



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, July 2, 2024

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

SPECIAL CALLED NOMINATING & RULES COMMITTEE MEETING AT 5:00 P.M.

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

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

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

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Copenhaver stated our legal counsel this evening would like to spend a few minutes to give a legal report update. She passed out this information to you.

City Attorney Carol Duncan said, thank you Mayor. We had some questions. I have had some various different people ask questions about different cases that we have pending and I realized that we had not done an actual legal report in quite some time. I just wanted to give you kind of a list. There are 13 cases on here that are currently pending. Just briefly, the two oldest ones that you see at the beginning from 2019 and 2020 are actually automobile accident type cases. So, that is not anything where the city would have any liability outside of our insurance coverage. And, then on the next one, Christopher Melton is still actually being handled by Bert Newell. I don't have an update on that, but what I believe that is perhaps where APERMA gave us coverage and they are trying to collect some money from the party that was at fault to recoup some of the money that they paid us under that insurance policy.

Trullinger was certified as a class action. It is a question about shift differential pay with E911. The difference, as you can see, I don't remember how many people are in the class, but it is to incorporate anybody that worked for 911 during a certain period of months. When we calculated up the difference in the wages, you can see that our possible total liability is \$2,146.70. So, it really wasn't much of a differential in pay. It was a few pennies on the hour for some people that were working different shifts. And, so, that has been submitted to the judge. The judge has to approve a settlement when it is a class action. So, we are just waiting to see if that agreement is approved by the court. And, then that one will be over.

Stephen Ward is a relatively newer one. I think you all will recognize him as the gentleman who sued us over our ordinance against animal events. The next one you

see is George Willis which is an automobile accident.

I did want to update you on where we stood on the ice house. So, we do have that lien amount of approximately \$126,000. We filed a foreclosure to try to force the sale of the property in order to collect part of our lien that we have for the teardown on that. We had a hearing on Friday. We are waiting. The judge said she would issue a letter opinion. So, we are just waiting to get an opinion on that to see whether she orders the sale of the property or not and whether she orders it on all. There's five lots or just the front two. So, that's what the issues seem to be in the court. So, we are just waiting to get a ruling on that.

The next one is an officer involved litigation on a wrongful death. So, that one is still pending. It is set for jury trial in 2025.

Mr. Parnell, that one was dismissed by the court. It is over Code Enforcement's cleanup and citations and he sued everybody basically, Code Enforcement, the attorney in my office, the Mayor, of course. Anyway, that was dismissed by the lower court. It is on appeal and we will see what happens with that appeal. I think briefs are due in July so we should know something on that pretty soon.

Travon Brewer is also an officer involved wrongful death or civil rights type of litigation. In that one, our officer was a part-time officer that was working with the U.S. Marshall's in Helena. So, that makes it a little more complicated. So, we are waiting to see what happens with that, but that's just getting started.

Gibson, we have reached a settlement amount. It is a resisting arrest taser case. It happens to be a case that at first the district court judge indicated maybe he did think there was resisting, but then a year or so later when a ruling came down, he ruled not guilty on resisting and so we immediately got sued. So, we have agreed to a settlement on that just because of the video and it really doesn't show. You can't see much on a video. So, anyway, the city portion on that \$1,750, would be the settlement on that case.

And, then the last two are new cases. One of them is the gentleman that passed away in the jail. We have been listed in that lawsuit. And, then the last one is an eviction from Veteran's Cottages from a tenant that is not paying the minimal rent and also has moved in unauthorized people into our cottage there at Veteran's Cottages. So, we are trying to rectify that situation. So, that is just a brief update on what is pending. I know 13 seems like a lot, but it probably really is not a lot for us over the years. If anybody has any questions, I am happy to stick around and answer them specifically or now if you have any. Mayor Copenhaver said, you all use Carol a lot and feel free to contact her on any specific case or questions you might have. Thank you for your time.

Ms. Duncan said, just briefly, what happened at Rules and Nominating, I mean there are a couple of issues on that vote as to what constitutes a majority for the passage of the motion when you have abstaining and whether the Chair should or shouldn't vote in the circumstances of abstention. So, I am going to review Robert's Rules of Order. I have what I think is correct. But, before we make a final announcement, if we believe that it did pass based on the vote that was cast, then we will put it onto council and if not, we will move on that way and say that it didn't pass. But, I will let you all know on that. I just want to do a little research before I say for sure one way or the other. But, I think I know the answer.

Mayor Copenhaver said, well, thank you very much for that report Carol.

