



# City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center  
300 S. Church Street  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

## Meeting Minutes City Council

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Tuesday, April 7, 2026

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

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### PUBLIC WORKS COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING AT 5:00 P.M.

### PUBLIC HEARING AT 5:25 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** 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

**Absent** 1 - Anthony Coleman

### 4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

### 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:** 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

**Absent:** 1 - Anthony Coleman

[MIN-26:027](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MARCH 17, 2026

**Attachments:** [CC Minutes 03172026.pdf](#)

**A motion was made that this Minutes be Passed . The motion PASSED BY VOICE VOTE**

[RES-26:033](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3648 HUDSON , PARCEL 01-144102-09400, OWNED BY NEEDSPACE HUDSON, LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,115

**Attachments:** [COUNCIL NOTICE](#)  
[OFFICIAL INVOICE](#)  
[REQUEST FOR INVOICE](#)  
[VIOLATION NOTICE](#)

**THIS ITEM WAS APPROVED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA.**

Enactment No: R-EN-051-2026

[RES-26:034](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2620 CRAWFORD#11, PARCEL 01-144273-02200, OWNED BY HILLTOP RENTALS, LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3257.34

**Attachments:** [242672\\_VIOLATION LETTER](#)  
[COUNCIL NOTICE](#)  
[INVOICE REQUEST](#)  
[OFFICIAL INVOICE](#)

**THIS ITEM WAS APPROVED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA.**

Enactment No: R-EN-052-2026

[RES-26:035](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 607 ALFRED WATKINS, PARCEL 01-144083-14500, OWNED BY WESLEY KYLE GRIMES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$465

**Attachments:** [COUNCIL NOTICE](#)  
[INVOICE REQUEST](#)  
[OFFICIAL INVOICE](#)  
[VIOLATION NOTICE](#)

**THIS ITEM WAS APPROVED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA.**

Enactment No: R-EN-053-2026

[RES-26:036](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1100 HUNTINGTON, PARCEL 01-143134-01900, OWNED BY VERNON WOOD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$415

**Attachments:** [COUNCIL NOTICE](#)  
[INVOICE REQUEST](#)  
[OFFICIAL INVOICE](#)  
[VIOLATION NOTICE](#)

**THIS ITEM WAS APPROVED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA.**

Enactment No: R-EN-054-2026

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**RESOLUTIONS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA****[RES-26:031](#)**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO ENTER INTO A TWO-YEAR LEASE CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF FIVE SANITATION SIDE LOAD TRUCKS, ONE SANITATION FRONT LOAD TRUCK AND ONE SANITATION REAR LOAD TRUCK

**Attachments:** [AEF Document Package - CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS \(8\).pdf](#)

*Councilmember David McClain said, Mayor, I have one question, or maybe two. So it's five trucks, it says five trucks, one sanitation front load and one sanitation rear, so it's seven total, correct? That's what I was listening to on finance. But, then also, when we, it's a lease, and we're going to sell it back to the vendor, what typically do they give us, just a rough number, percentage-wise, we pay however much we pay, what do we typically get back from this? I know these trucks are going to be beat up when they get them back, so I'm just curious what, and does that number go towards the purchase of a new truck? Explain that a little bit to me. Finance Director Steve Purtee said, they are, it's a capital lease. We take ownership of the property and it's through this financing arrangement. The concluding, conclusion of the lease, the buybacks are almost usually always executed. We allow the vendor to do that. The return is about 55-60% of the purchase price. And, because of the utility of these vehicles, their daily usage, they are pretty heavily used at the end of a two-year period. This is the third group of these specific trucks that's been entered into in a lease contract, so this will get us through year six relative to this type of equipment here. And, the discretion is ours whether they're retained or if they go back to the vendor. Councilmember McClain asked, in the past, we've usually sent them back to the vendor? Mr. Purtee replied, most usually, yes. Councilmember McClain said, okay, perfect, thank you.*

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

**Aye:** 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

**Absent:** 1 - Anthony Coleman

Enactment No: R-EN-055-2026

**[RES-26:032](#)**

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 Chris Gibson said, move to adopt, but I think there's some amendments to the CDBG. Councilmember Brian Emison and Councilmember Chris Moore seconded the motion. Mayor Copenhaver said, there are. Brian, would you come forward? Chief Administration Officer Brian Richardson said, sure. On the CDBG, we just need to probably just strike all of those and catch those up on the next resolution, which should be coming here pretty soon. There's a couple people that weren't on that list that were intended to be, and I think there's a couple of terms and a couple of people that are on the list that are conflicted out due to their contribution that CDBG gives a certain non-profit. So, we just ask that we just remove them. We could clean all that up here, but I think that would probably constitute a significant change, and there's just no need for that. So, we just ask to strike those off and then we will catch those up on the next resolution. Councilmember Gibson said, I'll amend my motion to*

strike the CDBG portion of that resolution. Councilmember Chris Moore said, I'll amend my second. Councilmember Janice Porter said, I would ask that the record show that I'm recusing from discussion and from a vote because I am one of the nominees. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I am too. Councilmember Ann Williams said, I am as well. The vote was as follows: Abstain - Porter, C. Coleman, Williams; AYE - Emison, Moore, Gibson, McClain, Hafner, Miller, Street; NAY - Bryant. The motion passed. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, I do appreciate people for stepping up and volunteering to be a part of our community in so many ways.

