



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, August 21, 2018

5:30 PM

Municipal Center

SPECIAL CALLED NOMINATING AND RULES COMMITTEE MEETING AT 4:45 P.M.

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

PUBLIC HEARING AT 5:20 P.M.

President Pro-Temp Chris Moore asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against this hearing. There was no one in attendance in opposition to this Public Hearing.

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

President Pro-Temp Chris Moore presided over the meeting in the absence of Mayor Harold Perrin.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

3. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK DONNA JACKSON

Present 11 - Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain and LJ Bryant
Absent 1 - Ann Williams

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

Aye: 11 - Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

[MIN-18:077](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON AUGUST 7, 2018

Attachments: [CC Minutes 08072018.pdf](#)

This item was **APPROVED** on the consent agenda.

[RES-18:119](#)

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH MEDIC ONE FOR SPONSORSHIP OF ONE BASEBALL FIELD AT THE JOE MACK CAMPBELL SPORTS COMPLEX

Attachments: [Exhibit A](#)

This item was **APPROVED** on the consent agenda.

[RES-18:121](#)

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH NEA BAPTIST FOR SPONSORSHIP OF ONE ATHLETIC FIELD AT THE JOE MACK CAMPBELL SPORTS COMPLEX

Attachments: [Exhibit A](#)

This item was **APPROVED** on the consent agenda.

[RES-18:122](#)

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY FOR SPONSORSHIP OF TWO BASEBALL FIELDS AT THE JOE MACK CAMPBELL SPORTS COMPLEX

Attachments: [Exhibit A](#)

This item was **APPROVED** on the consent agenda.

[RES-18:124](#)

A RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FOR THE 2018 JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) PROGRAM FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO

Attachments: [MOU Judge Hill signed](#)
[JAG 2018 Budget Narrative](#)
[FY18 JAG local Chief Exec Cert](#)
[FY2018JAIComplianceWith1373-1644](#)
[FY2018JAIComplianceWithVarious](#)
[2018 JAG SF424](#)
[Program Narrative for Upgraded Police Equipment](#)

This item was **APPROVED** on the consent agenda.

[RES-18:125](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO SUBMIT THE FY2019 OUTDOOR RECREATION MATCHING GRANT APPLICATION

Attachments: [2016 Civil Rights Assurance Form 424](#)
[Form 424D](#)
[Certifications Regarding Debarment Form DI 2010](#)
[2018 Project Fund Assurance](#)
[Environmental Assessment Earl Bell](#)
[Flood Cert. Earl Bell](#)
[Waiver of Retroactivity Craighead](#)
[2018 Recreation Priorities](#)
[Project Budget 2018](#)
[Earl Bell Site Plan](#)
[Project Narrative Outdoor Recreation-Earl Bell 2018](#)

This item was **APPROVED** on the consent agenda.

[RES-18:131](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY FORMS TO ACCEPT THE AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PROJECT GRANT

Attachments: [Original Grant Offer.pdf](#)
[Resolution to approve AIP Grant Award.pdf](#)
[AR STATE CLEARINGHOUSE LETTER.pdf](#)

This item was **APPROVED** on the consent agenda.

6. NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

[RES-18:123](#)

A RESOLUTION TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE ABANDONMENT OF HAL STREET AS REQUESTED BY JOSH HURD WITH MCALISTER ENGINEERING ON BEHALF OF BOB REES

Attachments: [Engineering and Planning Letter Resolution.pdf](#)
[Unsigned Petition.pdf](#)
[Ordinance.pdf](#)
[CWL.pdf](#)
[Ritter-HPC Abandonment Letter.pdf](#)
[CenterPoint Utility.pdf](#)
[ATT.pdf](#)
[SuddenLink.pdf](#)

President Pro-Temp Chris Moore said I believe Mayor Harold Perrin indicated the hearing was set for 5:20 p.m. on September 4, 2018.