[COM-24:031](#) Legal Report presented by City Attorney Carol Duncan

Attachments: [Legal Report 07022024](#)

Read

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

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

[MIN-24:058](#) MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON JUNE 18, 2024

Attachments: [CC Minutes 06182024](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-24:039](#) A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO AUTHORIZE THE GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS UNDER 49 U.S.C. SECTION 5339 FROM THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA) FOR THE JONESBORO ECONOMICAL TRANSPORTATION (JET) SYSTEM

Attachments: [2024-04-26 HSIT Split Letter FFY2021 Funds](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-064-2024

[RES-24:071](#) A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH CONTINENTAL UTILITY SOLUTIONS, INC TO UTILIZE 2ND FLOOR OFFICE SPACE IN THE MUNICIPAL CENTER

Attachments: [CUI Lease Agreement with City of Jonesboro 6.20](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-065-2024

RESOLUTIONS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

[RES-24:033](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 132 N. Bridge St. Jonesboro, AR 72401; Parcel # 01-144181-51800

Attachments: [132 Bridge Inspection Report](#)
[132 N Bridge Map](#)
[132 N Bridge Pre condemnation Notice Returned Certified Letter Mabry](#)
[132 N Bridge Precondemnation Notice Affidavit Anderson](#)
[132 N Bridge Precondemnation Notice Affidavit Mabry](#)
[132 N Bridge Precondemnation Notice Returned Signature Card Anderson](#)
[WIN_20240308_11_14_08_Pro](#)
[WIN_20240308_11_14_21_Pro](#)
[WIN_20240308_11_15_14_Pro](#)
[WIN_20240308_11_15_36_Pro](#)
[WIN_20240308_11_15_58_Pro](#)
[WIN_20240308_11_16_21_Pro](#)

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

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

Enactment No: R-EN-066-2024

[RES-24:034](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 407 N. Bridge St. Jonesboro, AR 72401; Parcel # 01-144181-31700

Attachments: [407 N Bridge Inspection Report](#)
[407 N Bridge Map](#)
[407 N Bridge Boarding and Securing Affidavit](#)
[407 N Bridge Boarding and Securing Returned Cert Letter](#)
[407 N Bridge Precondemnation Notice Affidavit](#)
[WIN_20231220_09_38_49_Pro](#)
[WIN_20231220_09_39_11_Pro](#)
[WIN_20231220_09_39_59_Pro](#)
[WIN_20231220_09_41_40_Pro](#)
[WIN_20231220_09_42_02_Pro](#)

Councilmember Chris Gibson motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore, to table this until October 1st. All voted aye.

Code Enforcement Director Scott Roper said, the owners are here. We had some communication problems and they had some family health issues. So, we have come to an agreement with them to hopefully table, request to table it to October 1st. This would give them the time they need. They have hired a contractor to remove the home. They have also paid for their permit fees. So, we feel pretty comfortable. We are heading in the right direction and we would like to give them the opportunity to handle this themselves.

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

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

[RES-24:035](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 815 Witt St. Jonesboro, AR 72401; Parcel # 01-144192-36600

Attachments: [815 Witt Inspection Report](#)
[815 Witt Map](#)
[815 Witt Boarding and Securing Returned Signature Card](#)
[815 Witt Precondemnation Notice Affidavit](#)
[815 Witt Precondemnation Notice Returned Signature Card](#)
[WIN 20230830 15 41 57 Pro](#)
[WIN 20230830 15 45 51 Pro](#)
[WIN 20230830 15 47 49 Pro](#)
[WIN 20230830 15 48 14 Pro](#)
[WIN 20230830 15 51 25 Pro](#)
[WIN 20230830 15 51 30 Pro](#)
[WIN 20230830 15 52 19 Pro](#)
[WIN 20230830 15 52 31 Pro](#)
[WIN 20230830 15 53 56 Pro](#)

Councilmember Chris Gibson motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore, to table this until October 1st. All voted aye.

Code Enforcement Director Scott Roper said, Mayor, the owner is here. Two brothers own the property and there has been no communication from one brother to the other brother. Mr. Walker, he just found out about this last week and he has spent a great deal of time cleaning the property up. So, we believe the property will be handled and got back together pretty quick. We would like to request, again, to October 1st. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Mr. Roper.

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

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

[RES-24:070](#)

A RESOLUTION FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO APPROVE THE 2024-2025 CDBG ANNUAL ACTION PLAN THAT INCLUDES THE 2024-2025 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROJECTS, ACTIVITIES, AND BUDGET

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

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

Enactment No: R-EN-067-2024

[RES-24:072](#)

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING FREE UTILITY SERVICES FROM CITY WATER AND LIGHT FOR THE FUTURE JONESBORO SPORTS COMPLEX FACILITY

Councilmember John Street asked to abstain from voting and discussion on this matter due to membership on the CWL Board of Directors.

