



# City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center  
300 S. Church Street  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

## Meeting Minutes Public Services Council Committee

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Tuesday, June 21, 2022

4:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

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### 1. Call To Order

**Present** 4 - Joe Hafner; Bobby Long; Chris Gibson and Ann Williams

**Absent** 1 - Brian Emison

### 2. Roll Call by City Clerk April Leggett

**Present** 4 - Joe Hafner; Bobby Long; Chris Gibson and Ann Williams

**Absent** 1 - Brian Emison

### 3. Approval of minutes

**Present** 4 - Joe Hafner; Bobby Long; Chris Gibson and Ann Williams

**Absent** 1 - Brian Emison

[MIN-22:024](#)

Minutes for the Public Services Committee meeting on March 15, 2022

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

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

**Absent:** 1 - Brian Emison

[MIN-22:048](#)

MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL CALLED PUBLIC SERVICES MEETING ON TUESDAY, MAY 31, 2022

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

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

**Aye:** 3 - Joe Hafner; Bobby Long and Ann Williams

**Absent:** 1 - Brian Emison

### 4. New Business

**5. Pending Items****6. Other Business**[COM-22:028](#)

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE AS OF JUNE 2022

**Sponsors:** Parks & Recreation**Attachments:** [Parks Update 06212022](#)

Chairman Chris Gibson stated that he had asked JETS Director Michael Black and Parks Director Danny Kapales to give updates for their departments. Mr. Gibson then stated that he also had a brief report from the Airport Commission he would give at the end.

Mr. Black stated that as of June 20, 2022, ridership for the fixed route is 38,167 and in the same period as of last year was 19,562. Year to date regarding the para-transit is 4,300 and last year during this time period it was 4,390. Total ridership year to date is 42,467, ridership for 2021, same time period was 23,952. Mr. Gibson said, so quite a bit of an increase across the board. Mr. Black stated yes, and that JETS is on track and beginning to grow. Since my last report we have retired the crystal clear shower curtain dividers and have put in polycarbonate COVID barriers which serves two purposes, during the pandemic they helped protect our drivers from the virus and now help protect our driver's safety concerns regarding being accosted. Mr. Gibson asked, which route seems to be rebounding quicker from the pandemic? Mr. Black said that routes 27 and 37. Thirty-seven is along the North side and twenty-seven is central and West Jonesboro. Our grants department has been working diligently on a couple of grants. We are working with the FTA to work out some kinks we had with the STOP enhancement grant, and I have already developed a map of our top 50-stops. By the population we are going to have to go through and get a better idea of exactly where they are because we have two that are on private property. We are looking at putting real time T.V. live circuits in the stops, electrical outlets for phone charging, there are a couple of different options that are out there. Our low to no emissions grant has been submitted, it is a competitive grant. The award probably will not be announced until mid to late fall. I have been researching vehicles that are hybrid or electric. The downfall of full electric is that they will not run a 14-hour day and that is what we run, so you would need at least two buses per-route. Hybrids generally save about anywhere from 35 to 45% on fuel, because you take off in electric mode then it shifts over to gas then as you begin to slow down, kind of like a generator kicks in and it begins to recharge the battery. I did find an option for a full electric bus, we could install a rapid charger at the transfer station. The downfall of a rapid charger is that it degrades the batteries very quickly. Most batteries last six to seven years, and using a fast charge cuts that time down to between three and four years, most buses that I have looked at the batteries can be replaced, the whole bus does not have to be discarded. Mr. Gibson asked what the cost of a replacement battery is. Mr. Black stated that he did not have that information readily available. Councilmember Bobby Long asked what the normal cost of a gas powered bus is. Mr. Black stated that normal gas, pre-pandemic was about \$58,000.00. Our rolling stock is aging. I learned through the Arkansas Transit Association conference that one of the largest manufactures of the cut-a ways like what we use is Forest River. They build around seven different brands of buses, they have already shut down all but two of their plants. They normally would get between 25,000 or 30,000 chassis a year across seven companies, this year 2022

they are only getting 3,000. Basically the busses are unavailable at this time. I have looked into some used busses and I have found one up in Washington State and the cost for it was \$92,000.00, it had 68,000 miles on it. We are going to have to be very proactive with our maintenance on the buses we have. We are hurting on our para-transit vehicles, due to an accident. We also have had mechanical issues with our dodge van, it was a known problem with dodge, but it is now out of warranty and is down. I am running one bus and one van for para-transit. Last Thursday the unimaginable happened during shift change. Our 15-passenger van that we use to take our drivers to the transfer station was involved in a MVA. A vehicle ran the red light at Main and Johnson and collided with our van. I had to suspend the route for the evening with limited route suspension the following day. Mr. Gibson asked if the employees that were involved in the accident have recovered. Mr. Black stated that they are recovering, one employee has more soreness and stiffness than the others. But, all in all they are okay.

