011 be held to three readings.

Held at one reading

[ORD-21:012](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE

OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM C-3 LUO, GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT, LIMITED USE OVERLAY TO RS-6 SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3506 SOUTHWEST DRIVE AS REQUESTED BY JEREMY BEVILL OF FISHER & ARNOLD ENGINEERING ON BEHALF OF SOUTHERN HILLS REAL ESTATE, LLC

Attachments: [Staff Summary - City Council](#)
[Rezoning Plat](#)
[Cover Letter - Rezoning](#)
[Application](#)
[Overall Vicinity Map](#)
[Traffic Volume Letter](#)
[Nettleton School Email](#)
[Certified Mail Receipts](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Joe Hafner, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-21:012 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[ORD-21:007](#) AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE AND ABANDON A PORTION OF A DRAINAGE EASEMENT ACROSS PART OF LOT 1R OF P & H INVESTMENTS, LLC REPLAT, LOCATED AT 2303 E. PARKER ROAD AS REQUESTED BY P & H INVESTMENTS, LLC

Attachments: [2303 E Parker Petition Signed](#)
[2303 E ParkerRd-Abandonment Plat](#)
[Engineering and Planning Concurrence - Parker](#)
[ATT - Utility Release Form](#)
[CenterPoint Letter and Plat](#)
[CWL Letter](#)
[Ritter - Utility Release](#)
[Suddenlink - Utility Release Form](#)

Councilmember Bobby Long asked that ORD-21:007 be held on the second reading.

Held at second reading

[ORD-21:009](#) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL TO RS-8 SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 305 AIRPORT ROAD AS REQUESTED BY TAYLOR MCBRIDE OF MCALISTER ENGINEERING ON BEHALF OF IGNACIO ISLAS

Attachments: [City Council Staff Summary](#)
[Rezoning Application](#)
[Rezoning Replat](#)
[Aerial View of Location](#)
[Pictures of Signs](#)
[Pictures of Signs 2](#)
[School Email](#)
[USPS Receipts](#)

Held at second reading

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-20:027](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO PERMIT THE SELECTION OF THE POSITION 1 COUNCIL MEMBER FROM EACH WARD TO BE VOTED ON BY ONLY THE CITIZENS OF THE WARD IN WHICH THEY SERVE

Attachments: [Casteel Email 07262020](#)
[Casteel 07262020](#)
[Dougan 07272020](#)
[crail 07282020](#)
[Ivener email 08042020](#)
[Pradeep email 08042020](#)
[Taylor email 08042020](#)
[Radin email 08042020](#)
[Pradeep 2 email 08042020](#)
[Bryant Amendment 01192021](#)
[Citizen Comments on Ward Voting](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - Charles Coleman

Enactment No: O-EN-006-2021

[ORD-21:004](#)

AN ORDINANCE VACATING AND ABANDONING A UTILITY EASEMENT IN LOT 1, RED WOLF CORNER REPLAT AS REQUESTED BY ERVING RIDGE CONSULTING & DEVELOPMENT, LLC

Attachments: [Petitions](#)
[Plat](#)
[Engineering and Planning Letter](#)
[Utility Letters](#)

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

vote.

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

Absent: 1 - Charles Coleman

Enactment No: O-EN-007-2021

[ORD-21:008](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, ARTICLE III, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 SINGLE FAMILY MEDIUM DENSITY DISTRICT TO C-3 LUO, GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT LIMITED USE OVERLAY FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3506 SOUTHWEST DRIVE, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS REQUESTED BY JEREMY BEVILL OF FISHER & ARNOLD ON BEHALF OF JOHN HARDIN.

Attachments: [City Council Staff Summary](#)
[Application](#)
[Rezoning Plat](#)
[Aerial View of Location](#)
[Cover Letter](#)
[Overall Vicinity Map](#)
[Rezoning Concept](#)
[Rezoning Signs Pictures](#)
[School Notification Signature](#)
[Traffic Volume Letter](#)

Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road. I am absolutely for this ordinance. I think the gentlemen that are here representing the development, and this development is going to be one of the best things to happen for Jonesboro. I also think that when people are asked about Jonesboro, this development will be one of the top ones. I think they are doing a fantastic job. Where my concern is, is that I listened to this being discussed in a MAPC meeting where the rezoning was being requested. Several of the MAPC Boardmembers said that with this property, that this street is going to come through the middle of the property. I think I remember a couple of years ago that the city wanted to take what was known as Old Keller's Chapel Road and bring it all the way through to Culberhouse. I don't know what happened to that, but I remember there was a discussion. One of the concerns during the MAPC meeting was that this property is going to abut the new housing development, so eventually that road is going to go through to Culberhouse. Where my concern is that when it comes to Jonesboro is that we have to plan a little bit more ahead, and what I heard at the MAPC meeting is that there were no current plans to widen or do anything with Culberhouse, and that if anybody did it was going to be up to the next developer to do it. It wasn't going to be with this group here. I would like to ask that Planning Director Derrel Smith to come up with a more comprehensive plan and budget because I think as fast as Jonesboro is growing that the next developer is going to take advantage of this wonderful development, but you know that Culberhouse is not going to be able to handle all of that traffic, especially at the intersection of Culberhouse and Parker Road. The one thing I would like to do is ask Mr. Smith and the city to look at this sooner versus later.

