



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

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

SPECIAL CALLED NOMINATING & RULES COMMITTEE MEETING AT 5:15 P.M.

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

3. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

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

Absent 1 - David McClain

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

[COM-21:007](#) PROCLAMATION BY MAYOR HAROLD COPENHAVER HONORING THE NATIONAL DAY OF RACIAL HEALING

Attachments: [Racial Healing proclamation](#)

Read

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

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

Absent: 1 - David McClain

[MIN-21:001](#) MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON JANUARY 5, 2021

Attachments: [CC Minutes 01052021](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

[RES-21:001](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2507 BROOKE MCQUEEN, JONESBORO, AR 72404, PARCEL-01-144333-08800, OWNED BY KYLE D. HALL

Attachments: [2507 Brooke McQueen](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-006-2021

[RES-21:002](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 716 W. WASHINGTON, JONESBORO, AR72401, PARCEL 01-143134-17800, OWNED BY HRB PROPERTIES, INC.

Attachments: [716 W. Washington](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-007-2021

[RES-21:003](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1014 S. CULBERHOUSE, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144192-21300, OWNED BY CHARLES E. NOELL, JR.

Attachments: [1014 S. Culberhouse](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-008-2021

[RES-21:004](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1328 W. HUNTINGTON, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-143133-18100, OWNED BY DKI, LLC.

Attachments: [1328 W. Huntington](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-009-2021

[RES-21:005](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1506 PRATT CIRCLE, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144082-09900, OWNED BY CHARLES BOWMAN

Attachments: [1506 Pratt](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-010-2021

[RES-21:006](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3213 MEADOR, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144281-36300, OWNED BY STEPHEN D. WORLEY

Attachments: [3213 Meador](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-011-2021

[RES-21:008](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4306 GLADYS, JONESBORO, AR 72404, PARCEL 01-134032-11800, OWNED BY ANGELINE BROWN

Attachments: [4306 Gladys](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-012-2021

[RES-21:009](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT RICHARDSON, JONESBORO, AR 72401, PARCEL 01-144273-19800, OWNED BY CHRISTIANA IGLESIA

Attachments: [Richardson](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-013-2021

[RES-21:010](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ACCEPT A WALMART COMMUNITY GRANT FROM WALMART FACILITY #6377 (WALMART NEIGHBORHOOD MARKET ON HARRISBURG ROAD) TO PURCHASE SUPPLIES FOR THE VETERANS VILLAGE

Attachments: [Walmart Community Grant Request ID 65247877 Fa..](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-014-2021

RESOLUTIONS NOT ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

[RES-20:241](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2221 NEEDHAM STREET OWNED BY CARSON INVESTMENTS LLC

Attachments: [2221 Needham Boarding Notice](#)
 [2221 Needham Inspection & County Data](#)
 [2221 Needham pictures](#)
 [2221 Needham purchaes reqs](#)
 [2221 Needham title search](#)
 [Arvest Invoice](#)
 [Billing Request](#)
 [Carson Invoice](#)
 [Deed Chain](#)
 [Tax InfoMortgageAssign of Rents](#)

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

Absent: 1 - David McClain

Enactment No: R-EN-015-2021

6. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

ORD-21:001

AN ORDINANCE TO WAIVE BIDS AND PURCHASE AVOLVE PROJECTDOX SOFTWARE BY THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Attachments: [ProjectDox-OAS Order form](#)
 [Avolve ProjectDox Statement of Work](#)

Councilmember Chris Gibson motioned, seconded by Councilmember Mitch Johnson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-21:001 by title only. All voted aye.

Councilmember John Street asked if Planning Director Derrel Smith would give a quick overview of this just for clarification for everyone, and to see if there was any urgency in expediting the passage of this ordinance. Planning Director Derrell Smith explained that we started this process several months ago. Part of the software has already been purchased, and it is mainly for Public Works. This portion is going to be for the plan review. What this will do is give us the ability to have everything on-line, and go paperless, everything will be submitted through our web-site. It's going to give the Developers, and Patrons the ability to track their projects throughout the process. We looked at different software's over the course of time and believe that this is what will work best for us. If there is any way that we can expedite this we would be grateful, because this is going to be a great tool for the public.