**A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Gibson, seconded by Councilperson Chris Moore, that this matter be Passed as Amended. The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 7 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller and John Street

**Nay:** 1 - LJ Bryant

**Absent:** 1 - Anthony Coleman

**Abstain:** 3 - Janice Porter;Charles Coleman and Ann Williams

Enactment No: R-EN-056-2026

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

### [COM-26:018](#)

DECISION BY THE CITY COUNCIL REGARDING THE REQUEST BY GUSTAVO CABRERA TO ESTABLISH A TAXICAB SERVICE.

**Attachments:** [Taxicab Operator Application\\_Redacted](#)  
[Request Letter for Taxi Express](#)  
[Publication Receipt](#)

*City Clerk April Leggett stated, Mayor Copenhaver has stated that it is his understanding that Mr. Gustavo Flores Cabrera has fulfilled all the requirements to establish this service, so we need a motion and a second to approve his service. Councilmember Brian Emison motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore, to approve Mr. Gustavo Flores Cabrera's Taxicab Service. All voted aye.*

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

**Aye:** 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

**Absent:** 1 - Anthony Coleman

## **ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING**

### [ORD-26:008](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 93:741 TO REINSTATE THE MULTI-WAY (FOUR-WAY STOP SIGNS) AT RAINS AND WILKINS INTERSECTIONS

*Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore to suspend the rules and offer ORD-26:008 by title only. All voted aye.*

**Held at one reading**

[ORD-26:009](#) 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-26:009 by title only. All voted aye.*

**Held at one reading**

[ORD-26:010](#) AN ORDINANCE BY 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 Moore to suspend the rules and offer ORD-26:010 by title only. All voted aye.*

**Held at one reading**

[ORD-26:012](#) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 TO C-3 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 6904 E. HIGHLAND DRIVE

**Attachments:** [Application](#)  
[Plat](#)  
[Deed](#)  
[Certified Mail Receipts](#)  
[Staff Summary RZ 26-06](#)  
[MAPC Minutes 03.24.26](#)  
[Publication Receipt](#)

*No motion to suspend the rules and offer by title only was made so ORD-26:012 was read in it's entirety by Assistant City Attorney Tom Haynes.*

**Held at one reading**

## **7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### *ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING*

[ORD-26:011](#) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, ARTICLE III, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM C-2 TO C-3 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2005 EAST HIGHLAND DRIVE

**Attachments:** [Application](#)  
[plat](#)  
[Deed](#)  
[EAAAA - Certified Mail Receipts](#)  
[Staff Summary](#)  
[MAPC Minutes 03.10.26](#)  
[AE.pdf](#)

**Held at second reading**

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*ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING*

[ORD-26:006](#)

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

**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:** 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

**Absent:** 1 - Anthony Coleman

Enactment No: O-EN-014-2026

*ITEMS THAT HAVE BEEN HELD IN COUNCIL*

[RES-26:028](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO LEASE OFFICE SPACE FOR E-911 ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF AND AMEND THE FY2026 BUDGET

**Attachments:**     [SKM\\_C300i26030410150\\_\(002\).pdf](#)

*Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, I would like to ask council if I can get a second to remove indefinitely. We have come across, Tony Thomas has been working, and I think we've got it worked out to where we're going to be able to use the Veterans Cottage Community Room at no cost as an option to provide our 9-1-1 administrative staff ability to use that facility until another facility is built. Thus, we don't have to get into a contract and negotiations for another couple of years with expenditures. Councilmember Chris Moore motioned, seconded by Councilmember David McClain, to postpone RES-26:028 indefinitely. All voted aye.*

**A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Moore, seconded by Councilperson David McClain, that this matter be Postponed Indefinitely. The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

**Absent:** 1 - Anthony Coleman

## **8. MAYOR'S REPORTS**

*Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported on the following:*

*I think you will have the financial statements for you as well on the annual Airport Commission, but I also want to remind you that now we have the second monthly end reports. They're there before you on the desk with Brian. They do have your name on them. Please pick them up after the meeting. I'm very pleased with the development of this process. It keeps, not only council, and the next meeting we will have then a presentation, a summation of that report for the community as well, so we can keep them abreast of everything going on. So, as I move forward in the Mayor's Comments,*

*Craig will be discussing several of the projects that are moving forward in the community, and then I'm going to have Jim kind of give us an update of Parks and Recreation. I think it's important at this time of year that we see a lot of traction and movement in that area.*

*So, good evening, Council. The March city report's ready to pick up, as I just went over.*

*Speaking of city staff, I want to give a big congratulations to Employee of the Month, Ryan Brashear, GOJO Marketing Coordinator. He's new to the city, just six months into the position, but he's jumped right in, helped launch a new transit branding with enthusiasm and professionalism. He's really taken on his role, and his recognition is well-deserved. Thanks to First Security Bank for sponsoring the Salute to the City Award, making it possible to show appreciation for city employees who go above and beyond their job duties.*