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

Aye: 11 - Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

[RES-18:132](#)

A RESOLUTION SCHEDULING A HEARING ON THE APPROVAL OF THE FINAL SUBDIVISION PLAT FOR TWIN OAKS PHASE 2, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

Attachments: [Appeal Letter for CKF LLC_Chris Futrell.pdf](#)
[Exhibit A.pdf](#)
[jonesboro_ea4c3686-e5dc-48d3-9cbc-a5f0df363b87.mp4](#)
[futrell.citycouncil.appeal.ltr.pdf](#)

President Pro-Temp Chris Moore said I was informed today that there is pending litigation on this. Is it City Attorney Carol Duncan's recommendation that the City Council take no action? Ms. Duncan said it is correct that there has been pending litigation. We were served, and I believe Mayor Perrin's office was served. So, I'm not comfortable with us taking action on it while there is litigation pending. President Pro-Temp Moore said okay. On the City Attorney's advice, I would entertain a motion to postpone indefinitely.

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

Aye: 11 - Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-18:051](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE JONESBORO CODE OF ORDINANCES, SECTION 117-326, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR THE PROVISION OF LANDSCAPE, SCREENING AND TREE PRESERVATION WITHIN THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, WITH THE INTENT TO PROMOTE LANDSCAPING, BUFFERING, SCREENING AND TREE PRESERVATION FOR THE GENERAL HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE COMMUNITY.

Attachments: [Landscape Ordinance 5th addn.pdf](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Long, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-18:051 by title only. All voted aye.

Councilmember David McClain asked if he could make a statement. I just wanted to say real quickly that the goals of Ordinance-18:051 are to improve the visual appearance of the city, to maintain property values, reduce runoff, and improve air and water quality. As a city, we have to decide what type of city we want to be. I have had discussions with some who have concerns about this ordinance and other regulations that we are proposing. We are known for being one of the cheapest cities to do business. Do our citizens want cheap or do they want value? Our citizens deserve to live in a city where there is good value. We want citizens who add value, as well as to be a city that adds value to its citizens. Our most important commodity are the citizens of Jonesboro. I feel that they deserve value over cheap. We have to think

about our future and not on what is best for right now. We have to think about our kids, a cleaner environment, and we have to leave things better than we found them.

Councilmember McClain said I felt that I needed to make those statements due to some recent conversations. I am feeling that this would enhance the city. It would enhance our appearance, and I think our overall city as a whole. I think it would definitely do that, so I just wanted to make that statement.

Placed on second reading

[ORD-18:053](#)

AN ORDINANCE ABANDONING AND VACATING AN UNUSED 16 FOOT DRAINAGE EASEMENT AS REQUESTED BY THE JACK HILL FAMILY

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

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember LJ Bryant, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-18:053 by title only. All voted aye.

Councilmember Gene Vance asked if Engineering Director Craig Light had anything to say about this. President Pro-Temp Chris Moore asked Mr. Light if there was anything unusual and if he would provide a brief update. Mr. Light said this easement is actually at the top of a hill. It's along three lots. They are planning to replot into a single lot and they'll manage all the drainage on their property. So, we have no issues with the abandonment.

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

Aye: 11 - Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

[ORD-18:054](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1, SINGLE-FAMILY MEDIUM DENSITY DISTRICT TO I-2, GENERAL INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5205 INGLES ROAD AS REQUESTED BY CITY, WATER, & LIGHT

Attachments: [Application.pdf](#)
 [Rezoning Plat.pdf](#)
 [Staff Summary.pdf](#)
 [CWL - COJ City Council Rezoning Ordinance.pdf](#)
 [Plat 18224.pdf](#)

Councilmember John Street asked to be recused from any consideration on this matter because he is a member on the Board of Directors of City, Water and Light. President Pro-Temp Chris Moore asked if Councilmember Charles Frierson would like to be recused, as well. Councilmember Frierson said yes, I would. President Pro-Temp Moore said let the record reflect Councilmember Street and Councilmember Frierson

recuse.

Councilmember Gene Vance motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-18:054 by title only. All voted aye.

President Pro-Temp Moore said I don't know of any emergency pertaining to that so, unless there's any objection, we will read that on three occasions.

