



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Public Services Council Committee

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

4:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

1. Call To Order

2. Roll Call by City Clerk April Leggett

Present 5 - Joe Hafner; Bobby Long; Chris Gibson; Ann Williams and Brian Emison

ELECTION OF A CHAIR

Councilmember Joe Hafner nominated Chris Gibson for chair of the Public Services Committee and was seconded by Councilmember Ann Williams. All that were present voted Aye

3. Approval of minutes

[MIN-21:081](#)

MINUTES FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

Attachments: [Public Services Minutes 09212021](#)

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

Aye: 3 - Joe Hafner; Ann Williams and Brian Emison

Absent: 1 - Bobby Long

4. New Business

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

[RES-22:054](#)

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH THE JONESBORO BASEBALL BOOSTERS

Sponsors: Parks & Recreation

Attachments: [JBB 2022 Agreement 2-23-22](#)

Chairman Chris Gibson said, "This is the contract for the baseball boosters for Joe Mack Campbell. Parks Director Danny Kapales approached the podium, "The only changes we have made since the last would be we have chosen to freeze the yearly payment at \$18,000.00 for the next three years. Part of that reasoning is, baseball boosters, due to covid, have went through a down swing as far as tournaments, so we

wanted to be a good partner with them. Allow them to go through some processes and get back to where they needed to be, and I think freezing where we were was a good gesture and then we will re-evaluate when we get through this contract. The other piece that we changed, in the contract it states that the city has the right to host two tournaments if we choose to at the ball complex, we can still hold tournaments but the one thing we agreed upon was if we decide to hold the tournament, we will sit down with them and we will agree on who that tournament director will be. That way we weren't disrupting the relationship with the state director."

A motion was made by Councilperson Joe Hafner, seconded by Councilperson Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 3 - Joe Hafner; Ann Williams and Brian Emison

Absent: 1 - Bobby Long

[RES-22:055](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A FACILITY USAGE AGREEMENT WITH CHRISTMAS ATTRACTIONS, LLC FOR JOE MACK CAMPBELL PARK

Sponsors: Parks & Recreation and Finance

Attachments: [Christmas at the Park Agreement](#)

Parks Director Danny Kapales said, "We've made no changes in that one. That agreement stands like it has for the last three years. Just to continue with the percentage of the first 5,000 cars that come through and the fact that they use the facility for the month of November as far as the set up time and then December would be their right to use the facility for the attraction."

Councilmember Joe Hafner said, "Madam Clerk make it known for the record that Councilmember Bobby Long is present."

A motion was made by Councilperson Ann Williams, seconded by Councilperson Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 4 - Joe Hafner; Bobby Long; Ann Williams and Brian Emison

5. Pending Items

6. Other Business

[COM-22:006](#)

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF RECOMMENDED UPDATED COUNCIL WARD BOUNDARIES

Sponsors: Mayor's Office

Attachments: [Wards 2022 11x17](#)

[Wards 2011 11x17](#)

Chief Administrative Officer Brian Richardson approached the podium, "This is not requesting a vote today, I just thought this would be a good time to start communication about this. If you remember a few months back, we contracted with EFS Technologies to review our ward maps based on the new census data that were submitted. We did have a couple wards that were out of compliance and one that was

caught in the middle of two wards. As you can see on this map, on the left hand side is the current ward map and then the proposed changes. Basically, Ward 6 was larger and out of proportion compared to the other wards, so it had to lose a little bit of population. Ward 2 was a little smaller than the deviation it was allowed, so it had to pick up a few folks. Ward 3 was just kind of caught in the middle, so we had to take a little from Ward 6 and add it over to Ward 2. 1,102 people were moved from Ward 3 to Ward 2 and 1,098 people were moved from Ward 6 to Ward 3, so a total 2,200 people are going to be moved into a different ward if these are adopted. Typically this wouldn't be that big of a thing other than residency because we elect city wide in an effort to make half of our council ward elected, so I figured we needed to go through several meetings about this to give chances for anyone to comment. When I first talked with the EFS Technologies I just expressed we only make changes on what they deem necessary because now isn't the time to reinvent the wheel because people are familiar with their wards and councilmembers and we want to keep as much consistency as possible. Rusty McAllister, with our Engineering department, has also compared these to census tracks to verify that these are correct." Chairman Chris Gibson said, "Just looking at the map, what neighborhoods would be mostly impacted from the change?" Mr. Richardson said, "What you really have got is the area behind the Farmers Market over to Airport Road. That are currently in Ward 6 and would be moved over to Ward 3. Ward 2 had to grow so it looks like it would start at Greensboro north to Johnson. That would be about a thousand people. There's some apartment complexes in there where the geographical area makes it look rather small, there's a lot of multifamily housing that makes for dense population. Another thing to consider is while some redistricting rules apply as far as just straight population, wards also have to be consistent within reason." Councilmember Bobby Long said, "So you say we were out of compliance?" Councilmember Ann Williams said, "After the new census, not prior." Mr. Richardson said, "Yeah, with the new census that came in just a few months back, they try to stay within a 5% deviation population wise, from one ward to the next, and I'm going off memory here but I believe Ward 6 was 13% above just because there has been so much growth in that ward. Likewise, although there wasn't a whole lot of shrinking in Ward 2 there was so much growth across the city that Ward 2 fell behind the standard deviation. Councilmember Bobby Long said, "So it's not that it's really out of compliance with any rule or regulation, it's just out of the desired standard deviation population?" Mr. Richardson said, "I refer to City Attorney Carol Duncan if I get this wrong, but it's my understanding that while litigation is unlikely by being out of compliance on the standard they go by, they want to see less than a 5-7% deviation. You have to show you are trying to make all wards fair." Councilmember Bobby Long said, "Who is they?" Mr. Richardson said, "That would be the State of Arkansas, but I can get you the information and language on this before this goes in front of any kind of committee, but you are bound by a duty to try and make all of your wards representative as possible. So I don't know what that exact trigger is to get you a lawsuit." Councilmember Bobby Long said, "I was just looking at it, it seems with the current existing map the natural boundary is Red Wolf Boulevard, and you cut into those neighborhoods in Ward 6. So when you look at natural boundaries verses having to cut off areas, I think you get to show good faith effort that the natural boundary is what we're doing. If we're out of compliance with a true regulatory issue, that's something we need to know but if it's just a standard deviation that we would like to hit I think we need to know that too." Mr. Richardson said, "We can get that law that actually states that and get that to you and we can discuss. I'll work with Carol on getting the exact language why this is necessary. I did talk to them about trying to stay within natural boundaries and they worked on several different models and without messing with all the different wards this was the one they had." Councilmember Joe Hafner said, "Is Public Serves the committee this will come before?" Chairman Chris Gibson said, "We discussed that and we believe it's a good

a fit as anywhere so I believe that's the direction we will take." Mr. Richardson said, "The only thing I would add to that is, I would like to have some closure to this in plenty of time for any type of fall elections so people can know who their councilmember is in the event that we do ward elections." Councilmember Bobby Long said, "Will those be posted, the proposed, on the flash page?" Mr. Richardson said, "They're on Legistar." Councilmember Bobby Long said, "I know, but sometimes Legistar is troublesome to get to, because this is a big change. I think we need to post that where it is easy to get to within at least two clicks." Mr. Richardson said, "Sure we can do that."

7. Public Comments

8. Adjournment

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

Aye: 4 - Joe Hafner; Bobby Long; Ann Williams and Brian Emison