*There's been three weeks since our last city council meeting, and it's been busy. I've been grateful to celebrate ribbon cuttings like the highly anticipated Whataburger and proclamations like Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund, supporting single parents by helping them pursue education and build financial independence. Valley View Elementary hosted the Arkansas Rice in Schools program initiated by Governor Sanders this week, and needless to say, it was very tasty, and it was an encouraging event, educating our youth all over our city about what rice and how we are very wholesome in that, and it's very locally grown. Always great to see students engage and take pride in the rice farming industry.*

*We also had opportunities to welcome new folks to the community. We had a meeting yesterday with the new UAMS Chancellor, Dr. Lowry Barnes, who will no doubt build the hospitable culture that fits right into Jonesboro and the most generous community.*

*Generous efforts to support the most vulnerable in our community were on display this month as well. It was a privilege to join Judge Day and others in support of the Child Abuse Prevention Month with the proclamation and CASA a storybook luncheon fundraiser at Embassy Suites. The work of CASA continues to reach those who need our support the most. The nonprofits within Jonesboro are amazing partners to continue with much needed work within our region, and I'm so grateful they do so. And, I believe CASA has now been here for over 30 years, and it was a wonderful event for those that have taken their time, because it is not just a one-year commitment. It's a multi-year commitment as you continue to learn in how many youth it has affected for foster care in the city.*

*Spring brings forth a lot of people out and about within opportunities for connecting as our community within two dozen parks and community centers. A lot of activities are happening around the city. Make sure you take full advantage of the beautiful weather days and get out on the side paths and bike paths. At this point, Jim, if you don't mind, come forward, just kind of give us a little update like you did Monday morning in our Directors' meeting. I'd appreciate it.*

*Parks and Recreation Director Jim Stearns said, thanks, everybody. It's always good to see you guys on a beautiful day. I can't get out enough. A couple of things I want to report to you guys. We're trying to make sure that we always have a financial summary at the conclusion of all of our events, so we want to give you a little update. As most of you know, we made a little over \$70,000 in two volleyball tournaments this year. Some of you have been on other committees, I've presented this to you as well. And then,*

*the question that came up publicly is, what have we done with that money? And so, I want to make sure we clear that up today so that there's no questions about that going forward. People keep asking us about tournaments and I just the why we are not in the tournaments business, this will sum it up for you guys really quick. So, the Icebreaker Tournament that we held January 17th, we raised \$42,207 for that tournament. We totaled expenses of about \$32,000, which left us about \$9,645 of profit. On the surface, that seems like a really good deal, and it sounds great to make \$10,000 on a tournament, but the additional expenses that incur when you have a tournament, by taking staff away from their normal duties to put on an additional event, it totals about \$8,650. And so, at the end of the day, with the Icebreaker, the profit was about \$995. We saw a similar outcome with the We Care Tournament that was held on February 18th. We generated \$27,920 in that tournament. The direct expenses left us at a hole at \$960 minus. When you include that staffing cost of what it took people from their normal jobs to put that tournament on, that was a total of about \$7,500. So with those two tournaments that we put on, we lost \$6,505 in real money and I have an expense report. You guys are welcome. I'll be glad to send that to you guys if you want to see it. But when people ask about the tournament business, we're not in the tournament business for that very reason. We don't have the resources to go out and solicit sponsorship. We don't have the staffing that can do tournaments. So what we're going to focus on and continue to focus on is offering no-cost, low-cost youth recreation. And, so, we just concluded a six-week basketball season. That six-week youth basketball season, we saw 975 kids signed up. We played 37 games every Saturday for six straight weeks, a total of 222 games. We had three forfeits the week of spring break. It was the only missed opportunities we had the entire season. With that in the season, we had 7,717 spectators, family, friends, and support that came to the tournament. We generated about \$30,000 in revenue through the tournament. We had expenses of about \$27,115, which left us with a profit of about \$3,000. So for us to continue to do due diligence with taxpayer money and for us to be really conscious of what we do with youth sports, we're in the youth sports business. We're not in the tournament business. And you can see by the financials, and certainly I can share those with you, as you know. And the great news about that is we handled a lot of cash over those events. And we are now at the point, as has been asked by many, that we are working on this cashless option for youth sports and for all Parks and Rec's point of sales. And so we're really excited about this and want to give you some information. So since the beginning of the year, my team, as well as the Finance Department, Steve Purtee and his team, we've been discussing this issue and we've been investigating. And what we try to do is we try to use our existing equipment at first. And as you guys, I sent you guys an email on March 5th that kind of showed us where we were and the initial cost of that's going to be about \$25,000. And we're not trying to make excuses of why we haven't got there yet.*