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

Abstain: 1 - John Street

Enactment No: R-EN-068-2024

6. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-24:018](#)

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

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-24:018 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

[ORD-24:020](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 TO C-3, LUO FOR A SHOP BUILDING ONLY FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5415 SOUTHWEST DRIVE AS REQUESTED BY JEREMY MOORE

Attachments: [Appeal Letter](#)
 [Zoning Application](#)
 [Zoning Plat](#)
 [Zoning Mail Receipts](#)
 [MAPC Meeting Minutes](#)
 [Publication Receipt](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson to suspend the rules and offer ORD-24:020 by title only. All voted aye.

Councilmember Chris Moore asked to abstain from voting and discussion on this matter since his brother is the proponent Jeremy Moore.

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Mitch Johnson, to amend ORD-24:020 to change from C-3 to C-3, LUO with the restriction of a shop building only. All voted aye.

Councilmember John Street said, Mayor, Jeremy Moore contacted me and he indicated that the only reason he has asked for C-3 on this lot is because he wanted to build a personal shop building. I talked to Derrel about that and you could do it on R-1,

but you have to have a house on it. He has no intention of putting a house on that. I don't know if you have enough room on that lot to put a house and a shop building on it. But, Derrel did confirm that, Derrel Smith. Jeremy said he was agreeable to a limiting use overlay to use that just for a shop building. So, I would move that we amend ORD-24:020 to a limiting use overlay that restricts it to a C-3 rezoning for a personal shop for Jeremy Moore. Councilmember Mitch Johnson said, second that. Mayor Copenhagen said, we have a motion on the floor and I think we all received an email from Jeremy stating that he would not be here this evening. So, you are speaking on his behalf. We do have a motion to amend that.

Councilmember David McClain said, I have a question. So, if you amend that and we make the limited use overlay, you just said for Jeremy Moore, if he ever sells that property, what happens? Councilmember Street said, it would be for that shop only, that's it. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, unless they come back. Councilmember Street said, if somebody else wanted to do something else with it, they would have to come back before MAPC and City Council for a rezoning. Councilmember McClain said, okay, the only reason I am asking is that you said Jeremy Moore. Councilmember Street said, when he does build the shop building and it goes back before MAPC, there will be requirements for the site plan for buffering and different things and he is all agreeable to that as well which he would have to be anyway. Jeremy is not trying to do anything bad or anything. I had heard there was going to be a coffee shop there, a lot of different things. And, he said, lord, he had looked at that once, but there is not enough room there to do anything like that so he deduced that the only usable thing for him, for his benefit since he lives close, is a shop building for his personal use. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, it goes with the land, not the person. Ms. Duncan said, right. Councilmember McClain asked, so it would stay limited use overlay, C-3, limited use overlay for a shop building only. Ms. Duncan said, unless they come back and request a change in which notification would be done. Councilmember McClain said, okay, thank you. Councilmember Street said, Jeremy is good with that.

Mary Tucker, 5321 Darr Hill Road, said, I would just like to say why would we change zoning for a shop building when I believe he already owns storage units. I don't understand why he would want to put that on that corner. Senior Planner Monica Pearcy said, so as the zoning stands, R-1, he would have to construct a house on the property before he could utilize a shop. And, from what I understand, I guess with the emails kind of explained, he just strictly wants to use a shop on site and has no intention to build a house. So, the only way he could put a shop on the site is to rezone to commercial.

Steve Floyd, 5421 Southwest Drive, said, my property is adjacent, right beside that. My question is this, if it is just going to be a shop building, I understand that, but I also understand that Mr. Moore is a real estate investor. So, what if somebody comes along a month after he builds it and says hey, I would like to rent that from you to put an auto shop in there. Well, it is already a shop. Can he do that? Ms. Duncan said, so that is what Mr. McClain had just asked and no. A limited use overlay would limit the use of the building to just a personal shop for Mr. Moore. So, that would be the only use that would be allowed. Anything else would have to come back before MAPC and request a change in the use. Mr. Floyd said, okay. Ms. Duncan said, it would be that one use only.

Joanie McNabb, 2100 Paul Drive, said, wondering a little bit why the sudden change because the application was very clear that he wanted to put a coffee container business there. At the last meeting, I'll give him some grace and say it was a mistake,

but he commented to the council that all three other corners were commercial. That is not true. The one directly across from that is also zoned residential. There is a farm on it, but it is not commercial. His application did state it correctly, but to the council when he was seeking approval for the appeal, my concern was just that perhaps that swayed a few people's opinions if they thought all three other corners were commercial and they are not. I do have concerns that it stated one thing on the application and then right before the meeting, it has changed to something else without really explanation. I think both people in private conversations, you could ask them to come back up here, but they both have stated to me that they would buy the property from Mr. Moore so he is not out any money, so it doesn't turn into something commercial. As a resident that has had eight children go through Valley View Schools, my main concern is the traffic that it is going to impact, anything that is commercial that is there. And, just with all of the changes that have come about in a couple of weeks, I am concerned that it won't just stay a personal use shed. Mayor Copenhagen said, the good thing about the process is that we still have several more meetings. So, that discussion will continue, yes ma'am. Thank you for your comments. Ms. Duncan said, that is what I was going to say.