Patti Lack 4108 Forrest Hill Road, Jonesboro. Can Planning Director Derrel Smith tell me the final price of the software? I was looking through the bidding sheet and it was difficult to understand. I know that we have it already, so it make sense to keep it. But, I just would like to know the cost. Planning Director Derrel Smith commented that this contract is for \$206,950. Patti Lack commented that the citizens are going to

appreciate it. But, I think this is more for the Planning Department and the developers. Am I correct on that? Planning Director Derrel Smith said that this is for anyone that submits plans to the City of Jonesboro. Again, Patti Lack said, so still more for the Developers. Planning Director Derrel Smith explained it will be used for all purposes, such as someone that is wanting to put in a fence, or swimming pool, anything that a homeowner would want to do they will submit it through this software as well.

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

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

Absent: 1 - David McClain

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ITEMS THAT HAVE BEEN HELD IN COUNCIL

[ORD-20:027](#)

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

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

Councilmember LJ Bryant explained that Jonesboro Sun Reporter Keith Inman e-mailed him, at that time LJ Bryant had had a few conversations and thought that it might be better to have some patience regarding this ordinance, maybe wait until wards were redrawn. After more conversations, and the emails that we got over the weekend, I think the community would like to see us move forward on this. But, in keeping kind of what was the original spirit of this, it seems like that we would have to make two small changes to do the same exact thing. I emailed City Attorney Carol Duncan, and City Clerk April Leggett my amendment, and they are real simple. Number one is that this current ordinance has the election of a 2020 date, so that has to be changed. The other change would be, when we were considering this in August of 2020, it would have been voted on in November of 2020 had the Council and Citizens passed it, then it would have taken effect in 2022. We really need to make one more amendment to this to stay in the same spirit, which would be changing the election date, and secondly you would change from position one to position two to make it take effect two years later. Because, if we did not do that, then if the Council and Citizens passed it, if we didn't make this second amendment that it wouldn't take impact until

2026. That might be a little too far down the road to maybe make the changes that the citizens are wanting us to do. I also would propose that we take it back to first reading since this is somewhat of a change. I am making a motion to make this amendment and also take it back to first reading. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman seconded the motion.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said, I think that some people are confused on what is currently in front of the Council regarding this ordinance and the proposed amendments. What we are voting on isn't whether or not to make it one position by ward election. We are voting on whether or not to give the people the right to vote on it. My question is with the proposed amendment, this would not be voted on until November of 2022, and then it wouldn't take effect for two years later. So, basically we are looking at almost four years before this would go in to effect. I am all for the hybrid system, but in order to be more timely with it should any thought be given to making it available for the next year's primary, then it could be in effect for next year's general election? Councilmember Chris Moore said that he agreed with Councilmember Joe Hafner's assessment. I don't think we should wait four years, I think we should move forward with this. I think there is public support, and I would agree that we should have it at the next primary, then we could continue on the path that we've already discussed to have it in position one on the 2022 ballot.

Councilmember John Street asked how position one was selected. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, if you recall I don't think Councilmember LJ Bryant ever spoke at all about it. He asked me to draft it and I had to pick something, and I just picked position one because it was first, and said that you all could amend that if you chose to make it position two. I randomly chose position one. Councilmember John Street said, I too favor putting this to the vote of the people. I think it should be at a regular election, not a special election, but a regular election and it should have been an impartial selection of which position.

Councilmember Bobby Long commented that he agreed with Councilmember John Street regarding this ordinance. I think it does need to be at a regular election. Mainly because I think that it is important that we try to engage as many people as possible. I think when you put it in a general election you will get more voters coming out to engage in the process then if you would have done it any other way. Councilmember Chris Moore commented that the only thing we have to remember, and I am in agreement on impartial selection of which seat. That being said, I think we should flip a coin, or draw something to select if it is going to be position one or two. If we hold it at the next general election and then we draw and it turns out to be position 1 then that is going to make it six years down the road, so just keep that in mind. Because, eventually we are going to come to the conclusion the only fair way to decide which position it's going to be is a draw or something of that nature. I think the first thing we should do is decide if it's going to be the first or second position, and then can select when the election date will be. Mayor Harold Copenhaver asked Councilmember LJ Bryant if he was in agreement with amending the ordinance to reflect the change that has been discussed her tonight. Councilmember Joe Hafner commented again that he is for the hybrid method. But, to me it sounds like that we have a lot of unanswered questions for this to proceed, even with the amendment that Councilmember LJ Bryant proposed is voted on and accepted I think we have more questions that need to be answered before we move forward. We are not up against a time clock at this time. I think a primary is a general election, it's not a special election, and it's a nonpartisan, anybody can vote in a primary. We just have more questions that need to be answered, and maybe this needs to go back to the Rules & Nominating Committee, so that there can be more discussion on how to proceed.