*We're trying to do our due diligence with the taxpayers' money. And really, it was hard for us to commit that \$25,000 to start this cashless option up without continuing to research. And so what we did, and I'll just give you a quick summary. We met with the local baseball organization after they had announced that they were going to go cashless. And as we heard a lot of positive feedback from that committee, we reached out to another company that's offering a point of sale service. And we coordinated a meeting with them, and then we coordinated a meeting with the city's Finance Department for a demo. And what we found is by really consciously making that good decision, we actually are going to start the cashless option process in the next week or so. We've been approved, and we're working on ordering equipment. We're hoping by maybe April 18th that we have that in place at all field sports and Joe Mack Campbell. But that entire system to be cashless at all point of sales points in Parks and Rec outside of Craighead Forest is going to cost us less than \$20,000. And so we thought*

we made a better decision by being patient and looking at all our options. And so what we hope is by the end of the year, we're going to have a cashless option at every facility, at every point of sales opportunity for youth sports.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, you know, I've asked this question before, and I still don't agree with that total cashless issue that we're dealing with. I think we need to find some alternative ways of helping communities, especially those people that don't have cards or these types of things. We need to do something different. You know, you say the city is not a part of making money, but I guess I look at it from a different perspective, you know. And I'm not just talking about the north side of Jonesboro, but, you know, I've brought this up once before. And I'm not going to keep kicking this can down the road again because it's a problem. And we need to do something different. Mr. Stearns said, yes sir. Mayor Copenhaver said, Councilman Coleman, Jim, if you would expand, you said option, that's the key. Mr. Stearns replied, option, yes, sir. It's not going to be, we will have a cashless option at all of our events. We will still accept cash at all of our events. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, well, y'all need to make that clear because when you say one thing, then you do another and somebody brings something up. Mr. Stearns replied, no sir. We will never move away from cash as an option to attend events. We want to offer a cashless option for those people that don't use cash that prefer to use debit or credit. Councilmember Chris Moore said, I'm personally glad to hear that, Mayor, because I just got on Dr. Coleman before the meeting. Jonesboro High School's moved to a completely cashless option at all of their sporting events. And you can't even take a debit card or a credit card. You have to have an app on your phone and buy your ticket in advance. And we've went over to Chandler's game the last couple of weeks and there's people who walk up, grandparents, and other people walk up to buy a ticket to get in, and they can't get in. You know and so as long as there's a cash option then that will be a good thing. Mr. Stearns replied, there will always be a cash option, yes, sir. Our mission is to not ever prohibit a family member or anybody from coming to attend our sporting events. For us, in three events, we handled \$100,000 in cash. Outside of a small amount of concessions, in the two volleyball tournaments and the six-week basketball tournaments, my department handled \$100,000-plus in cash. And what we're trying to do, one, just to be safer for everyone, that's a lot of... The problem with cash is... Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, well, I understand it, but you know, you ought to have people in place to deal with this to make sure. Okay, I understand the problem with taking cash and making sure it ends up in the right perspective in the right place and the right time. But, you know, you're talking to a Councilperson, but when you're talking to people in the community that don't have funds, especially right now with this economic system, the way it's going right now, you know, I just feel for the general area of Jonesboro. And once again, I'm repeating myself. It's not just about the Northside even though I represent part of that area. Chris represents part of that area. But we need to be able to say thanks to those people in the community. You know, about... I mentioned to you once before about even doing something about flyers and these type of things, you know to help out with the schools, because I did check, because it was mentioned about last week, last year, something was done with passes or something was done for the school board. Well, I'm on the school board. There were no passes given out to nobody on the school board from the administration or anybody else? You know, so those things just need to be taken care of. And I'd just like to, you know, make sure it's clear. So when I'm talking to constituents in the community, you know, so I'm glad to hear that there's an option. Mr. Stearns replied, yes, sir, it would be just an option. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman continued, but I think it needs to be a little bit clearer, you know, from a media standpoint. Mr. Stearns said, we're going to work closely with the Communication Department in the city to make sure as we start promoting this that

we're really keeping the public informed the best we can. And we'll also promote that in all our community centers and all our park facilities. We want to promote the fact that it's a cashless option, but we still always accept cash as entry fee, concessions, et cetera. So really, great help with the city. My team really stepped forward, did a lot of diligence and research. The original system that we currently use now, the cost to make with, we just found a better option for the city and the taxpayer's money. We're still challenged on how we're going to pay for it and how we're going to figure it in our budget, because this was not an item we had budgeted for and planned for. It was not planned in 2025 for 2026. But we're going to make this work because we think it's what's best for Parks and Rec and we certainly think it's what's best for the community. And so we're really getting there, and we appreciate your patience with us and your guidance, certainly, because it's really what's helped fuel it. And certainly the feedback has been great to know that we want to get out there.

Quick update with our pools. Just to let you guys know, pool season is close around. Our goal is to have our pools up and operational fully, both splash pads at Craighead Forest and Allen Park, and then have our pools operational by May 1st. We're in place now. We have 19 lifeguards on board, hired. We're hoping to add another 10 before the end of the month, and we're closely going there. So certainly, again, at the conclusion of every event, we want to make sure we have a financial report for you guys so you guys know where we stand and that we're being conscious of all of our decisions. Youth sports is about to start, off-field sports. Next Saturday, we have almost 1,500 kids signed up for youth soccer. We have 300-plus kids signed up for flag football. I have 90 young ladies signed up for cheer. Those will be at Joe Mack Campbell starting Saturday. Unfortunately, the rain last weekend kind of put us behind. Mayor Copenhaver said, alright, Jim. Thank you very much.