Placed on second reading

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-18:042](#)

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

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

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

Aye: 11 - Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

[ORD-18:043](#)

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

Attachments: [Planned Development District.pdf](#)
 [Current Code as of 06182018_Sec 117-164.pdf](#)
 [Current Code as of 06182018_Sec 117-175.pdf](#)

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

Aye: 11 - Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

[ORD-18:049](#)

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

Attachments: [Horizon Bistro Application Revised 07262018.pdf](#)
 [Horizon Bistro Application.pdf](#)
 [AN ORDINANCE FOR PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT.pdf](#)

Councilmember Bobby Long asked if there was anyone in the audience from Horizon Bistro, Inc. Mr. James Gray, 5931 Rees Road, said I will be the general manager of

the Courtyard Marriott. Councilmember Long asked Mr. Gray if he was familiar with the non-profit of Horizon Bistro, Inc. Mr. Gray said I am. Councilmember Long asked if the non-profit has been in existence for over one year. Mr. Gray said it has. Councilmember Long said so it has operated as a non-profit for over one year. Mr. Gray said yes, it has. Councilmember Long said as part of a non-profit, I hope that you can understand the reasons. There are certain benefits that go with being a non-profit and I just want to make sure that those who are going to reap the benefits of a non-profit are actually operating as such. Would you think that would be fair? Mr. Gray said I think it would be. Councilmember Long said okay. What charitable activity do you intend to list on your application today, if it's approved. Mr. Gray said I had considered that and my pick would be the Children's Shelter in Walnut Ridge. Councilmember Long asked Mr. Gray if that was what he was going to list on his application. Mr. Gray said yes. Councilmember Long said okay. What form of entertainment do you plan on listing? Mr. Gray said a restaurant and a lounge.

Councilmember Long said it's always sort of intrigued me that when I go to different institutions or different places that serve alcohol one of the things I see is a member log. I guess one of the reasons for that member log is so that when there's voting that needs to be done you can send out notices to your membership. How do you plan to do that because a lot of the logs I see around town have jokes written on them? It's not really a log. Mr. Gray said as far as the membership of the private club, part of my original legwork was to establish the 100 names. Is that what you're thinking of? So, then, of course, I do have all of that in an Excel file on my laptop. So, anytime I need to contact them, it will be just as simple as an e-mail. Councilmember Long said also, for the membership, before they can serve alcohol, you have to be in the presence of a member. Is that correct? Mr. Gray said that is correct. Councilmember Long asked so how do you plan on monitoring that if a waiter comes up and someone requests an alcoholic beverage that you verify that they are either a member or in the presence of one. Mr. Gray said I am a member, of course, and I'll be there, but I think an answer to your question would be that they have to sign the log, as you said. Councilmember Long asked do they become a member at that point. Mr. Gray said no. They would be my guest. Councilmember Long said they're your guest? Mr. Gray said yes sir. Councilmember Long said okay. That's all I've got.

President Pro-Temp asked if there were any questions and if anyone in the audience or anyone else on the council have any questions for this man. (Then, a motion and vote was made.)

Mr. Bob Hester said did I miss it again. President Pro-Temp Moore said Mr. Hester I asked if anybody in the council or anybody in the audience had any questions. Mr. Hester said you asked if anybody had any questions for him. President Pro-Temp Moore said well, I'm sorry Mr. Hester. I went right on passed that. I can't back it up because we've already taken a vote on that item.

A motion was made by Councilperson Mitch Johnson, seconded by Councilperson Charles Frierson, that this matter be Adopted . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 11 - Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

President Pro-Temp Chris Moore asked City Attorney Carol Duncan to provide an update on the Ice House litigation. Ms. Duncan said as you know we reached a settlement on the Ice House litigation, finally, and it was one where they filed a Motion to Dismiss with Prejudice. What that means is that they are not allowed to refile that same lawsuit, so that's helpful. As you know, every time we would get what we thought was a resolution before, then they would appeal that decision. We did agree to give 90 days to her to either sell the property, transfer the property, get anything of value out of the property, scrap, or whatever she chooses to do with it for the next 90 days. She has that ability. At the end of that time period, if she hasn't taken any steps to transfer it or sell it, the city will move forward with our plans. My understanding from Code Enforcement is that they are going to go ahead and start the bidding. We bid it a while back what it would cost for the city to take it down, but that's been some time ago. Those bids are kind of old. So, we're going to start that process so that we're ready to go when the 90 days is up, should that become necessary.

President Pro-Temp Moore asked Interim Chief Operations Officer Roy Ockert if there were any other items Mayor Harold Perrin asked that he bring before the council. Mr. Ockert said no.

[COM-18:058](#)

Airport Commission Financial Statements ending July 31, 2018

Attachments: [JAC Jonesboro Airport Financials 07_18.pdf](#)

Filed

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember David McClain said the only thing I have is that there will be Coffee with a Councilman Saturday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Fat City. If anyone can make it, please do.