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

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

Abstain: 1 - Chris Moore

[ORD-24:021](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH AN ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT IN HISTORIC DOWNTOWN JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

Attachments: [Exhibits](#)
[Handout DJA Entertainment District](#)
[Bob Hester Handout 07022024](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-24:021 by title only. All voted aye.

Mayor Copenhagen said, before we get started, I would like to make a few comments. And, kind of historically on this a while back, the downtown Jonesboro Alliance began discussing the possibility of creating a limited entertainment district. Periodically, the conversation would come back in the form of questions to myself or Chief Elliott and Ms. Duncan. But, the bulk of the proposal was a result of Jonesboro residents taking their time to research and write this ordinance to be presented as a citizen initiative. With that said, along the way, DJA has reached out to gather information, ask for opinions, and ask about other primary concerns and have made several concerns based in those conversations. Obviously, safety is always at the top of that list. We want to make sure that we have adequate police presence downtown and we are able to enforce the laws and that won't be cheap, but I do believe we need to increase foot patrols downtown anyway now that staffing shortages have been resolved. So, I would like to go ahead and have Ms. Sara Doss come forward.

Sara Doss, 6220 Alan Drive, said, I am going to hand these to you all while I speak. I am here today to give you an overview of an ordinance that we have poured hard work into for the past two years. Before I begin, I would like to acknowledge the group of individuals that I have with me this evening. The group behind me and to my left,

consists of board members, business owners, employees, and residents. Ultimately, all enthusiasts and patrons of our downtown. They are joining us to show their support of the ordinance I will present to you tonight. They see the value and the growth it would bring to our community. If you are one of these individuals, I would like you to raise your hand now. Thank you. A.C.A. 14-54-1412 states that a city located in a county with established entities authorized by ABC to sell alcoholic beverages may by ordinance create a designated entertainment district. Since it was passed into law, 26 Arkansas cities have passed entertainment ordinances with 7 of those being in dry counties. Not including Jonesboro, there are currently four other cities in the process of adopting one as well. Jonesboro is ranked number 5 on Arkansas's Top Ten Cities list and 8 of those cities currently have established districts. The two cities that do not are Jonesboro and Conway, both of which are in the process of proposing ordinances and are both located in dry counties. With all of that being said, I would like to share with you the ordinance we have written on behalf of Downtown Jonesboro. This ordinance would allow guests aged 21 and older to carry alcoholic beverages in city approved cups while wearing city approved wrist bands in all public spaces and participating commercial properties. Within the boundaries of the district, from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Thursday's, Friday's, and Saturday's. The boundaries are displayed in the packet in front of you for your reference during the remainder of this presentation. While generating this ordinance, we sought guidance and input from Main Street business owners, the police department, our city government, ABC, and DJA Board of Directors. Through this process, we believe we have curated the best ordinance to accommodate Jonesboro specifically. As aforementioned, there are required city approved cups that each business will have to use. These cups must be clear, disposable, and 16 oz. They must also bear the Entertainment District logo, no less than 2 inches wide and 1 ½ inches tall. While touching on these requirements with Chief Elliott, he felt we needed another layer of security in the district. We began reading other city ordinances, talking with their mayors and downtown directors and ultimately decided to implement a wrist band system. In addition to the designated container, patrons will have the entertainment district wrist band placed on their wrists proving that they have shown their photo identification prior to purchasing their beverage. These clear identifiers will allow the police department to more effectively patrol the district. Speaking of clear identifiers, we will have diamond shaped road grade street decals on our sidewalks indicating whether or not you are inside or outside the district. Depending on the direction you are walking, the decals will read you are now entering the entertainment district vs. you are now exiting the entertainment district. The Jonesboro Advertising and Promotion Commission has so graciously agreed to purchase these for the district. In addition to these, the A&P has agreed to purchase logo stickers for the doors of participating businesses. Each business has the choice of whether or not they want to participate. If they choose to, they will display this logo sticker on their door which would allow beverages into their business. The businesses that contain liquor licenses will be required to display the rules and map of the district in their establishment. We firmly believe that this will greatly benefit our downtown economy and boost our foot traffic as well as positively impact our downtown events. The host of any event downtown will have the opportunity to apply to extend the hours of the ordinance through the Jonesboro Police Department and the district oversight committee. The hours can be extended to 2:00 a.m. when the Alcohol Beverage Commission requires all alcohol sales end. The liability of all alcohol sales will remain on the businesses holding liquor license. The City of Jonesboro, and the Downtown Jonesboro Alliance will not be assuming any new liabilities. However, there will be additional security provided, officers in uniform and in street wear will be patrolling the district. DJA is committed to making downtown well lit for beautification as well as security. Our most recent installation took place almost two weeks ago on Main Street and brought us up to around \$80,000 invested in lighting since 2018. DJA