Councilmember LJ Bryant commented we did advance this from Nominating & Rules Committee last July and it is obvious that Council did not take action on this ordinance. This amendment is sort of in the same spirit as what passed committee. As far as just changing the election date, and then changing the date of when it would take place, and the change of the position was not directed by anyone one way or another as Carol Duncan, the City Attorney stated. I think just by timing if we were to go this route, it seems to make the most sense to do it at a general election, because that is when the most of the people vote, I can't remember the statistics, and obviously everyone is free to vote. But, traditionally most people don't vote in primaries, I think in keeping with the spirit of what we were originally trying to do, and that's with the amendment that is here before us now. Councilmember Chris Moore commented just as a point of order if Councilmember Hafner's motion was to send it back to the Nominating & Rules Committee, was that your intended motion Councilmember Hafner. The motion to table and send this ordinance back to committee takes precedence over Councilmember LJ Bryant's motion to amend. I wasn't clear on Councilmember Joe Hafner's motion, are you making the motion to send it back to Committee? Councilmember Joe Hafner said, yes. Councilmember Bobby Long said he would second that. Councilmember Chris Moore said so, we have a motion and a second to postpone temporary and send it back to the committee and that is non-debatable. So, I would ask the Chair to call the issue. Aye Votes - Williams, Frierson, Moore, Street, Johnson, Gibson, Long, Hafner, Emison; Nay Votes - Bryant, Coleman; Absent - McClain. The motion to postpone passes 9-2.

Councilmember Charles Coleman commented that he wanted to thank Councilmember Chris Moore for explaining this to us. One of the problems that the community has with us is that we do all of this talking back and forth, and things are not being made clear, so I just wanted that to go on record. Hopefully we as council understand it as well as those out in the community listening. I hope this year we get a lot better at making things clearer. Mayor Harold Copenhaver followed that up with commenting that Robert's Rules of Order are important and we need to understand it as not only Committee Members, and I will be doing my due diligence as well. Eleven days into office we are going to make those mistakes. But, I appreciate Councilmember Chris Moore in his regards for Robert's Rules of Order as we clean our directive up and move forward as a community in making it transparent to everyone.

A motion was made by Councilperson Joe Hafner, seconded by Councilperson Charles Frierson, that this matter be Referred back to the Nominating and Rules Committee . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 9 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Chris Gibson; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner and Brian Emison

Nay: 2 - Charles Coleman and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - David McClain

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver explained what the Administration has been doing in the last couple of weeks. On Martin Luther King Jr. Day. I want to commend the group that I had the opportunity to go out and help with as they picked up trash along Martin Luther King Drive. The group was led by Chris Cross, and his co-workers from Arkansas State University Newport Campus in Jonesboro, and employees of Jonesboro Public Schools, along with other volunteers from the rest of the community.

I am proud to announce two Administrators that joined by team. They are Tony Thomas, Chief Operating Officer. Tony came from Crowley's Ridge Development Center, where he was Executive Director for CRDC. We are proud to have Tony on our team. Also, I announced last week that Brian Richardson will serve as Chief Administrative Officer. Brian will be overseeing special projects as well as working with the public and private partners in our City and County, Arkansas State University, and Legislative Representatives.

Bill Campbell, Director of Communications and I toured the Turtle Creek Mall, along with the General Manager of the Mall, Rick Jackson. We asked Mr. Jackson to really set forth where we are going to go with the Mall. Mr. Jackson seemed sincere in his desires to see the Mall reopened. He also agreed to our request to open the north entrance off of Matthews and connect it with Highland Drive. Rick also agreed to allow use of the Mall parking lot for COVID drive through testing and vaccine sites. This will be happening very soon and I appreciate his cooperation in this endeavor.