Councilmember Bobby Long said I just wanted to get an update on the "Get Involved" link on our website, but I guess I can wait until Mayor Perrin gets back. I think it's really important that we continue to get that done and not let that fall through the cracks. I know there was some discussion on whether or not that should be done or not in the last one, but I think anytime you can open up opportunities for people to get involved then you're going to be better off. I just wanted to make sure that that doesn't fall through the cracks and we get that done for our community as a whole. We need to make sure that when we have openings on committees or areas for volunteerism that we don't miss out on somebody who has either expertise in that, but may not be known by those who are choosing, or just for transparency and also to allow more involvement by more citizens. I think anytime you can do that, then you're better off for it. President Pro-Temp Chris Moore said thank you, Mr. Long.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said I have a couple of things I'd like to say. I'll try not to be too long. One of the things that we have talked about a lot, whether it be Mayor Perrin, the administration, the council or the public, is public/private partnerships and how we are going to have to really rely on those types of things to get things done around here, whether it be quality of life related or whatever. Here lately, I've been spending quite a bit of time in Ottawa, Kansas, because of work. Ottawa is a town of about 14,000 people, where they are fortunate to have some bike trails that come through there.

One of the questions I asked when Mr. Mark Young, with the Jonesboro Chamber of

Commerce, was here was what would it take for the city and the Chamber to do more collaborations. When Mr. Mike Downing, with the Chamber and Jonesboro Unlimited, was here he mentioned that out of Jonesboro, Little Rock, Memphis, Fayetteville, Searcy, Tupelo, and Springfield, Jonesboro was the only city where the medium income had gone down, and he mentioned 4%. He mentioned some other statistics regarding poverty and other things that we should be real concerned about. The key thing that he mentioned was that millennials, the younger people, choose where they want to live and then they get a job. We always found a job and then went and lived there. So, that's why I think it's really important to make people want to come here and live, and a lot of the ways you do that is through quality of life initiatives. One of the things that the Ottawa Chamber of Commerce has done is establish a 501(c)(3) foundation called, "Onward Ottawa", and they initiated a capital campaign to support downtown revitalization. They identified the need for downtown outdoor event space to create an area for people to gather and hold community events.

What they are building is an area called Legacy Square, where two trails come together. One trail is a rail trail that runs for 51 miles, I guess, north and south, and there's another trail that's 117 miles long that runs east and west. So, they're building it where those trails intersect. I just think it's really important to point this out because I know Jonesboro has a lot of industry, a lot of education, the hospitals, and a lot of people who should be really concerned or really interested in what it will take to bring people to our community to want to live. I always tell people that I want Jonesboro to be a great place for people to live from all ranges of income and economic means, but we have to make sure that people are going to want to continue to live here who are higher income earners, too. I just think some of our statistics are a little deceiving when we talk about all of our great growth over the last few years. If our population is growing, but our income is going down, we're going to be having to do more for more citizens with a lot less money because our sales tax revenue is not going to grow very much. I've been talking about having plans or what plan are we following. I'm really going to be pressing on the council, the administration, the Chamber, Arkansas State University, and industry to figure out what we have to do to come together and start addressing some of these areas that we've just kind of swept under the rug for 20 or 30 years. Kind of like the sidewalk thing, sidewalks work everywhere else and people said they would never work here. I mean Jonesboro was just so different. We really have to start addressing these needs in Jonesboro and not let them keep being addressed everywhere else and enjoy the fruits of those labors. I just thought it was interesting that a town of 14,000 could raise over \$4 million dollars for quality of life and economic development. Thank you.

President Pro-Temp Moore said if you will please send that information to Mayor Perrin because I think he will be interested in seeing that, and part of that is a discussion we're having right now with the committee over Wolverine is over quality of life. Councilmember Hafner said it's not rocket science. It's just everybody coming together and working towards the same goal. I don't care if it's our plan, Keith Inman's plan, the Chamber's plan, or ASU's plan. If everybody just comes together, the success is going to benefit everybody, whether you're a hospital, industry, schools, or whatever. I'll get off my soapbox for right now, but it's important.