and JPD working together are going to ensure that downtown remains as safe as it can be. I would like to give a few quick numbers to attest to the safety of downtown already. Over the past 41 months, almost 3 ½ years, there have been 813 public intoxication offenses in the City of Jonesboro. 56 of those took place within our proposed boundaries. To be clear, this is 56 within the boundaries total, not limited to the restaurants hours of operation. I am pleased to know that as the most concentrated area of liquor licenses in the city, we have only contributed 7% to the total public intoxication offenses since 2021. Lastly, the Mayor will be responsible for appointing a 7 member oversight committee to manage the district. This committee will be made up of one member from the City of Jonesboro's governing body, two business owners who are members of DJA, one member from A&P, two citizens living within the district and one member from an Arts or Entertainment Venue in the district. The Executive Director of DJA will sit on this committee as the liaison and tie breaking vote. Otherwise, they will be a non-voting resource. This committee will be responsible for distributing information to businesses, approving event requests that will affect hours of the district and other tasks as needed. They will also have the authority to temporarily suspend or revoke any business that is not abiding by the rules established by the City of Jonesboro in order to preserve the integrity of the district. And, I will leave you with this, with the support from local and state officials, we are confident that this is the right decision for downtown Jonesboro. DJA exists to bring people and revenue to our downtown businesses and we feel at this time that this is how to do exactly that. Thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Ms. Doss.

Councilmember David McClain asked, how many officers do you anticipate needing to cover this? Mayor Copenhaver said, well, that is a very good question and we have basically backed off of the original request and with that we feel very comfortable that it is just going to be an as is. We are going to reevaluate. Chief and I are going to see and if we have to reevaluate for additional need, then we will come forward to council. We are going to be looking at, how many hours Chief if you've got a few notes, if you want to come forward. He has estimated a few hours on weekends, but again, we are just going to have to reevaluate as that goes on. Police Chief Rick Elliott said, roughly we are looking at a minimum of four officers on Saturdays. We are projecting six. So, roughly 114 hours for the three day weekend of overtime. So, you take that and its hard to predict the overtime costs. We can get in the ballpark because every officers salary depending on their tenure or their rank, their overtime rate is a little different. But, right off hand, just kind of working an average right now as soon as this passes, we are probably looking at \$50,000 to cover the overtime until the end of the year. Councilmember McClain said, so based off of what you said, so there will be different officers working different times or you won't have four committed. Chief Elliott said, no sir, we cannot commit anybody to this project. Some day, down the road, you know, we would like to ask for additional staffing, not only to cover this, but the parks, that will be a sole function, but that is something to look at hopefully in the near future like next year's budget. But, the officers working this will be like any other off duty detail, the hours will be posted. The officers, if it is their off time from the regular shift, can sign up to work the event. Just like they do with many other events throughout the city. Councilmember McClain said, thank you. Chief Elliott said, yes sir.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, to keep from getting into the weeds of it, this is not for the Chief, it is probably for the DJA. Just so I don't get into the weeds of it, just for the common sense, I was just thinking, so you have your cups and you have your wrist bands, right? So, from week to week, those wrist bands change? Change color and all of that kind of stuff, right? Ms. Doss said yes, so that is something that we have talked about with Chief Elliott and others and we kept it a little bit vague in the ordinance so that we could change colors. They will be printed on specific text. We

have actually looked at, we have spoken with Fort Smith which is pretty comparable in size to us. They are a little bit larger. They have implemented QR Codes. They have made a QR Code that houses all of the information someone would need to know how to participate in the district. So, the boundaries, the rules, information on the cups and wrist bands, everything, and they actually print them on the cups, on the wrist bands. They are posted all over downtown. So, we are putting all of that information right into their hands. But, because of that, we will be able to switch out the colors, not necessarily on a routine so people don't learn the pattern. But, just as needed, we can switch them out nightly, quarterly, monthly, whenever we feel like it's necessary as often as it needs. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, that is why I asked. You actually mentioned that because I was thinking that somebody could just reproduce it. Okay, thank you.

Councilmember Janice Porter said, I just want to be sure I understood the Chief. So, we are already half way, past half way through the year, so just doing the math, you are talking about \$100,000 over a 12 month period to provide the police protection. Chief Elliott said, yes ma'am, it would be well over \$100,000 a year for the whole project. Councilmember Porter said, I am thinking that \$100,000 could go towards developing a neighborhood park or we have to consider what else we might choose to do with that kind of money, but thank you. Chief Elliott said, yes ma'am. Councilmember Brian Emison said, I do have a follow-up for Chief. Would it be possible to utilize the reserve officer program to offset any of that cost? Chief Elliott said, it is possible to bring them in on occasion, but they are kind of limited. They are working as volunteers as it is. And, so, what we require out of them already is stretching them pretty thin. Councilmember Emison said, thank you.