Councilmember Chris Gibson said, just one quick comment, or I guess more of a question, and I don't even know how we get there. But in regard to the three tournaments we put on, at the end of the day, between the three, we lost \$3,000, which a loss is a loss. It sounds dismal. But I'd like to know how that translates into community impact dollars. You know, because those people were in town spending money and supporting local businesses, and I'd just like to know how that translates in some form or fashion. Mr. Stearns said, probably the two volleyball tournaments probably had a pretty high impact since most of those teams were from out of town. The basketball season is local Jonesboro children participating. We've stopped doing tournaments at the end of youth basketball because we're not about the competition part. We're really about exposing them to the sport. Mayor Copenhaver stated, Jim, we also had a shooting tournament this past weekend. Now the majority of those individuals, if I remember right, were competitors, were from out of town councilman. So I think the report was that quite a few of them did spend the night. Mr. Stearns said, yes sir. We hosted a special black light trap Friday night for the Mountain Home trap team. They brought 30-plus shooters. And Joey Glaub reported to me that they indicated about half of the Mountain Home trap team spent the night this weekend. And so they shot before the mosquitoes got bad.

Councilmember Janice Porter said, one quick question, please. Last year there was an issue with having adequate lifeguards to keep the pools open to the maximum amount. Do you feel like you're on track to have adequate coverage? Mr. Stearns replied, I'll just say that my new pool manager is a rock star. He is so locked in to improving the pool and pool operations. I really feel like that he's created a whole new lifeguarding swim lesson program. I really feel pretty confident that outside of something just unanticipated happening, I feel we'll be open for the full season. Councilmember Porter said, thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, Jim, you do have the answer in fullness to

her question. You've got about two-thirds of the lifeguards hired at this point, correct? Mr. Stearns said, yes, sir. We have 19 guards hired, and our goal is to have 30 by May 1st. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman asked, is there public notice about maybe free classes for those kids that can't swim? Mr. Stearns said, we actually have a new swim instruction program that we implemented this year. Darian, my pool manager, we're going to do morning swim lessons at Parker Park Monday through Thursday. We'll have eight total sessions, and we're going to do evening lessons at the Youth Center. And, we'll have the same eight sessions Monday through Thursday. And, so we're going to really work hard to get more and more kids into a swim lesson opportunity. Mayor Copenhaver said, Jim, thank you very much.

Also, this coming week is the Jonesboro Disc Golf Tournament coming to Disc Side of Heaven, next door to Beatrice Park at Casey Springs Road. So if you've never been, you need to go. This is a really cool event. I will not be playing, but the pros from all over the world will be here for a national event.

In addition, the neighborhood cleanup hosted by the City Sanitation and Code Enforcement Departments will take place on Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon behind the First United Methodist Church on Union. The West End Spring Spruce Up event will be taking place at the same time. So this is really going to be key for West Jonesboro and all of our community, actually.

Keep Jonesboro Beautiful Facebook page is up, and they're looking for volunteers. So keep our neighborhoods clean, green, and beautiful.

Community Connection was on display last week during Play in Jonesboro Design Week. Thank you to all who attended, and a special thanks to councilmembers. I saw Councilman Miller and Councilman Porter and Councilman Williams, and I think some others have participated as well. I would challenge you to really get involved in this process. And we had, I would say, what, over, where's Derrel, about 300 participants or so? Planning Director Derrel Smith said, all week, yes. Mayor Copenhaver continued, all week and arranging DPZ and Crafton Tull, they set up shop at the Jonesboro Youth Center, supported by city staff. There were two open houses, media hour, seven stakeholder group meetings, and two pop-up events all in a week. Again, I said 300 in attendance. But the input is important, and it is being utilized to build a 30-year comprehensive plan. I'm especially proud, though, as well, as the students who attended. A whole group of students were hanging out at the community center as well, and they came in to engage, and they gave their input. Now, DPZ's has been doing this for quite a while, and they've never really had the input of the Mayor's Youth Council like they had. And so it was really important because their ideas were creative, they were strong, and it's their community for the future. The survey is still open. We've had over 600 people take that survey, but we need to get to about 1,000 to have an active count of our community. So please visit [planjonesboro.com](http://planjonesboro.com) to take the survey and to ensure your voice is heard.