Councilmember L.J. Bryant said I just want to say a couple of things under the same envelope. I got about four calls today from people doing a Chamber membership drive. So, I thought that was encouraging. The Chamber is trying to reach out to get more people involved. Also, it was encouraging to see the people who applied for the Neighborhood Leadership Program that Community Development Director Tiffny Calloway and her department are doing. It was encouraging to see a lot of people who

had applied and you hadn't necessarily heard of them, and that was really the goal to not get the same people who had always been involved. So, I think we really need community buy-in and, to have that, we have to have more people involved. Communications Director Bill Campbell sent the Council an e-mail this afternoon talking about branding the city and videos to promote the city. He was talking about whether to target visitors or whether to target local people. I said really I think it's about the same thing because if our local people are not ambassadors for Jonesboro, then nobody else will be. Back on the involvement piece and to Councilmember Hafner's point, we need to embrace where we are whether it be the good, the bad or the ugly, and then to have buy-in to move forward. Another thing I would say and Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman sold himself short on his event he had with My Healthy Jonesboro. That was a great example of My Healthy Jonesboro coming together with people in North Jonesboro to teach kids bicycle safety. So, to Councilmember Hafner's point, collaboration is necessary on all fronts.

Councilmember John Street said Mayor Perrin is not here, but I'm sure he would have done this. The Northeast Arkansas Regional Transportation Planning Commission, or the MPO, was nominated and awarded, and Councilmember Hafner you can appreciate this in your effort of planning. They have received a national award for an active transportation plan. That's a big deal. It will be awarded at their annual conference in San Antonio, Texas. That is a lot of hard work by MPO Director Erica Tait and her staff, the technical advisory committee that serves on the MPO, and the policy committee in collaboration with the Arkansas Highway Transportation Department, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad, Union Pacific, and every form and mode of transportation, such as JET, aviation, and bicyclists. A lot of different people here have served on that committee, but it is the fruits of a good plan and it is recognized. Ms. Tait is out on maternity leave, but I just wanted to thank her for the wonderful job her and her staff have done and the recognition they have brought to us in that aspect of planning because transportation is another big concern and it doesn't just happen. It's the result of a good plan. Councilmember Hafner said well, let's do this. Instead of it just staying a plan, let's get it into position. Councilmember Street said the only thing about the MPO is that we're one of eight in the state, but we're not like Metroplan. They're the only ones who get direct federal funding, but this still enables us to set our priorities and goals and submit to ArDOT and they pay attention to it. So, while we can't absolutely say this is what we're going to get, it does incorporate all that and it includes every stakeholder in our MPO area, including Bay, Brookland, Bono, Craighead County, and the City of Jonesboro. It does have influence and it has already paid us some dividends on some projects that we've seen come in.

[COM-18:060](#)

COUNCILMEMBER JOE HAFNER'S RESPONSE.

Attachments: [Ottawa Kansas Release](#)

Read

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. James Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, said what I'd like to speak about is a needed change on how the City Council does business. It is not good to walk a measure on and there's no advance notice to the public because it's only decided that day that it's going to be brought on. There is not allowance during that. The first reading is gone. Nobody was allowed to speak pro or con. You have these three meetings and even though you have somebody who had indicated that he wanted to speak, the public is not allowed to speak. The City Council is here to serve the people. President

Pro-Temp Chris Moore asked are you talking about on the alcohol ordinance, Mr. Hinds. Mr. Hinds said I'm not going there because that was discussed earlier. President Pro-Temp Moore said I apologized to Mr. Hester. I didn't see Mr. Hester's hand when I asked if anybody wished to speak. Mr. Hinds said he had indicated that and that is not good procedure when the public is not allowed to comment on what is being said, pro or con. You're the City Council and you can make the decision, but the public needs to be heard. President Pro-Temp Moore said come up here and I'll apologize to you, too, Mr. Hester. I did not see your hand go up.

Mr. Bob Hester, 7096 CR 333, asked do your rules mean anything or does your procedure mean anything because did you ask for public comments? President Pro-Temp Moore said yes, I did. The problem was when I said does anyone on the council or in the audience wish to speak on that, I didn't see your hand go up. The only person I saw was Councilmember Long indicated he wanted to speak. Mr. Hester said well, you usually do the council and then you ask if somebody else wants to speak and that's what I was thinking about, so, I missed it. President Pro-Temp Moore said I'm telling you I'm sorry for passing you over. It was not intentional. Mr. Hester said I didn't think it was intentional. President Pro-Temp Moore said that's all I can tell you. Mr. Hester said the way it was done, it just kind of went by. President Pro-Temp Moore said as a stickler for the rules, once I called for the vote and the vote was taken, I could not allow you to talk on the item after that. If I had seen you in advance, I would have let you speak on that item. Mr. Hester said okay. Thank you.