I also want to thank the Walmart Neighborhood Grocery on Harrisburg Road for their donation of \$2,500 for furnishings for the Cottages at Veteran's Village. We know our residents, and businesses have a big heart for the Veteran's and they join a lengthy list of donors. The Jonesboro Elks Lodge has also made a heart trending donation of appliances and furniture for the Cottages. Kraig Pomrenke of Embassy Suites here in Jonesboro has furnished all of the linen's and the VFW has also donated some furnishings as well. They join a long list of others that have made heart felt donations to the Veterans Village.

Our City Departments continue to rotate staff who can do work from home to help prevent the spread of the Corona Virus. I know you have heard it before, but please practice social distancing and wear a mask in public. It is good for yourself and your neighbors. When a member of the City of Jonesboro family hurts we all hurt. At this time I would like to ask for prayers and well wishes for our E-911 Director, Jeff Presley whose family has been hard stricken by the Corona Virus. Also, remember former Councilmember Gene Vance, who is recovering from a serious fall. The City of Jonesboro wishes them condolences, and we know that their faith will lead them through these difficult times. I don't want to forget about JETS Driver Tina Ruins, who had minor injuries from an accident involving a JETS Bus.

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember John Street did say that he had a question regarding the Mall at Turtle Creek, because that is something that I think we all get a lot of questions on. I know that you said that they seem sincere, but have they put forth any kind of timeline as far as when will see some progress being made to tear down the section that saw the most damage? Mayor Harold Copenhaver welcomed Councilmember John Street's question. Like I stated, we toured the facility, we saw hands-on and they expressed as they were anticipating by Black Friday of last year that they would have liked to have had from Target down to the food court open. This is just a small time frame, they can repair it within 60 days. But, then again as we have come to see that the exterior from the rest of the facility would almost have to be taken down to the ground. They are working diligently, and were expecting the city to come work with them, and ask where we stood to move forward with this project. We are looking at a 30 day request, and then with plans that they are to submit to the City on what they are planning on doing to move forward. Councilmember John Street thanked Mayor Harold Copenhaver in trying to find a solution to this particular project. It's been almost nine months and it is time to move on.

Councilmember Chris Gibson reported that Nominating & Rules met this evening in an effort to align our committee structure. I would like to suspend the rules and walk on communication file 21-008. Councilmember Joe Hafner seconded the motion. All councilmembers present approved it. City Clerk April Leggett will read communication file 21-008. The communication list the members of each of the Council Committee members. Proposed 2021 Committee are as follows.

Nominating & Rules: Chris Gibson, Ann Williams, Chris Moore, Dr. Charles Coleman, Brian Emison, Charles Frierson.

Finance Committee: Joe Hafner, Dr. Charles Coleman, Ann Williams, John Street, David McClain, LJ Bryant, Brian Emison.

Public Works: John Street, Brian Emison, Mitch Johnson, Chris Moore, Dr. Charles Coleman, LJ Bryant, Ann Williams.

Public Safety: Mitch Johnson, David McClain, Bobby Long, Chris Moore, Brian Emison, Charles Frierson, Chris Gibson.

Public Services: Chris Gibson, Joe Hafner, Bobby Long, Ann Williams, Brian Emison.

Councilmember Mitch Johnson motioned to adopt COM-21:008. Councilmember John Street seconded the motion. Councilmember Chris Gibson had one correction that needed to be made with regards to the Public Works Committee. Councilmember Chris Gibson asked Councilmember Brian Emison if he wanted to be removed from this particular committee. Councilmember Brian Emison explained that this was actually a committee that former Councilmember Gene Vance was on, and that he wished to roll-off of the committee if possible. If not possible he would gladly take the educational opportunity and serve on the committee if need be. Councilmember John Street withdrew his second. Councilmember Mitch Johnson withdrew his motion. Councilmember Chris Gibson motioned to adopt COM-21:008 with the noted change. Councilmember Chris Moore seconded the motion. All voted aye.