Mayor Harold Copenhaver explained that we are in discussion with the Arkansas State Highway Department regarding Culberhouse. Obviously, that is a major thoroughfare and does see a lot of traffic as well as a lot of heavy development. We want to expand

that and we are doing our due diligence. City Engineering Director Craig Light is already aware of that and he is ahead of the ballgame on that.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Charles Coleman

Enactment No: O-EN-008-2021

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported that cleanup has begun at the Turtle Creek Mall and we expect to see all of the debris from 2020 devastating tornado removed in the area by mid-June. We have hopes of what will happen next and we trust that the west half of the mall be open to the public sometime this summer. I asked Breaking Bonds Ministries to partner with our Street Department for clean up along our city streets and they were more than happy to partner with us on what seems to be a more significant problem in recent months. They started this week and based off of early results it looks very promising. I urge everyone to keep your trash with you until you get home, let's keep Jonesboro beautiful. Additionally, our Street Department has continued to clean-up on I-555 in addition to their usual duties. I salute our Street Department staff.

Mass vaccinations are here. The first was a success, thanks to our partners ranging from NYIT at Arkansas State University, to our hospitals and Craighead County Health Department. But, I still want everyone vaccinated that is how we get totally back to normal.

We have continued to grow our connections, we have reached out to Senator John Boozeman and Congressman Rick Crawford about MSA situations. We are actively fighting any change in the definition of Metro-Statistical Areas. Lastly, please keep an eye out on the weather tomorrow. Our emergency responders and leaders are warning us of potential danger and I pray that it doesn't come to fruition.

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Brian Emison thanked Mayor Harold Copenhaver for a great "State of the City" presentation. It definitely makes you excited to be living in a city like Jonesboro, Arkansas, and the path we have going forward. Also, I just wanted to update, we heard just a little bit ago during the Public Services Committee, and I wanted to brag on Parks Director Danny Kapales and his department. I was working with someone recently in regards to renting baseball fields and how that the time frames that were available were not conducive to people that were getting out of school and off of work. Mr. Kapales and his department worked really hard to find a solution to that and are always working really hard trying to make the citizens of Jonesboro happy because we are the ones that are here to represent them. So, thank you Danny and to your department.

Councilmember LJ Bryant explained that he would be brief. I just wanted to publicly thank State Representative Dwight Tosh and Representative Jack Ladyman. They both serve on the State Agency's Health Committee and they really stood up for cities

this week on a measure that would significantly change how municipal elections work. Mayor Harold Copenhaver stated that he too commended them. Listening to the community's request and individuals from Northeast Arkansas as they reach out to them and ask for their support, they did so.

Councilmember John Street also commended Mayor Harold Copenhaver on a great "State of the City" presentation. It was informative and sincerely dedicated. I wish you and your staff all of the success in the world. I also want to thank all of the Department Director's that we have. They do an excellent job, which is one of our force multipliers and why our city has done so well, that and our citizens. You eluded earlier in pressing Regina Burkett who is the Director of Community Development, I also pressed her before the meeting tonight, and every grant writer before to come up with money for a tornado shelters that can be built around our city. We have all of the ball fields, Craighead Forest. We have so many kids and families out in so many areas and we have nothing anywhere in the way of tornado shelters. I know that money doesn't appear instantly, so the most logical place is through a grant. I saw where Judge Marvin Day received a grant for the County, which I know will help us as well but, in that interim effort, because we were blessed last year without any loss of life in a devastating tornado. I would like to come up with something, and I know that this community can do it.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Patti Lack, 4108 Forrest Hill Road. Ms. Lack thanked Mayor Harold Copenhaver for his speech and said I think it is nice to know where you want to take this city, your vision for our city is good. One of the points that you brought out is the litter in our city. Just last week or the week before I had made a post on my 280 Facebook page talking about the litter. I was amazed about how much people spoke up about it. If we want to bring in new businesses to Jonesboro, we have to keep the city clean. I spoke with Brian Richardson after the Finance Meeting last week and then I ended up talking with Guy Pardew and Beverly Parker this week. I know that they have some dates set for the Beautification Committee to work with the city. I know that a couple of us are going to start on Forest Hill Road and we are going to go from Harrisburg Road to Craighead Forest Road on Saturday. But, the one thing I would like to encourage all of you as being council people, if you guys would start your ward meetings, and start getting the people involved in your ward area. You may only get five people or you may get ten people to attend, but you guys have so much influence in that area that you represent that you may could call on those people to work in that area that you have. It would make it so much easier. I think the more people that we have involved the easier the cleanup will go. So, I just encourage all of you to start having your ward meetings.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Absent: 1 - Charles Coleman

_____ Date: _____

Harold Copenhaver, Mayor

Attest:

_____ Date: _____

April Leggett, City Clerk