Mayor Copenhaver said, council, trust me, we are looking at everything that you all have brought up. And, I think the re-evaluation process here in four or five months is going to be critical. And, then what we do as a city moving forward, whether maybe through a Park Rangers system to where we have rangers that are around our parks, as Chief mentioned as well. So, we are going to be looking at those attributes. Councilmember Chris Gibson said, I just want to piggyback on the cost question just real quick. As this starts to drive revenue for the Downtown Jonesboro Association, which I truly believe that it will. Could we possibly look at them offsetting some of that cost as well. I think that is kind of a question for both of y'all. Mayor Copenhaver said, I think that is in the re-evaluation process. That's where you need to see where we stand as a city on the cost and the shared services of that. Chief Elliott said, thank you Mayor. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Chief.

James Elwin Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, said, I am going to preface what I am going to say by mentioning a few facts that I think most of you know. First off is, municipal elections are coming up in November, so that is no extra cost what I want to say. A little bit of history. Most of you know this. Back in the 1940's, Craighead County voted to go dry. On at least two occasions, there may have been more, but two that I know of, it has appeared on the ballot, a measure that would make Jonesboro, I mean make Craighead County, a wet county. One of those I believe was 1978. It could have been 1980, but I believe it was 1978. There other one, I do know the year was 2014. Ten years ago this year. Both times, the vote was overwhelmingly in favor of staying dry. Having said that, since this measure involves public right-of-ways, public property, and has been discussing public expense, taxpayer dollars, I think this, that you all really ought to consider putting this on the municipal election as a referendum and letting the people of Jonesboro decide whether they want this thing or not. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you for your comments.

Held at one reading

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported on the following:

So, in reviewing events and progress since the last meeting, I think there are a lot of great accomplishments and achievements in Jonesboro. Participation from citizens and visitors in numerous events has been very impressive. June 19th, Jonesboro celebrated Juneteenth. A proclamation and a fire works show at University Lions Park on Bridge Street. Just a few days later on the 21st, St. Bernards had a big fundraiser, the Triple Swing Golf and Dinner Dance was held. As usual, a huge crowd of supporters participated and excellent guest putters were also participating. Last Friday started out with a special visit to the Municipal Building by David Peacock, President of Hytrol and Edwardo Mata delivering donuts to the office. It's a tradition they started to honor the birthday of founder Tom Loberg which is July 1st. It was nice to have that sugar energy high on the 28th because we had hundreds of out of town visitors and opportunities and we had to meet them.

The Arkansas Press Association held their annual trade show right here at the Red Wolf Convention Center. It has been over 50 years since they have had an event here in the City of Jonesboro.

The Fraternal Order of Police held their statewide conference at the Red Wolf Convention Center as well. It was my honor to be invited to open both of those conferences. And, while I was there, the Arkansas State Police Fraternal Order of Police, we won the statewide award for the City of Jonesboro on what they do here for the FOP. So, congratulations to our local FOP for their work and effort in our community.

Speaking of police, the Arkansas Gravelers did a six day event ending in Jonesboro this past Friday. That is a biking excursion traveling more than 300 miles from Fayetteville and ending in Jonesboro. Our police officers did an outstanding job of directing traffic and cyclists as they came into town in waves over long periods of time before ending up at Arkansas State University. JETS buses also hustled, concentrating and transporting these visitors to downtown on that evening and other places which allowed our guests to travel to a lot more and see a lot more of our community than just certain areas.

Earlier in the day Friday, I was pleased to share with you a big event for the United Way. There were the 2025 grants were awarded. The City received \$178,000 for various projects that fit the charitable model of the United Way.

Saturday, the AMPA of Jonesboro Police Department had a very popular event. It was the first ever Moto Cycle Rodeo at Joe Mack Campbell Park. It was a very successful event. They are going to be having that for the rest of the year coming up with additional events.

The World Wrestling Exhibition also had appearances at Earl Bell. I didn't see Joe in his tights at Park coming in across the bicycle. I didn't see you at the legendary wrestler association either Joe. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, maybe I was under a mask. Mayor Copenhaver said, you might have been. Councilmember Hafner said, I

was assassin number one.

Also, on Saturday, I was honored to present a proclamation on behalf of the City for the 120th anniversary of First Baptist Church on Kitchen Street. It was very historical for our African American community. I was truly honored because many and all pastors came together for that event and that is what our community is all about.