One thing we always hear about is we need more work on our roads. So we hear you. As you recall, four years ago, we engaged First Step Pavement Management for a review of our roads. While we typically follow that, there were always special circumstances like utility work and hard winters that impact our streets. For those of you who don't know, the West End will now have a lot of newly paved streets and a brand-new sewer system courtesy of the recent completion of a multimillion-dollar project that will be ongoing, I think, Craig, through 26 as well, correct? With City Water and Light for many years to come, probably. When that project on the west side concluded, it was mostly due to cold overlays, and so the repair areas were just

*patched. But now that the warmer weather has arrived, permanent weather repairs are following and coming soon. I can't say enough. I want to thank City Water and Light for their constant investments in our community. And thanks to Council for approving the \$3 million in overlays in 26. We've come a long way from \$500,000 in our street budget. Now, there are four remaining roads that were left from 2025, and they were just completed a week or so ago. Huntington, Longcrest, East Craighead Forest Road, which are now all paved. In 2026, the overlay bids came back April 1st, and the Streets Department is working on to preparing them as well. So I've asked Craig to kind of give us an update. He's provided, I think, to Council. Craig, if you would, please come forward and kind of go over your worksheet. I think it's important for Council to hear this.*

*Engineering Director Craig Light said, thank you, Mayor, City Council. I handed out before the meeting a copy of my spreadsheet that I keep on where the projects are in my department. Try to keep up with everything that's going on.*

*Just as the Mayor was talking about, the asphalt projects for 2025 are now complete. The 2026 projects, the award for the contract was at the Public Works earlier tonight, so it would be before City Council at their next meeting to approve that. We did get pretty good bids on the overlays for 2026.*

*Just to give you an idea of some of the projects we're currently working on, there's active construction, Huntington Avenue lighting project. The contractor started work on that. Our on-call contractor started work on the sidewalks on Rains Street. That is between Highland Drive and Wilkins Avenue. We're hoping to extend that all the way to Nettleton if we have the available funds.*

*We've been working on some drainage pipe, replacing some old plastic pipe in the Deerfield neighborhood out in Valley View. We have a contractor working down there on that project.*

*Tomorrow we'll hold the pre-construction meeting on the Craighead Forest Motorized Trail project. So, we'll meet with the contractor tomorrow on that, set a start date, and that work should begin pretty quickly.*

*We continue to work with the GOJO Department on their bus stops. I think at last count there were 33 that had been installed. They were beginning to get the electrical pieces and the IT pieces on those facilities started. So moving through that project and hopefully to see that completed soon.*

*Again, the asphalt overlay project was at Public Works earlier this evening along with the Johnson Avenue side path project. It will be before you in two weeks to approve that construction project. That is one of the bond projects. So, we'll get that approved in two weeks, I hope, through City Council and get that contractor started on that project.*

*Our next project that we'll open bids on is the Southwest Drive and South Culberhouse Pedestrian Improvement Project at that intersection. That bid opens on April 15th, so we'll have that before Council pretty quickly to award that contract as well and get that project started.*

*We recently received the final plans for the Main Street Pilot Project. If you remember, that was a proposal that EDG Design Group brought forth to City Council about taking Main Street down to a single lane from Washington to Creath. We do have those plans*

now and we're coordinating with the Street Department to implement that. Right now their paint guys are busy putting pavement markings down on Huntington and Matthews and out at Craighead Forest. So they need to get caught up on those projects before we start on it. But, hopefully in the next few weeks we'll begin work on that Pilot Project on Main Street.

A few other of the bond projects. The Real-Time Intelligence Center project. We hope to have the bids by May 5th to get the maximum guaranteed price for that contract with our construction manager and bring that before City Council to get approved and get that fully executed and hopefully see a ground-breaking in early June on that project for the new 9-1-1 Real-Time Intelligence Center.

We continue to work on the South Caraway Road project. We're targeting about an August bid opening for that project. We currently, we do have all of the right-of-way required. We're working with utility companies on that project and we're aiming for an August bid opening on it.

And then the survey work on the Prospect Side Path Trail Project has started. So we should be getting that information to the designers in the next couple weeks and they'll start the design of that side path project.

There's a lot of projects on this list. Those are the ones that I kind of keyed in on that are really kicking off construction-wise. But I'll be happy to try to answer any other questions about these other projects if you have any.

Mayor Copenhaver said, Council, do you have any questions on any of the projects? Councilmember Chris Moore said, Mayor, I just had one for him. Craig, I know you went over back there, but I was looking at your other list. What did you say the time frame was for the One Lane Main Street striping project? Because I had a lot of people ask about that. Mr. Light replied, we are coordinating with the Street Department and trying to get it on their schedule to get it done. They need to get the center line on Huntington, on Matthews, out on Craighead Forest to get those pavement markings done. Councilmember Moore said, just a time Craig. Mr. Light said, I am hoping within the next couple of weeks. Steve Tippitt is not here and it's his department and I don't want to put him on the spot. Councilmember Moore asked, would it be safer to tell them 3 or 4 weeks as opposed to 2 or 3 weeks? Mr. Light said, yes, we're pushing to get that thing done. Councilmember Moore said, that's a big deal. There's a lot of people waiting on that. So when they reach out, I'll tell them 3 or 4 weeks or call you, one of the two. Thank you. That's the only question.