Mr. Harold Carter, 902 Tony Drive, said I don't want to talk about the permits. That's already business passed, but I do want to talk about alcohol. This Waffle House riot did attract my attention quite severely. I finally read all the newspaper articles on it and got more details, and I didn't like what I read. I could surmise that there's not been much alcohol enforcement going on in town around these alcohol joints. You can call them private clubs. I don't care about them getting permits. I figure that's a done deal by the time it gets here. I have not seen much impact with people that have had things to say on it. Mr. Hester and I talk about it occasionally, but we don't necessarily quite see the matter the same way. I just want law enforcement to supervise these joints. Just like I have some experience with, I know how it's done. I've not monitored the vicinities of these places, but I know, the Waffle House, when the places start discharging their drunken customers, they're just alcohol joints letting out the doors and I know what will happen. Some of them will probably get a ride home, stay sober and drive safely, but most of them won't.

Mr. Carter said when I see a drunken riot break out outside the Waffle House, I don't like what I'm seeing on the east side of town where I live. No, fortunately, it wasn't within several blocks of me, but nonetheless, I don't see that happening in the rest of the town. I saw how you treated Mr. Prunty when he was running a joint like that, and not very well, and I expect similar attention in my neighborhood, and I'm not seeing it. I know, according to the reports I get, the county can't put them all in jail. Let me tell you, if they're just immune or feel immune, in any case, I know what drunken scum is and what will go on with drunks. You can call it private clubs, but, obviously, these people are in the alcohol business, and the City Council and the county, but particularly, standing here, the City Council is not going to get a very good reputation if they keep issuing these permits. I don't expect to have any influence on this at all. I haven't so far and haven't tried. I consider that futile to start with, but enforcement will work. I guarantee you enforcement will work and it will stop these people, but it won't stop them if you don't have any. Don't come telling me, and nobody has told me because I haven't asked them, that we get drunks because you can read it in the paper. Yes, I do, so I know it's true, but, obviously, you don't get enough of them. You

start laying on some serious enforcement, whether they end up in jail immediately or not, or out on bail, or whatever, they're not going to like having a stack of drunken driving. Let's be clear, I'm not just talking about drunken driving. You can see these people staggering down the road heading towards Waffle House or wherever they head for. I don't care if they're going home. I don't care where they're going. That's against the law depending on their state of intoxication. We take the driving more seriously, like we should, but that's not the only violations here. When it turns in to the mess, like up here at the Waffle House, more than one of them people had guns on them. There wasn't just one out there, and they felt entitled. Entitled to start shoving the police around and bellying up to the police. That's not quite the enforcement I was talking about. That's a special situation that brought all this on. A mob like this has ice picks and knives. They don't just have guns and if you put up with that a couple minutes, pretty soon they'll have your guns. Walking around behind you and arguing with you. I don't want to see police officers get hurt. I consider them quite lucky to have exited this situation successfully, with their health and welfare and alive, but that won't keep up. These police officers are going to end up some of them getting severely hurt or knocked down themselves. Why do they have guns, pistols, and shotguns if they can't use them to control mobs? If you don't control mobs, what do you think the next mobs that form here in town, and there will be some, are going to think? They're going to think they're home free.

Mr. Carter said, eventually, 20 police officers or 10, or whatever the number it was showed up and they got the message. That's not how you control mobs by negotiating with them, particularly drunken mobs. That's just outside the pale of decent behavior in the city like this. The police controlled it through mostly some pretty good work and to a large degree, luck, but the fact that that forms up there is due to lack of enforcement. Don't tell me that people are that resistant to enforcement. If you're out there putting the cuffs on them. The police officers out there must have been in a terrible state. How many times do you have to put handcuffs on people before they slip out of them? They won't slip out of them if you put them on there tight enough, and I don't care if it's uncomfortable or not. They don't care either. I'm not claiming I would have been more effective putting on handcuffs than whoever this person was because when you get distracted to that extent, anything can happen. You won't keep on being lucky, and I don't want it happening on the east side of town all the time. Let it happen over there. I didn't care about Prunty because he wasn't on my side of town, but I did take notice of it, and I also took notice of what you did about it. Mr. Carter said all seemingly quite proper to me.