Councilmember Chris Gibson said that he had one other matter he would like to address. I have gotten several calls concerning property at 1521 Overhill. Apparently there are some dilapidated pipes, and sewage is just being sump-pumped into the streets. I received another call on that today. If Code Enforcement Director Mike Tyner is here could he give us an update on it? The property on Overhill that Councilmember Chris Moore is referring to is a rental. The sewer line that is connected to the main line that goes into the house is collapsed, and has left a pothole in the street. From the preliminary inspection, it does not appear to have any kind of sump pump or anything as much as it is when sewage accumulates to where it will come up into the pot-hole. We are attempting to make contact with the owner of the rental property to have it repaired. We have also forwarded the complaint for the Plumbing Inspector to take a look at it, and also to City Water & Light to come out and see which side of the line that the leak is on, and whose responsibility it would be to repair it. Councilmember Chris Moore ask if we could get a time line on when these things might occur, because to me this is a nuisance to public health. Code Enforcement Director Mike Tyner commented, usually after the Plumbing Inspector goes to inspect it and makes contact with the property owner they will then have 72 hours to make necessary repair before we request that City Water & Light cut service until those repairs are made. Councilmember Chris Moore thanked Code Enforcement Director Mike Tyner for his report.

Councilmember Chris Moore asked Mayor Harold Copenhaver if he could start to prepare us some sort of explanation on where we are at on the Citizen Bank Building property. This has been an ongoing discussion for the last two years, and if you could give us a report on that maybe at next month's council meeting that would be helpful. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, just to give you all some clarification of the Chief Administrative Officer, Brian Richardson's role. This is going to be part of his duties to follow up on projects that are happening in the city, we are looking at what is involved in project management so that you all will have a point of first contact in this area. We will of course be more than happy to give you all as well as the citizens an updated report on that project.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said that he did have a couple of comments to make. I am just going to add to a comments I made just a few minutes ago. Even as I am speaking I am receiving numerous email's about the ward only voting. I want to commend Councilmember Chris Moore again for explaining the complexity of the issue. I hope and pray that we do a better job with this. I also commend you for bringing it up, because it is something that is really important. With you being a new Mayor we want to start this game off right. So, I think that if we can get the public to understand what and why we do things it will make communicating a lot easier. I am not throwing stones at anyone here, because I am just as guilty as anyone here, we just need to do a lot better.

Councilmember Brian Emison said, I just have one thing to add. I just want to say thank you to Mayor Harold Copenhaver for giving us an update on where we stand with the Mall at Turtle Creek. As we like to make it easy to do business here in the City of Jonesboro, we also have to take a look at how we move forward to fix things backup after the 2020 tornado. Hopefully moving forward we will have a Mall that is up and back operational. Mayor Harold Copenhaver thanked all Councilmembers for their comments and stated that they are duly noted, and we will move forward with any recommendations and get back with you as soon as possible.

[COM-21:008](#)

2021 City Council Committee Membership Selection

Attachments: [Code of Ordinances Sec2-95](#)
[Council Committees 2020](#)
[Proposed 2021 Committees](#)

Read

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kimberly Chase, 204 East Nettleton. I am the Director of the HUB, Homeless Resource Center. I wanted to take a moment here tonight to just discuss an upcoming event in regards to our homeless population. On Thursday, January 28, 2021, we will be conducting the annual point in time, or PIT Count. A PIT Count is a snap-shot count of people experiencing homelessness. Generally on a single night in January it is conducted by the local community throughout the country, and US Department of Housing and Urban Development. It requires all continuum of care communities to conduct PIT Counts as a condition of receiving funding. This count is vital for the information gathered and is the main source of data used by the Federal Government to track the number, demographics, and needs of people experiencing homelessness throughout the country, as well as funding. It is imperative that the count is just as

accurate as possible. There are two approaches to the PIT Count. First is a night of count, this simply means that volunteers will be going to places where our homeless citizens shelter and interviewing and counting them. The second approach is a service based count. Once a date is selected for the PIT Count, individuals receiving services throughout the community are interviewed. The count is an important effort that ensures the voices of people experiencing homelessness are heard, and that efforts are made to provide appropriate services. This national snap-shot of homelessness is not the whole story. The bottom line is, that it is very difficult to solve a problem you cannot measure. If you know of any place where homeless citizens are sheltering please reach out to me at the HUB Office at 870-333-5731, or e-mail me at thehubhrc@hubjonesboror.org or Casey Kidd at CRDC and that number is 870-802-7100.

Mayor Harold Copenhaver thanked Ms. Chase for calling in, and said, I want to let you know how thankful we are for the help that you provide through the HUB for this community. We want to be part of that solution moving forward.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Absent: 1 - David McClain

_____ **Date:** _____

Harold Copenhaver, Mayor

Attest:

_____ **Date:** _____

April Leggett, City Clerk