Councilmember David McClain said, I've got one, Mayor. Mayor Copenhaver said, yes sir, Council. Councilmember McClain continued, just looking over at the sidewalks, paths, the University Heights Link Trail. So it says 100% plans to ARDOT, utility relocation. So this is the part that goes beyond the new roundabout that's going, this is going east on Aggie, correct? Mr. Light said, this is going east to University Heights. Bowling Lane, I think, is the eastern end of it. So it'd be from ASU's property to Bowling Lane. Councilmember McClain asked, so have we decided on which part, side of the road, north or south? Mr. Light replied, that will be on the, the improvements will be the whole road cross section. Their will be sidewalks on the North, the trail, the side path will be on the South on that project. And those were submitted, the consultant told me he was submitting those to ARDOT today, the 100% plans. We still have to do the right-of-way certification and the utility certification before we can get authorization to advertise, but... Councilmember McClain said, give me a timeline we may see. I know, I know we're trying to ask you to... Mr. Light replied, yeah, I really would like to

see us advertising this project this fall by September. I'd like to see it, us advertising for a contractor on it.

Councilmember L.J. Bryant said, Mayor, what about Winter Wonderland? Kind of where are we at on that and our thoughts and so forth? Mr. Light replied, that particular project has been, we've been having some discussion on it. The architects have kind of been halted about what direction we're going to actually go for that facility as a final. The estimated cost for the improvements is about \$1.8 million. We do not have that money to do those improvements at this time. There's been some other conversations about what that building could be used for other than or as part of these improvements, if whether or not they would satisfy those other things. So, a lot of discussions, but we haven't set a target end date on that yet. Mayor Copenhagen said, alright Craig, thank you very much for your update. Matter of fact, that just kind of leads into the finalization of my mayor's notes.

We celebrated ARDOT's ribbon cutting this Friday. It's a grand opening of ARDOT Northeast Jonesboro Satellite Office in downtown Jonesboro. If you have not been there, you need to go, council. The design-focused office will strengthen local collaboration and support the continued growth within the community. We're grateful to continue to work with the partnership with ARDOT for the region. Jared Wiley, obviously, I think we all know now, is an Arkansas State University graduate. Ms. Jessie, his assistant as well, is an Arkansas State University graduate, and so the footprint of what they're doing here for the community will be a big one for years to come. Now, Northwest Arkansas, they have a satellite office. Obviously, in Little Rock, they have their main office, and now, in Northeast Arkansas, the second-fastest growing community in the state has provided that opportunity, and I appreciate Jared Wiley and his leadership for getting that across the line, and obviously, our previous director, Alec Farmer, and our current director, as well, for working with that. There's going to be an impact for the City of Jonesboro and Northeast Arkansas. And, a little known fact, we have more than \$100 million of projects that are going on right here in Jonesboro and our surrounding areas, so the impact is greatly needed.

Jonesboro has great things happening, so stay aware, and come here for events, get engaged, and give your input. Be sure to follow the city's social media outlets and visit the website and get the most accurate information. You are the heartbeat of Jonesboro.

[COM-26:017](#)

JONESBORO AIRPORT COMMISSION FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE MONTHS OF JANUARY 2026 AND FEBRUARY 2026

**Attachments:** [JAC Jonesboro Airport Financials 01\\_26.pdf](#)  
[JAC Jonesboro Airport Financials 2\\_2026.pdf](#)

Filed

[COM-26:019](#)

JANUARY 2026 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**Attachments:** [January 2026 Financials.pdf](#)

Filed

[COM-26:021](#)

ENGINEERING PROJECT LIST HANDOUT FROM ENGINEERING DIRECTOR CRAIG LIGHT

**Attachments:** [Craig Light Handout 04072026.pdf](#)

Filed

## **9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

*Councilmember L.J. Bryant said, Of course, I know federal changes are always aloof and out there, but it looks like CDBG could be on the chopping block. So, I know we're a long time from planning next year's budget, but I'm sure that's on your radar screen anyway. Mayor Copenhaver replied, well, councilman, and so I'll just go ahead and reiterate, so I'm headed to Washington next week, and so those visits are set up, and that's on the agenda for our congressmen and senators to be discussed. You bet.*

*Councilmember Chris Moore said, just a couple of things, Mayor. I'm glad to hear Craig address the one-way on Main Street. That's going to be popular, especially after we had the death down here on Washington. I thank you for the list of streets. They look great down here on the West End. I've had lots of people commenting about how nice it is now to have the streets paved after CWL. Also, I read the other day that ASU started with the first class of veterinarians. So, I look forward a lot of upside to that, having a veterinarian college out here. So, a lot of good things happening, and thank you for your work.*

*Councilmember Janice Porter said, I'd just like to reiterate that great things are happening in Jonesboro. Last week, the Arkansas State Supreme Court held oral arguments for two cases here in Jonesboro, and that was a great opportunity for citizens to observe, close up that work in our Supreme Court. Mayor Copenhaver replied, well, I'll just add to that, Councilman, if I may. I enjoyed seeing all the youth from every one of our schools were there in the community to actually see what oral arguments look like, and the Supreme Court, the evening before, I think you were there as well, attended a community event, and so they were able to know more about our community as well, and the people in it. So, we were very well represented. It was a good, I am going to say a packed house, and Jonesboro's on the way up, you bet, you bet. Thank you for your comments, Council.*

