



# City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center  
300 S. Church Street  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

## Meeting Minutes City Council

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Tuesday, September 21, 2021

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

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### 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** 10 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent** 2 - John Street and Mitch Johnson

#### 4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

#### 5. CONSENT AGENDA

##### *Approval of the Consent Agenda*

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

**Aye:** 10 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 2 - John Street and Mitch Johnson

[MIN-21:077](#)

Minutes for the City Council meeting on September 7, 2021

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

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

[RES-21:175](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONTRACT WITH ADVANCE SIGN FOR SPONSORSHIP OF TWO OUTFIELD SIGNS AT SOUTHSIDE SOFTBALL COMPLEX

**Attachments:** [Advance Contract](#)

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-165-2021

[RES-21:176](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONTRACT WITH ST BERNARDS FOR SPONSORSHIP OF ONE ATHLETIC FIELD AT THE JOE MACK CAMPBELL SPORTS COMPLEX

**Attachments:**     [StBernards Contract](#)

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-166-2021

[RES-21:178](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4708 SAMANTHA, JONESBORO, AR 72404, PARCEL 01-144233-08000, OWNED BY SALLY BOWERS

**Attachments:**     [4708 Samantha09072021](#)

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-167-2021

[RES-21:179](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4304 RACE STREET, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144271-19900, OWNED BY CHARLES CRAIG CONYERS

**Attachments:**     [4304 Race09072021](#)

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-168-2021

[RES-21:180](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT GABRIEL CT, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144151-19400, OWNED BY DIANE GASTON

**Attachments:**     [Gabriel CT09072021](#)

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-169-2021

[RES-21:181](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1020 HOPE, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144173-04400, OWNED BY GARY TOOMBS

**Attachments:**     [1020 Hope09072021](#)

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-170-2021

[RES-21:182](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS,

TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1328 W. HUNTINGTON, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-143133-18100, OWNED BY DKI LLC

**Attachments:** [1328 Huntington09072021](#)

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-171-2021

[RES-21:183](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1313 PARDEW, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144212-20200, OWNED BY MICHELLE NUTT

**Attachments:** [1313 Pardew09072021](#)

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-172-2021

[RES-21:184](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5407 PROSPECT ROAD, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144141-03800, OWNED BY JAMES CODY RUSSELL

**Attachments:** [5407 Prospect09072021](#)

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-173-2021

[RES-21:185](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 409 N. FISHER, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144181-10500, OWNED BY PAUL D GAMBILL

**Attachments:** [409 Fisher09072021](#)

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-174-2021

[RES-21:186](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 405 STATE STREET, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144171-03500, OWNED BY CHARLES E NOELL JR.

**Attachments:** [405 State09072021](#)

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-175-2021

[RES-21:187](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 204 WOODROW, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144073-23400, OWNED BY NEWELL COOTS

**Attachments:** [204 Woodrow09072021](#)

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-176-2021

[RES-21:188](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 200 MULBERRY, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144074-09600, OWNED BY LEON JONES

**Attachments:** [200 Mulberry09072021](#)

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-177-2021

[RES-21:189](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 816 HOOVER, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144181-14800, OWNED BY ROBERT WHITAKER

**Attachments:** [816 Hoover09072021](#)

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-178-2021

[RES-21:190](#)

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

**Attachments:** [500 Allen09072021](#)

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-179-2021

*ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA*

[RES-21:177](#)

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

*Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road, said, I wanted to just go ahead and have this pulled because I think it is really important that the people since there is a bigger viewer audience here at the City Council versus at the other committee meetings that we all have. I think it is really important that the people hear the names that are on the boards and the committees. Also, too, I don't know whether April can go ahead and explain how to look up the boards and the committees on Legistar or the computer because I think I get a lot of people that get confused. I would appreciate if you could just spend just a second to right now to say how you can look up who is on the boards and the committees because I think it is important for people to know. City Clerk April Leggett said, if you go to Legistar and I have it bookmarked, if you look at the top tabs, there is City Clerk Home, Legislation, Calendar, City Council, Boards &*

*Commissions. If you click on City Council, Boards & Commissions, it gives you a Details tab, you can go to the center tab dropdown and you can choose whatever one you are wanting to look at. Let's say MAPC (Metropolitan Area Planning Commission), that is one that meets a lot. There are several tabs here in the center. There is Calendar, People, Sponsored Legislation, List View and Calendar View. If you click on People, it is going to bring up the people who are on that board or commission, the resolution that appointed them, their start and end date, and if they are a county appointment or not. Ms. Lack said, okay, I appreciate that. I think that a lot of people appreciate that too. Thank you. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, on top of that, that is also accessible on the website as well. So, again, we will do whatever we can and I want to ask anybody in the audience and any participants in our community, we offer and we are very open to those who want to apply and we encourage to do so. So, thank you for your comments. Ms. Lack said, absolutely.*