This morning, I was truly honored to have in the presence Danny Honnoll. Many of you know him and he does exemplary work as a citizen in our community. He has dedicated many of his days to the service of others in our community. We surprised him with a key to the city today. We had secretly arranged it for his family to present that and he thoroughly enjoyed it. He even had his granddaughter fly in from NYC just for that event today.

Coming up this week, the 4th Fest begins tomorrow night at 6:30 p.m. at Joe Mack Campbell Park. We are thankful to Danny and his entire staff for doing all that they do at the parks, particularly on the holidays. Freedom Fest is at Southside Softball Complex starting at 9:30 p.m. on the 4th.

Our Animal Services staff will be hard at work on July 13th for a low cost vaccination clinic.

Also, on the 13th, the monthly neighborhood cleanup will occur. It will be on Rains and Highland. It is delayed a week due to the 4th, the holiday.

You can keep up and see all of the photos of these events on the city Facebook page. There are a few critics out there, but sure, we always take note of that and we take time all the good work that we are doing, the staff is doing and I always want to commend them. It is very important that they get recognized. In fact, a resident remarked on a great job Sanitation is doing in operating and lifting and cleaning from the storms. And, I hope you have seen the video of the little girl who gets really excited about the sanitation truck.

Before I end my remarks, I would like to finish with another remark. This is good news for the City of Jonesboro on many levels. We received some great news this morning, it appears that several million dollars in appropriations for Jonesboro have been requested for our Real Time Crime Information Center and infrastructure at the Craighead County Technology Park. As it sits right now, \$3.5 million is in a bill requested by Senator Bozeman. I just got off the phone with him not five minutes before the meeting. And, also a million dollars from Congressman Crawford for infrastructure for upgrades. This is not finalized, but it is in the bill, the appropriations bill which will be voted on later this month. That would be a big boost to this community of over \$4.5 million. So, if you have a chance to reach out to either one of them, please do so and continue to show your support. That is much needed by our community. Thank you so much.

[COM-24:028](#)

APRIL 2024 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Attachments: [April 2024 Financials](#)

Filed

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember John Street said, Mayor, you mentioned Sanitation, they do a great job. I would like to remind people because of the holiday to make sure they check their sanitation schedule for the upcoming week because of the 4th.

Councilmember David McClain said, nominating and rules met earlier tonight. In order to move forward with one of the resolutions, I would ask that we suspend the rules and walk on RES-24:053. Councilmember Joe Hafner seconded the motion. All voted aye. Councilmember Mitch Johnson motioned to adopt RES-24:053. Councilmember John Street seconded the motion. All voted aye.

Councilmember David McClain said, the only other thing I have Mayor is when the paper reported on that our revenues were down year over year. I really wanted to know and I am not asking for now. But, would love to see or hear our plans as far as our police funding was for that or you were going to use our revenue is what we planned to do in order to help us fund that as well as some other things. Again, not asking for an answer tonight, but would love to maybe you send an email out just documenting or commenting on it. Or you can have Steve or whoever.

Mayor Copenhaver said, in answer to that, Steve, do you want to come forward real quick and kind of give an update. Obviously, we watch those. In conjunction, you are seeing multiple cities across the state of Arkansas on the same flex. It is up and down. We are seeing a trend across the state. Also, in the state revenues as well. But, Steve is doing an analysis and he would be happy to update you right now. Councilmember McClain said, thank you.

Finance Director Steve Purtee said, Mayor, thanks. This is somewhat in conjunction with the financial report that are part of the communication item that you had. Those reports are as of April 2024. Basically, they are concluding that we are behind by budget by approximately \$800,000 in relation to our general fund. Conversely, we are up about \$500,000 in our street fund. Excuse me, on this report, \$220,000. So, that nets to a positive. You can see that basically we were planning to conclude the year at basically an even budget in a combined general and street fund. Specific to the revenues, you can see down in this section of the report, sales tax combined \$15.9 million. We budgeted \$15.869 million. So, we were over our budget variance by \$61,000. Relating to the report that was in the newspaper, this report here is of April 2024. We have had May results. We now have June results that are in there. You may recall that the May results, in fact, I have got that with me here, that was at \$20.05 million. We had budgeted \$19.99 million. So, again, we were about \$52,000 ahead of our budget target. When you look at that in comparison to the previous year, we were approximately 5% ahead of last year for the month of May. We were approximately 5.9% down for the month of June compared to the previous year. When you look at that in the year to date, we are less than 1% varied in that category. So, we fully expect that the other side of the equation, the expenses, we have more than made that up relative to cost savings or deferring of expenses. We anticipate that through the remainder of this year that we have got a couple of things that would kind of hold off on our, in our projections here. We still have a revenue projection of \$1.3 million that we set aside for the revenue bond issuance. That is reflecting in a specific capital improvement section which will be reported in our June financials. So, you will see that there. Obviously, we don't have our revenue bond on the table yet. So, that is an excess revenues through the first half of the year that we could redeploy if needed. The second piece to that is the expense side of the house relative to our jail fees. They are coming in at \$800,000 better than what we had budgeted through a negotiated contract. So, that is in play as well. And, generally, we submitted our June budget status reports today to our Directors. They are analyzing that maybe as we speak