Parks Director Danny Kapales reported that on the first page of the hand-out is regarding Craighead Forest Park. We budgeted this year to replace the surfacing at the Rotary Centennial playground. We were able to switch out to an artificial grass-turf surface. The 2nd page is work that has been done out at the Joe Mack Campbell Park. On the top tier of the soccer complex there was no shade structure for those fields. This year we added two 20X40 pavilions very close to the parking lot so that it is easy access. We have sidewalks coming in and should be adding concrete with the sidewalk coming into it later on in the summer. The last page shows what the pre-cast of what the wall will look like out at Joe Mack. The old pre-cap was crumbling, and falling apart and it was a bad representation of the park. The new white brick that you see will be long term, meaning it will last for years. When you look at parks one of the big things that we operate under is programs. We have well over 12,000 children that participate in our programs each year. This year, coming out of the COVID pandemic we had over 1,000 kids participate in basketball, this summer basketball program has over 800 kids playing. Registration for football and cheer is now open. Spring soccer we had over 1,400 kids participate in recreational soccer, 168 kids in travel soccer, there were 380 kids that came out for fall tryouts, and the 3V3 had 95 kids play. The winter academy had 196 kids, and stars academy had 96 kids. With our softball we had 27 teams in Jr. High, 29 youth teams, and 35 adult teams. Miracle League saw 70 athletes participate in their program, and those kids will be participating in Fall Miracle League games as well. Softball tournaments; we had this spring were Bearcat Classic with 46 teams participating, Red Wolf Spring Fling saw 24 teams, Basket Catches & Bombs had 17 teams, 24 teams in Raid DARE, and District had 13 teams, and the Mt. Dew Classic had 49 teams in it. There were two adult team tournaments, the Dickson Memorial saw 11 teams, and the Goodman Memorial had 12 teams participate. We also have school basketball tournaments that we operate. Jonesboro Elementary, Nettleton Elementary, and we work with all of the other Elementary schools to make sure they get games in. We had over 585 players in that program. We were going to host three tournaments, one was scheduled but canceled due to inclement weather. The NEA Pre-Holiday had 48 teams and the NEA Classic had 59 teams. Moving on into NEA Volleyball there were just over 200 athletes participating in this program. There were two JO tournaments that were scheduled, the Ice Breaker had 88 teams signed up and the We Care tournament had 77 teams.

Councilmember Joe Hafner re-called having new tennis nets installed at the tennis parks and wanted to know how that was going. Mr. Kapales stated that the nets are in great shape and that they were replaced when the re-surfacing was done. Mr. Kapales stated that the wind screens are not all up, the supply chain is still broken. Just being able to purchase items this year has just been a tuff chore. Mr. Hafner stated, but you

are still looking for the windscreens? Danny said, yes. Mr. Hafner asked for the light update at Allen Park. Danny stated that they are still working on a design, still trying to figure out the right way to go. Couple of the things that we looked at are the poles, how we can change the heads out just to come up to a new light, we are not going to be able to add to the pole and go up higher to get a new light to go above. One of the options that they are looking at is adding corner post to all four corners and put sports lighting in. That way we would get an overcast of light over the top of the current lights that are already there. We also budgeted for shade structure for the tennis courts at Allen Park. One of our suppliers did reach out to us about some shade structures that they had ordered for another park on the other side of the state, they came in and they did not like the color of the structures. They happened to be blue and black which fits with our courts perfectly, the company has agreed to send me a bid for cost, which will put them right in line with what we budgeted.

Chairman Chris Gibson gave an update regarding the Airport. Fuel usage is up over last year, Air Choice One through March had 243 more passengers than in 2021, and 300 more than 2020. George is stating that Nashville has made a huge difference in our Air Choice One utilization. Load factor for Air Choice one is up 53% over the past year, and passenger boarding as a whole is up 55.12%. Things are going well out there and he did say the one hindrance is the FFA mandate to still wear masks on planes, he said that once that is lifted he feels like the ridership will increase more.

Filed

## **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:** 3 - Joe Hafner; Bobby Long and Ann Williams

**Absent:** 1 - Brian Emison