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

**Aye:** 10 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 2 - John Street and Mitch Johnson

Enactment No: R-EN-180-2021

[RES-21:195](#)

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE 2021 ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS BY ADDING THREE POLICE OFFICER POSITIONS AT A U1, STEP 2 PAY GRADE

*Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road, said, okay, so on this one right here is that I know that the Quorum Court, I know that the two Judges asked to have these officers hired for the county positions and the Quorum Court voted that down. I know at the meeting last week Judge Fowler came up here and he told the reason why it was so needed. I guess my understanding or not understanding is I am not understanding why the city is going to amend our budget to have officers work in the county courtrooms. I am not understanding that. And, also too, on the agenda there, is that it lists the salaries and the question is, are those salaries for the remaining part of the year and then the city is going to pick those officers up because my understanding is that there are two officers and then there is one that is going to be there for vacation. So, I guess I am just kind of saying I don't understand why we the city are amending our budget because I would rather have police officers working the streets versus being bailiffs for the county. So, can anybody explain that? Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, thank you for your question. I have Mr. Fowler in the room. I would like for him to come forward as well and then Carol would also like to comment and Chief Elliott if we need to if necessary.*

*Judge Tommy Fowler, Judge for Craighead County District Court, said, with all due respect, the Quorum Court did not vote that down. Our petition, our request for them to take on two bailiff's has never been called by them. What they actually voted on was two private security officers who are stationed in the Circuit Court building and in the Courthouse Annex, not in the District Court. The reason we are asking the city to take this kind of consideration on is actually more city business is conducted in that court than county business. Just for everyone's education, the city takes on Monday and Tuesday of the week for their first call appearance, all of the tickets that are written in our city along with all trials that are set for that time period. The county shows up on Tuesday and is not just the county, but that is also all of the other municipalities in the Western District. The Eastern District is completely different. What Judge Boling and I*

have done to try to offset this, ma'am, is we have taken on 800 cases that were not yet filed in Circuit Court. These were Drug Task Force cases. These are Class D felonies. Most of the people are first-time offenders. Most of the people are drug paraphernalia cases, not dealers, but possibly someone who is an addict, someone that is a user. We have taken on these cases that were not our responsibility, but, in doing so, what it has done, it has freed up more time in the Circuit Court, but it also now allows the money, the fines from those cases actually run through District Court now, not straight to the Sheriff's Department through the county. Eight hundred of those cases that is a Class A misdemeanor, \$595 and somebody who's better in math than me, but that is just shy of \$500,000 a year. We are not stopping that this year. We have the agreement to continue on doing that into next year, one day a quarter, 75 cases in the morning, 75 cases in the afternoon for a total of 150 cases, four different times a year, Judge Boling and I are going to continue to do that. The other thing that we have done to try to help the city and help offset this cost is to change the way that we call our docket. Before, first appearances were at 1:00 p.m. and trials were at 9:00 a.m., but if trials carried over, they would have to go over in the afternoon after first appearances. That means that an officer that is on third shift who got called in, subpoenaed to testify at 9:00 a.m., if their case didn't go at 9:00 a.m., they are sitting in the waiting room waiting being paid overtime, but also, not getting the rest that they deserve and they need. So, if that case isn't actually called until 3:00 or 4:00 p.m. for trial, they have been sitting all day, they have been paid overtime all that time, and then when they are finished, they are going right back on the clock. So, what we have agreed to do is change the way we run our courts. Trials will now start at 1:00 p.m. which will allow the prosecutor and the city attorney to be able to negotiate what cases they can and then, the cases that are needed for trial, that officers will not be sitting wasting time. They will only be called as needed and they will know if they need to show up at 1:00 p.m. I believe that is going to save the city hundreds of thousands of dollars in overtime. On top of the other cases we have taken on that was not our responsibility, but we have done so. Those are the two things that Judge Boling and I have tried to do to justify and to offset any cost that the city would incur. Two things that we didn't have to do. I appreciate the Mayor stepping up and saying that this is something that he wants to do. Because again, the City of Jonesboro spends more time than Craighead County in our courtroom. We owe a duty to the people who come in our court to provide a safe place and that is what I am asking the City Council to approve tonight. And, I am ready for any questions that the Council may have.