## **10. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*Steve Garrett, 407 West Matthews, said, I moved here in 2009. I'm coming to the City Council, I appreciate your time tonight. I'm coming to you guys on behalf of a community group called Skate Jonesboro. We're a passionate group, hoping to encourage lifelong involvement in skating, and hopefully encourage the youth of Jonesboro to have an activity that they can get out and participate in, make friends with, and be active outside in this great town, great environment that we have. So, why this matters is, obviously, you know, getting youth outside and getting them active, getting a pathway to fitness in our community, and creating a active community of people who support each other, who try hard, have fun, and also work together as a diverse group of people. So, our immediate concern and why we're here today is Allen Park Skate Place, which is the only sanctioned skate place in Jonesboro, has really hit a maintenance level that was alarming enough to the community to reach out to the Parks Department. We've reached out to Jim and his team and had an amazing response. We had a field day last Friday. The whole Parks Department crew came out and walked it with us, and had immediate feedback. We reached them on Monday, and we were out there by Friday. So, it's reached enough maintenance level concern amongst the group that we wanted to get the city involved to help repair what's already*

there and maybe work with us in the future toward expanding skating into all neighborhoods and into different parts of the town. Obviously, not one mega park, but maybe help get it toward people who don't have transportation, who have work schedules or life commitments that keep them from making it out there, get it out to other parks and other places here in town. But, the most recent addition to the park, just from a few years ago, has not really lasted the life expectancy you would expect for the money that the city put into it. So, a large expansion a couple years ago, and the concrete there, we were documenting it back in January, and kind of talking amongst ourselves about the status of it. It's been ongoing for a couple years, but the recent winter storm has greatly accelerated the failure of the concrete, and there's a lot of patches that are unsafe for people that are there to skate or travel. There's just rocks everywhere, large holes. Like I said, Jim quickly came out with the team. I think he's got a good grasp on what we need to do going forward to protect the city's investment and the community's investment in this park. But, the good news is, there should be some quick repairs that we can do. It's not something I feel like we can kick the can until next year's budget on the Parks Department with what we have going on. It's not something we can work a lengthy grant process and planning process on. Hopefully, Jim and his team can come up with a quick resolution to fix what we already have there in place, but we'd invite any of the city council members who are available any time to reach out to us. We can take you out there and show you what's going on. We're going to need your support to come up with funding or a resolution for this, so we can meet up with you guys at any time. I'll provide our point of contacts and stuff for you guys, but long-term, we'd like to see parks get into every neighborhood. We have an abundance of parks. We have an abundance of projects going on now, but we don't need a 5,000-square-foot park extension there at Allen Park. We'd like to see it maybe get to all the neighborhoods, maybe the City Water and Light Park down here, off Cherry, maybe, off the Parker Park on the north side and get a small piece of skating available to every person in the community, but we just want to kind of start a network with you guys, introduce ourselves, and see what we can do to most importantly resolve Allen Park so the people this spring and summer season can still take advantage of that park. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you, Mr. Garrett, and I'll go ahead and say on top of that, Jim, contact me because I remember that we did have some donations to make that park a reality a couple years ago, and so maybe that's something that we can look at, too, for immediate response on that, so thank you, Mr. Garrett. Mr. Garrett said, just another thing, so as a community, we went to the Parks Master Plan meeting there at Allen Park. We were active in talking to the groups there, and I know that a fair amount of grant money was turned back into that project. We obviously have made huge improvements on other parts of the park, but there was funding available at the time to maybe get this maintenance done ahead of the problem, but now that we have the problem, I hate that we're chasing our tail to maybe find a way to get it fixed when we had money to do some maintenance, so. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you for your update. I appreciate it. Councilmember Brian Emison said, Mayor, I did have a question for Mr. Garrett if you don't mind. We had actually spoke previously at a Public Safety meeting. Did we get the issues with the hours of that park straightened out for y'all? Mr. Garrett said, I don't know consistently if everyone is in tune to what hours it's open, if it's marked correctly across websites, social medias, Google Maps, and Park Rangers. We've had Park Rangers telling people to leave early when the hours are supposed to be extended hours, so that is something that we would like to see just consistent, everyone has the same message when it's open and when the use is allowed. Councilmember Emison replied, sure, we'll work on communicating that and settling those hours for you. Mr. Garrett said, thank you. I would just like to give a quick little handout, kind of a history of skateboarding in Jonesboro. It's a little information packet and QR code to our information. Mayor Copenhaver said, okay, if you would, just go ahead and lay it on that desk, and they can pick it up on the way. All right, thank you.

[COM-26:022](#)

CITIZEN HANDOUT REGARDING SKATE JONESBORO

**Attachments:** [Skate Jonesboro Handout 04072026.pdf](#)

Filed

**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 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

**Absent:** 1 - Anthony Coleman

\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Harold Copenhaver, Mayor**

**Attest:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**April Leggett, City Clerk**