You think these private clubs are keeping out minors? I don't, any better than Prunty did. Maybe better than he did, but that would be a stretch, but, exclusively, no. What I believe is that there's no enforcement in there. They just come in there, hang around, and play like they're eating, and drink out of their partner's drink. Give me a break! All that stuff is simple-minded. I never practiced that myself. I don't have any practice at it, but I have plenty of knowledge of it and how it's done, and I know you can tell what's going on if you want to enforce that mess. It's all a mess before it's over. Yes, there are some high-class clubs that probably have to emphasize customer satisfaction a little better, but most of these are just dives. That's what they are. That's what alcohol joints are, and unless the city from the top down starts enforcing this, it isn't going to get better. When Craighead County finally turns wet, it's going to get worse. I don't mind. I don't see that there's any hope for resisting all that, but there's plenty of alternatives to not having alcohol enforcement, and you've got plenty of laws. They don't even all depend on alcohol inebriation and giving people tests and stuff. They depend on how people act when they're drunk. That's not something you all really needed to know. I think you already knew it. You're the only one around here, just like

Mr. Hinds said, that can do anything about it. I'm not going down there and eyeballing that mess. I wouldn't mind. I got plenty of time to kill, but on the other hand, that would get me in trouble.

Councilmember Charles Frierson said may I ask what happened to the clock that we used to have. City Clerk Donna Jackson said I had it right here. President Pro-Temp Moore said it was going off in my right ear.

Ms. Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road, said I want to say thank you to Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman. I think your safety class with the bicycles was a big success. I think Mr. Bill Smith put on a real good class. There were a lot of people who asked about the class and they didn't know they could attend that class if they lived on the south side. Maybe that is something we need to do more often, especially with our kids. So, thank you very much for doing that. I thought that was really good. I also want to say thank you to Councilmember L.J. Bryant for doing the diversity ordinance. I think it's really important. It's too bad that you had to do it, but I think there are so many capable people out there that, how can I say this, that are people who want to get involved, but they don't want to get involved. I think that goes back to saying thank you to you and to Councilmember Bobby Long. I really think it's important that we advertise all the positions, whether they're on the board or the committees as much as possible, whether it's your idea with the city's Facebook page or in the newspaper. I think there's a lot of people who want to get involved, and I think an example of this is an e-mail I received, and I'll send it to all of you. It was signed, "A Millennial." It was concerning the council meeting last week and it was talking about what went on and how they'd like to get involved, but they don't know how. I think there's a lot of younger people who are watching the meetings and they are aware of what is going on, but they also want to get involved. I think a good way is to get it out as much as possible, whether it's through Councilmember Long's idea or Councilmember Bryant's idea of whether it's in the newspaper, on the city's Facebook page or all of your Facebook pages just to get more people involved. Thank you. Good job.

Mr. T.J. Thompson, 3816 S. Culberhouse, said I wasn't planning to say anything, but I couldn't help but hear some of the snickers as Councilmember Hafner was reading his statement tonight. I'm a millennial. I am and I self-identify even as a millennial. I wanted to share a few statistics with you about millennials. We make up somewhere around 80 million people in the United States population. That's about 25% of the U.S. population. We're larger than the Babyboomer generation. We're three times the size of Gen X. We're best educated, and that's just a statistic, and I'm not at all stump speaking on that. In the last five years, 87% of millennial workers took on management roles. Twenty-five percent, roughly, of the U.S. workforce right now are millennials. Here's an interesting one. Forty percent of U.S. millennials are parents and by 2026, 80% of U.S. millennials will be parents. From a community standpoint and economic standpoint, I think it is important to consider how we appeal to the millennial generation, and then Gen Y is coming right after that, which is a whole different thing. There are some millennials out there who have different values and see the world through a totally different lens than most anybody sees it in Jonesboro, Arkansas. We get a lot of different labels and stigmas, and some of them are very well earned. I admit that, but there are a lot of us who are involved in the community, who coach baseball, soccer and basketball and other things and who just want to see Jonesboro be the best that it can be, and a lot of that definition of the best that it can be involves an active lifestyle, inclusivity, and it involves a lot of things that we talked about tonight. I felt like someone needed to say that and I felt as a millennial, I could.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 11 - Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

_____ **Date:** _____

Harold Perrin, Mayor

Attest:

_____ **Date:** _____

Donna Jackson, City Clerk