Councilmember Charles Frierson said, I don't have a question, but as a lawyer who doesn't practice in the District Court, but have observed what you and Judge Boling have done, you have made remarkable progress both for the city and for the people that run through that court. I am very appreciative of the situation that you have developed. Judge Fowler said, thank you Mr. Frierson. Speaking of Judge Boling, he and his wife brought a new baby in a couple of weeks ago. He sends his apologies, but he is, again, on daddy duty tonight or he would have been here as well. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, and Councilmembers, I would like to add to what the judge said as well. This was a collaborative effort. In taking consideration our officers who are on third shift and second shift, they are coming off no rest and going to court, they might be there 8-9 hours and then may not even be called on the docket. So, again, this is time for them to be at home resting for their job, either the next day or their day off. And, so, if it facilitates a safety issue, not only to that, but to the employees who are at the facility as well. You have a lot of cash that you deal with daily that is transferrable to a bank and so we need to make sure of that safety as well. I appreciate you coming to us with that. Judge Fowler said, thank you. One final thing, the city owns the building. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, that was what I was going to say. Judge Fowler said, the county rents the courtroom, but the city owns the



building and this security is not just for that courtroom. It is for the entire complex. Thank you. Patti Lack said, so, I want to say thank you to the Judge for explaining that and I think that is really beneficial for a lot of people that are watching and for all of us to understand the reason why. I appreciate that. Thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you.

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

**Aye:** 10 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 2 - John Street and Mitch Johnson

Enactment No: R-EN-181-2021

[RES-21:196](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ACCEPT THE APPORTIONMENT AND TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY FOR THE EXECUTION OF THE 2021 AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDS FOR CITIES AND TOWNS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, Ms. Lack, before you do that, if we may, I would like to have Ms. Burkett come up and speak on this. Ms. Lack said, absolutely, I was going to ask her if she could come up and explain. Mayor Copenhaver said, we already had that planned. Thank you so much though. So, Ms. Burkett, if you could move forward with an explanation of what we are doing at this point with these funds. Grants and Community Development Director Regina Burkett said, right now, we are waiting on the official guidelines with the funds because we are working with the National League of Cities and the Arkansas Municipal League and they are being very cautious about how the funds are being spent because the guidelines are changing daily. So, we are following their guide, their lead and that is why we have not spent any of the funds at this time. We are still waiting because if we do spend the funds and we do it incorrectly, we will have to pay the money back once we are audited. It will be a federal audit. If the funds are spent incorrectly, we have to pay the money back so I am waiting and following the advice of the Arkansas Municipal League. Councilmember Bobby Long asked, so, what happens in the case of we spend the money according to the rules and regulations at that time, then those regulations change, would that then make that not good with the new regs so what happens in that case? Ms. Burkett said, well, I am a little cautious on spending, that is why we have not spent it. They say if you go ahead and spend it, that it will probably, probably, be okay and that probably is what scares me on spending the funds right now. Mayor Copenhaver said, in our time refrain, we don't have to spend it immediately as well. Ms. Burkett said, no. We have got, to my knowledge, there are very few cities spending it right now because they are waiting for the official guidelines. There are a few that are spending it, but they are saying please be cautious as you do this. Councilmember Long asked, do we have a list of items that we are looking at possibly utilizing that money for? Ms. Burkett said, we are still working on that list right now. Councilmember Long asked, will that be published I guess on what we are going to be using it for? Ms. Burkett said, yes, it will have to come to City Council when we get all of it lined up. Mayor Copenhaver said, absolutely, every bit of it. Councilmember Long said, thank you. Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road, I guess that answered a lot of questions and it was like what is specific because \$7.7 million is a lot of money. And, I guess the other thing would be is that how are the citizens going to be able to watch how this money is spent and is there a timeline. You probably don't know, but is there a timeline that the money has to be spent. Ms. Burkett said, the money does not have to be spent until 2024. We

just have to have the allocations of how we want to spend it by 2022. And, right now, I am just cautious on spending it. I'm just not going to do it until the Arkansas Municipal League says, let's spend it. Because, I just don't want us to have to pay anything back. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, but also, everything has to come in front of the council before it is spent. She can't just start spending the money without the council's approval. Ms. Burkett said, once we have the plan in place and the amounts that we plan to spend on different things, it will come to the council for approval because we have to have approval to spend it. Just like, we have already had one resolution, but they made me cautious if that was enough, that is why I am bringing this back tonight because I want to be sure that we are covered in every way. Councilmember Hafner said, alright, I thought I remember something. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Ms. Burkett. I appreciate that and she is our department chair for those who don't know of our Grants department. She does a great job.