relative to that. We will be working with them looking at that as well. Obviously, June is exactly one half of the year, the period ending June 30. It gives us a really good barometer to look at exactly 50% of the year has elapsed. Where are we in relation to budget? We use that as a great tool to analyze that as well. We do know that we do have some cost savings in personnel costs because we still have some open positions that have not been filled yet. So, obviously, we budget at 100% employment status. So, that provides a little room there. All in all, we think that through the course of the remainder of this year, we will continue to monitor the revenue streams, the sales tax returns, and just keep in touch with that relative to the other side of the equation and that is controlling expenses. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Steve, we appreciate you. Councilmember McClain said, thank you.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, about a year and a half ago, we had a discussion in here about homeless people sleeping underneath the bridge and I updated and Carol and I had a discussion about the 9th Circuit Court ruling with Residents versus Grand Pass Oregon. The 9th Circuit Court ruled that we couldn't basically do anything about residents sleeping on public property unless we had an alternative place for them. Well, this past week, the Supreme Court overruled that. The Supreme Court sided with Grand Pass Oregon. It is a monumental decision. It allows cities to ticket people. The exact phrase from Chief Justice Roberts was for sitting or sleeping on public property. So, what I would ask while we are not in a crisis, I would ask that we consider developing an ordinance to address people sleeping on public property and get that underway before we actually have to use it. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I will say that the AML sent out some guidance on that and they said that they would be sending out some more sample guidance for all of the cities that have been dealing with these issues to kind of give an idea on what a good path forward is in regards to an ordinance. So, I hope that we will be getting that in the next little bit and can move forward with their guidance. Councilmember Moore said, that is a huge decision that overthrew the 9th Circuit Court. Because as you know, we have people sleeping on public property right now or before that decision there was nothing to keep you. Carol got mad at me because I said it in the council meeting one night. If I was homeless, I would load right up and go to Craighead Forest and just set up camp and there wouldn't be anything we could do about it. Ms. Duncan said, thanks for giving ideas. Councilmember Moore said, that's right. Carol admonished me for doing that. But, while we don't currently have the problems is the time to address it. The second item is that I have kicked over the last five or six years, we have no written agreement with the county over the operation of the jail. As you currently know by reading the newspaper, the county is considering a sales tax referendum to build a new jail. We are the largest customer. We are paying 90% of the jail fees. I would think it would be important before a referendum came on a sales tax initiative, that we might know the details because we are going to be expected to pay 90% of O&M. I am just throwing that out there Mayor. We have been operating for at least five years without a written agreement.

Mayor Copenhaver said, in follow up to that, you are exactly correct. In our conversations, especially with Sheriff Boyd and the Judge, obviously as Steve mentioned just earlier, a diminishing of \$800,000 was clarified on those payments that we have. And, then our meetings are going to continue on that and if you would like to be involved in that process Councilman, I would love to have you there.

Councilmember Moore said, I will be glad to help anyway I can and participate anyway I can, but I just know we are on the hook to pay the O&M. I would think that we would have some foreknowledge of what the plan might be. I mean, if Joe was paying 90% of my house payment, I'm going to start building tomorrow, even if he is on tights wrestling or whatever. I can't believe you brought that up Mayor. I had forgot that. The

other thing is this is probably the first time in ten years, I hadn't brought my handbook from the Municipal League for Officials to the meeting tonight and I needed it because I think on a motion to postpone temporary, it is non-debatable. You need a motion and a second. So, tonight we had two motions postpone temporary. You want to read it to me Clerk? It is right there on the back page. There is a chart. Is a motion to postpone temporary debatable? It is the fourth line down. City Clerk April Leggett said, the motion to postpone temporarily is non-debatable. Councilmember Moore said, okay, I'm glad I wasn't forgetting that. So, tonight, we had two motions to postpone temporary and we let Scott Roper express an opinion about why that was. Non-debatable means when we have a motion to postpone temporary, we vote it up or down on its merits. So, I just wanted to mention that. Thank you Mayor.

[RES-24:053](#)

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

Councilmember David McClain motioned, seconded by Councilmember Joe Hafner, to suspend the rules and walk-on RES-24:053 due to the time sensitive nature of the appointments/reappointments. All voted aye.

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

Enactment No: R-EN-069-2024

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

_____ **Date:** _____
Harold Copenhaver, Mayor

Attest:

_____ **Date:** _____
April Leggett, City Clerk