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

**Aye:** 10 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 2 - John Street and Mitch Johnson

Enactment No: R-EN-182-2021

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

### RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

#### RES-21:198

A RESOLUTION TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE ABANDONMENT OF DRAINAGE EASEMENT LOCATED ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF E. HIGHLAND DRIVE AND ON THE EAST SIDE OF GREAT DANE LANE AS REQUESTED BY THE JONESBORO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

**Attachments:** [Ordinance Resolution Abandonment](#)  
[Petition](#)  
[Plat](#)  
[Abandonment Letters](#)

*NOTE: This item was initially set for a Public Hearing on 10/7/2021 at 5:25 p.m. However, the City Council under City Council reports made a motion, a second, and voted in the affirmative to move the Public Works Committee meeting, the City Council meeting, and the Public Hearing on RES-21:198 to Monday, October 4, 2021. The Public Hearing is now set for 5:25 p.m. on Monday, October 4, 2021.*

*Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, Mayor, the reason why, I sent a text to Mr. Brian that I know that City Council is on October 5, 2021, but that is also National Night Out. So, I am bringing a motion on the floor to the council that we could postpone that on the 5th to the 7th so that we can have everybody can be able to attend. Mayor Harold Copenhaver asked, are you making a motion? Councilmember Coleman said, I am making that motion now. Councilmember Chris Gibson said, I will second Councilmember Coleman. Mayor Copenhaver said, so, this will adjust and amend the council meeting from October 5, 2021 to October 7, 2021 to observe National Night Out in the community of Jonesboro. All voted aye.*



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

**Aye:** 10 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 2 - John Street and Mitch Johnson

Enactment No: R-EN-183-2021

#### ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

##### [ORD-21:041](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR GOOD HOPE HOSPITALITY TO BE LOCATED AT 2324 RED WOLF BLVD, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

**Attachments:** [Pier 88 Redacted USE](#)

*Councilmember Charles Frierson motioned, seconded by Councilmember Joe Hafner, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-21:041 by title only. All voted aye.*

**Held at one reading**

##### [ORD-21:042](#)

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTED PURSUANT TO ACT 1112 OF 2017, AND APPLICABLE ABC REGULATIONS APPROVING THE PRIVATE CLUB APPLICATION OF ROJO'S ON HUNTINGTON, INC. AT 601 W. HUNTINGTON, AVE., JONESBORO, CRAIGHEAD COUNTY, ARKANSAS

**Attachments:** [Grillzil REDACTED USE](#)

*Councilmember Bobby Long motioned, seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-21:042 by title only. All voted aye.*

**Held at one reading**

## **7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

##### [ORD-21:039](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE AN ASSESSMENT FOR THE DOWNTOWN BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT FOR COMMERCIAL PROPERTY OWNERS IN THE DISTRICT AS APPROVED AND REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONERS AND A MAJORITY IN VALUE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT

**Attachments:** [Cost of Improvement 7.19.21](#)  
[JHafner emails about Downtown Business Improvement District](#)  
[Downtown Jonesboro Bus Imp Dis 8-25t](#)  
[ORD-21-039 emails](#)

*Councilmember David McClain said, I got a few phone calls today in regards to this ordinance and I would like to postpone this until the meeting on October 19th. Councilmember Chris Moore asked, postponed temporary? Councilmember McClain said, postpone temporarily until the meeting on October 19th. Councilmember Moore*

*seconded the motion. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, the motion on the floor is to postpone temporary until the 2nd meeting in month of October which is basically 30 days away. Councilmember McClain said, and it will still come back at the second reading. Mayor Copenhaver said, correct. All voted aye.*

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

**Aye:** 10 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 2 - John Street and Mitch Johnson

[ORD-21:040](#)

AN ORDINANCE CREATING A PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT COEXTENSIVE WITH THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO FACILITATE A PACE PROGRAM AND ADOPTING CERTAIN PROVISIONS RELATED THERETO

**Attachments:** [PACEBasics 2016 10 7-1](#)

**Held at second reading**

*ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING*

[ORD-21:033](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO PLACE VARIOUS TRAFFIC SIGNS AT DESIGNATED LOCATIONS AS DETERMINED BY THE TRAFFIC CONTROL COMMITTEE

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

**Aye:** 10 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 2 - John Street and Mitch Johnson

Enactment No: O-EN-035-2021

[ORD-21:036](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 112-128 DESIGN CRITERIA OF THE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS

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

**Aye:** 10 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 2 - John Street and Mitch Johnson

Enactment No: O-EN-036-2021

[ORD-21:037](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 112-129 PERFORMANCE STANDARDS OF THE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS

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

**Aye:** 10 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 2 - John Street and Mitch Johnson

Enactment No: O-EN-037-2021

[ORD-21:038](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2407 WEST MATTHEWS

**Attachments:**     [Staff Summary \(City Council\) - 2407 W Matthews 21108138TURNER REZONING PLAT recover Model \(1\)](#)  
[Rezoning Plat](#)  
[Application](#)  
[Info](#)  
[USPS Receipts](#)

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

**Aye:** 10 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Mitch Johnson;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 2 - Chris Moore and John Street

Enactment No: O-EN-038-2021

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

*Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported on the following:*

*Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, Council, I am going to have several Department Heads approach real quick and give a summation. I have had several questions on some issues that have popped up. We are obviously moving in the right direction. I would like Regina Burkett to come up and discuss a little bit of an issue that we had at the Veteran's new area. And, so, we would like to bring you all forward and up-to-date with that.*

*Grants and Community Development Director Regina Burkett said, I just want to say that the City of Jonesboro administrative team and I are deeply saddened by the recent theft at the Veteran's Village. It is a great surprise that someone would be capable of stealing from our country's heroes and most defenseless population. Therefore, as the city anticipates acquiring the property from the contractor, I want to share that cameras have already been installed to prevent related crimes in the future. Also, it is my understanding that the investigation from the theft is still pending at this time. But, regardless of the recent setbacks, our community always steps up to serve. We have been every appreciative of the outpouring of concern at this time. Just yesterday, Lowe's of Jonesboro and Paragould reached out to make donations for the*

*stolen appliances. This is what makes Jonesboro the strong generous community that it is. This display of generosity and that of all of our partners are prime examples of what a community should be. Such is standing up for one another and sticking together when times are rough. All residents should be proud to call this charitable city their home. We look forward to the completion of the village and how it will serve those so faithfully those who served us. Now, moving forward from the break-in, I would like to report that the applications for housing at the Veteran's Village will go through the Beck Center at ASU. The Beck Center will not only set up housing, but will assist with supportive services as needed. I am currently working with two different entities about managing the village. I am not at liberty to announce their names yet. At the present, they are waiting legal guidance. Thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Ms. Burkett. I just wanted to ask Ms. Burkett to come forward and obviously, this is a very frustrating issue and I think many of us took it personally. But, again, our community responded above measure and I wanted to commend the City of Jonesboro along with other individuals and businesses in our community for doing so. Ms. Burkett said, I do want you all to know that the Elks Lodge here in Jonesboro, they donated all of the appliances for every cottage. That is who donated the furniture and the appliances. So, it really hurts my heart to know that you have got people who have devoted so much time to find the appliances, to be sure that is what went in there, the sizes. I am really heartbroken that someone would do this to the people who gave us freedom. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Regina. I also want to bring Council up-to-date as well. We have installed nine cameras at the Public Works facility because obviously, we had theft there as well. It saddens me to have to be forthcoming in that people are stealing in our community that taking from our homeless and our taxpayers. It is our job to protect our community and that is our top priority.*

*Mayor Copenhaver said, our Sports Shooting Range had a soft opening this past Saturday. Chief Elliott, if you would like to come forward and make a few statements about that. It was a great time for a lot of shooting enthusiasts which includes myself. My shoulder is still blue, but it is all well and I am pleased with the efforts of the Parks and what Chief Elliott and our partners in City, Water & Light have done in order for us to get this open at this point.*

*Police Chief Rick Elliott said, you are right Mayor. It has been a great collaborative effort by all involved to reach this point of getting this facility open. We did have a good turnout over the weekend. Again, it was not advertised as a soft opening, but the trap fields stayed full both days. There was a little competition between the Mayor and Brian. Mayor Copenhaver said, I won. Chief Elliott said, it was debatable on who busted the most clays, but the youth is the most important part. The youth that shoot trap in our community, they were out there from various teams around getting a chance to look at the fields and shooting on the fields. So, they were excited. We had people come out and just look at the facility. I believe we ended up selling 12 yearly memberships over the two-day period. So, the revenue stream on the first day was good, actually both days just on a short opening. Tomorrow morning, 9:00 a.m., we officially open five days a week, 9-5, Wednesdays thru Sundays. So, we are kicking this thing open and expect to be full. This weekend, we do have our first trap tournament. We do have right now, I believe, 18 teams registered. It is a group out of Little Rock, Baptist Youth Life Ministries, I believe is the name of it, that is putting on this tournament. It is a fundraising tournament for this group. With 18 teams, we are looking at probably 600-700 people involved by the time you get the teams and the number of people who travel with each child. So, if you have a five person team times 18 times four to eight people per shooter. So, that is a lot of folks coming out just for that plus on the other end, the pistol rifle and the archery. So, all of the complete facilities were used over the weekend, archery included. We encountered some*

additional people who wanted to sign up for coaching, some youth leagues on archery. So, we were pleased about that. Come next council meeting, we will have a better report of progress, but I would encourage each of you to come out and look. It will be open this weekend. It should be a nice cool weekend to come out and take a look and see what your dollars have gone for. Everybody that has come out has been impressed by the facility and we have had shooters that compete across the country and what we are doing is a class act. We are excited as we move forward. Any questions? Councilmember Chris Gibson asked, Chief, do you by chance know how many of those teams will actually have to stay in hotel rooms while they are in town? Chief Elliott said, this will be a one day tournament. It is just a 50 clays tournament. So, it is going to be a short tournament. For the most part, the trap season is kind of over for the circuit. But, this being a charity event, it is kind of late in the year, but they wanted to be the inaugural tournament for the facility. They wanted to put this thing on back in May, but we just didn't have everything ready. As we are moving forward, we are at that point where we could have this tournament. Actually, we are looking at scheduling another tournament in October working with another local business wanting to do a fundraiser. So, before the end of the year, we may pull off another one or two tournaments which is good. Kind of a quick update on the facilities. Our sewer is about complete and CWL has the pipe laid out and should be trenching that in this week and next week. So, hopefully, within two weeks, the current restrooms that they just finished building will have water and sewer and will be fully functional. Our CWL partner has been really hustling the last few weeks getting things done and we certainly appreciate their efforts in getting this facility open. Councilmember Bobby Long said, just one other question chief. I have not been out there in some time. I have not been out to a trap shoot or anything like that so the spectators, is that normally, you have got 18 teams there, hopefully, they are behind the shooters. So, you have got 18 teams that are obviously going to want to watch their competition, so how do you plan on handling that and the parking? Chief Elliott said, on any trap field, if you go to look at any of them, you have a point where spectators don't pass. So, there is a sidewalk that runs the length of the fields and then between the sidewalk and where the shooters stand, there is a gravel cart path. A lot of these shooters will show up on golf carts and side-by-sides so nobody goes past that path. The spectators are back on the sidewalk and they are going to set up their little pop-up tents and bring their folding chairs so families and friends that is how they line up the stage. That is kind of our staging area. We have a temporary building that we are putting in place until we can get the main building in place. We have set up a tent on the other end to do registrations in. So, it is kind of a primitive start. The key thing is that this is the time of year where people want to get out and start sighting out their bows and rifles. And, so, it is important to get it open. More importantly, we had to meet grant requirements which is due this coming week. So, we have met that requirement. That is the most important thing. Councilmember Long said, good. Mayor Copenhaver said, Councilmember Gibson, when I was out there, there was a young shooters group from Crowley's Ridge and they went to eat lunch first before they came out and shot. So, obviously, the involvement within our community and the return on investment is a good process. Thank you Chief for your work.

Mayor Copenhaver said, I don't know how many councilmembers know Rusty McAlister. He works on the third floor and he is quite the city guru a master of delicacies of kitchen food in the city. He received another distinction this week and Rusty wasn't able to be with us this evening. He received a lifetime achievement award by the Arkansas Geospatial Community for his work in GPS mapping. This is a great honor for the city and for our city employee. I want everyone to congratulate Rusty when they see him. He comes to work every day with a smile and has GPS mapping skills that are among the finest in the state. I want to commend him for that



achievement and I appreciate that and the work he does.

Mayor Copenhaver said, I have asked Code Enforcement Director Mike Tyner to come forward and kind of give us an update. We have had several councilmembers that kind of want to see where we are moving forward with Code Enforcement and we have been having those discussions. Mike, if you could kind of give us a short update. Mr. Tyner stated, I will try and keep it short. Alright, just to give you an update, the Mayor asked me to come forward and kind of give you a rundown of where we are at so far this year. As of year-to-date, we are at a little over 3,000 cases for the year. 3,156 which is up about 280 cases from last year. In that, there are a little over 800 violations we have addressed. If you want to play the nine days of Christmas only with junk in the yard I can break that down even further for you. We have issued 1,260 verbal warnings, 1,550 written warnings. I have completed 346 affidavit packets which is what you guys end up seeing in the council either for liens or condemnations through that process of notification. We have issued 24 citations. Those are to where the citizens get to the point to where they are not making progress and that is pretty much the only option we have left to gain compliance is to put them in front of a judge. We have mowed 73 yards. We have bush hogged eleven large properties, had eight cleanups, five boarded houses which you will be seeing the majority of those here soon through the condemnation process. We have had one renovated house that didn't make it through that process. We had nine demolitions that were taken care of by the owner before we got to the condemnation process. I have got fifteen working demolitions or working condemnation cases that I am wanting to move forward toward demolition with. We have had six neighborhood clean sweeps that we organized and ran that totaled out 43, almost 44 tons of debris including 109 tires. We are working with Dr. Coleman and a few other neighborhood group leaders to try and get a couple of more of those scheduled this year. We have conducted seven saturation patrols in conjunction with those cleanups and are working to get more of those scheduled. Mayor Copenhaver said, and to add to what Mike is saying, we have also been working with other department heads and Carol is part of this process as well on how we can streamline the process because there is a lot of paperwork involved and it is very time-consuming. And, so, what can we do to get Mike more out in the field. Mr. Tyner said, we are a fairly small department. Including myself, there are only six of us and a lot of this is very paperwork, administrative heavy requirements. Some of it is due to statutory requirements, but we are looking for any way that we can to streamline that process and a lot of that is going to be through our business practices to where we cut down the time we address an issue and the follow up date on it and we move more toward the court system to try and eliminate a lot of the repeat problems that we have to where we are not going to end up basically as a city-wide management company, especially when you get a lot of multi-family projects and things like that. So, we are trying to take what resources we have and use them in a more efficient way so that we can get out there and we can do more clean-up efforts to keep the city in better condition and address more issues that come up at the same time. Mayor Copenhaver said, Mike, thank you so much.

Mayor Copenhaver said, I will move through this pretty quickly. I just want to give you an update on our efforts to secure high speed broadband capabilities with great service for all of Jonesboro. We have met over the last six months with a handful of companies, all of which have compelling proposals. And, we need to create an opportunity for our community. Let me be on the forefront here. This is about a \$50 million infrastructure cost. And, so, the rural areas have been provided federal funding for this work, but mid-sized cities like ours are left to some degree to find our own devices. We are in talks with companies on how to partner and to find better ways to where we can provide broadband services to all citizens of Jonesboro.



*This past weekend, the Mothers of Angels held their annual walk last weekend. Despite a little bit of rain, we managed to have a wonderful event and they are truly some loving and kind people. They were joyous in supporting one another in giving through their mutual pain. They renamed the garden to be the Sean Stem Mother of Angels Garden and I think it is a perfect tribute to a man who worked for years to maintain the garden, but was lost in a plane crash back in January. It was a touching day by all and I was proud to say I was a part of it. Sean was a good friend of mine and if any of you go to the park, you will notice that as you go to the entrance. And, so many were joined that day.*

*Two weekends ago, the Chiefs and I joined Veterans and other officials in the 911 Ceremony at the VFW Post hosted by the Elks Lodge. It was the 20th Anniversary of 9/11 attacks on our country. It was a perfect time to honor our first responders whose brethren were first on the scenes and attacks on our country.*

*I am excited to report that the Airport Commission is recommending flight options to new cities out of Jonesboro. I attended their meeting and we discussed these options. We have asked for this and I am thankful that they supported that. Hopefully, that will be approved by the FAA to add flights to Nashville, not only St. Louis, but to Nashville.*

*The Youth Advancement Council Taskforce Committees are discussing several projects. And, let me tell you Councilmembers, this is an exciting bunch. It is 49 youth in our community and they are pumped up about being involved in this community. It is including ways to beautify our city that will last for generations. Animal Control Adoptions Drives, Promoting our JET System, Covid Prevention and Education on Vaccine Clinics and to look at studies to better understand walking, hiking, biking connectability in Jonesboro. The Task Force Chairs will make presentations to this City Council next month about their goals for the coming school year.*

*It is also important to remember that this is a time of turmoil that today is globally recognized as the Day of Peace. So, out of respect to our fellow man, I think we should focus on ways to create peace rather than to issues that divide us. We have so much in common and the simple fact is that we are all alive in the same time in history, together, right here in Jonesboro. This is the very reason we should hold our peace in our hearts and make it our priority with our neighbors. So, I will end with wishing a happy day of peace to everyone.*

## **9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

*Councilmember Chris Gibson said, the only thing that I have got is that we made a vote earlier to move the City Council meeting, the first meeting in October, to the 7th and it was brought to my attention after the vote that there is an ASU home game that is televised that evening so we may want to reconsider that time and date. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, that game will start at 6:00 p.m. on ESPN. It is Coastal Carolina so that will be a big game. Councilmember Joe Hafner asked, can we have it on Monday night instead of Tuesday night? Mayor Copenhaver said, it is up to council. Councilmember Chris Moore said, Monday is what we used to have the council on. I would say that we would move it to Monday. I'll make a motion that we move it to the Monday prior. Councilmember Joe Hafner seconded the motion. All voted aye. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, as a point of order, we need to adjust that Public Hearing we just set for Thursday, October 7th. Councilmember Moore said, I will make a motion that we move the Public Hearing to correspond with the Council meeting. Councilmember Chris Gibson seconded the motion. All voted aye.*

Councilmember Ann Williams said, after listening to what Mike Tyner had to say, we brought this up before as far as what he indicated as far as the city becoming or their department becoming property management companies in a way because of people or landlords negligent or property owners not mowing the grass and then the city ends up doing it at a pretty reasonable fee when you think about over the season what they end up paying. Is there any consideration given, it has come up before, charging more to discourage the negligent? Mayor Copenhaver said, that is exactly what we are addressing, how much time has been spent by what Mike and his crew are having to do and then we are also looking at the permitting department because sometimes they are called out to that as well, that is where we are meeting with Carol as well to come up with a solution or a fee that should be involved that would be compatible to the time that we spend. Councilmember Williams said, right, okay. Thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you.

City Attorney Carol Duncan asked, are there any committee meetings on October 5th? City Clerk April Leggett replied, yes, Public Works. You might want a motion to move Public Works to October 4th. Councilmember Chris Moore motioned to move the Public Works Committee meeting from October 5, 2021 to October 4, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Councilmember LJ Bryant seconded the motion. All voted aye.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, Mr. Mayor, do we have a timeline for the outside counsel to present our options on the Citizens Bank Building? Mayor Copenhaver said, yes, Brian, if you want to come forward with that. Chief Administrative Officer Brian Richardson said, actually, I spoke with them today and hopefully by the end of the week they are going to come back with something. Of course, there are a lot of initial research that goes into it as far as deed research and stuff like that, but I did talk to them earlier today and I anticipate that we won't have an answer by the end of the week, but we will at least maybe be able to give a rough timeline. Obviously, attorneys love to take their time, but we do want them to make sure that they give us sound advice and that is not necessarily a process that we want to rush, but there is an obviously a new importance to this that we need to make sure that we get it right and that our information is accurate. So, as that comes about, we can provide updates. Councilmember Moore said, so we are thinking about the end of the year, we will know our options. Maybe in the next month or two, we will have presentation by them to the council or to the Mayor or somebody? Mr. Richardson said, I think that sounds pretty reasonable. Councilmember Moore said, okay, thank you. That was my only item. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, first, I want to thank the council for putting off that date for National Night Out and I am hoping that the community comes out. It is actually drive-thru, mainly because of covid. We will be giving fish plates away and hot dogs and a whole bunch of things. It starts at 6:00 p.m. It will be at Lions Park from 4:00 p.m. to about 6:30-7:00 p.m. I just hope everybody comes out and enjoys themselves, but make sure you are driving through, not walking through. Plates are limited to one per person.

## **10. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ray Culpepper, 1235 Haven Street, said, I want to thank the council and the Mayor for getting us some stop signs put up. We live on the corner of Strawn and Haven and it was like a runway. There were cars and you go from Flint to Main Street and there was lots of traffic and they would just pull on through. It was becoming a concern to us from that standpoint. There is a lot of foot traffic there. There are a lot of people who

walk their dogs. There are kids on bicycles and motorized skateboards and all this stuff. My wife, Kelly, has been pretty persistent. She can now quit taking or quit monitoring who is speeding and who is not and all of that kind of stuff. That is helpful. When we mowed the grass, we would have to keep our head on a swivel and stuff. And, so I thank you guys for doing that. I think we have a safer neighborhood now. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, thank you Mr. Culpepper and Mrs. Kelly as well. I appreciate your emails. Due Diligence, thank you for the safety of our community, that is what it means.

Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road, said, I want to say to Regina too as I think a lot of the citizens and all of that really feel the pain about the Veteran's Village being vandalized. Hopefully, with the donations and all that have come in and hopefully the city has insurance to pay for some of the damaged buildings that happened. But, today, I drove by there and I noticed that the two cameras were there, but one thing that we might want to do too is to add a little bit more lighting. I looked at one of the corners and it didn't have any street lights. I know there are regulations as far as how close the street lights can be. But, I am going to drive by there tonight to see how bright it is and that might be one thing we help in that area because I think it is probably a little bit too dark and it was an easy get away there. The second thing is for the landscaping. What a really good idea might be is to get ASU, to get the agriculture class, plant classes and all of that to do a project and have them go ahead and do some of the landscaping. You know, they get credit for it. The city would benefit from it. It is a win-win situation for everybody. And, so that would look really nice the facility there. The other thing is that I know it that the contract for the buildings were done on the 15th and I think the building for the community building is supposed to be at the end of November. Just a little advice, I know that Regina said that you are taking applications for the facilities here, really? Let's get this building done, completed, make it look nice and then move the people in. Because, I think, you know, a way to look at it is to say that if you are painting a room and you think that it is dry, but it is not and you move your furniture in and it just doesn't look as good, and I think if we are going to look at this as being our pride and joy of this community, let's do it right and if it takes a little bit longer, then let's get it done and then, move everybody in and make sure that we manage it correctly. Thank you. Grants and Community Director Regina Burkett, said, I was on the phone with Lowe's from Jonesboro and Paragould, they needed with Covid no longer being a threat as it was this time year, they want to come out and do the landscaping. I have funds put back and we will be purchasing the trees and things that go out there and the Lowe's employees are going to have an outreach day and what they are going to do is plant the landscaping and help lay the sod. Mayor Copenhaver said, okay, thank you so much.

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Aye:** 10 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 2 - John Street and Mitch Johnson

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

**Harold Copenhaver, Mayor**

**Attest:**

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

**April Leggett, City Clerk**