



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Finance & Administration Council Committee

Tuesday, January 10, 2017

4:00 PM

Municipal Center

ELECTION OF A CHAIR

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Outgoing Chairman of the Finance Committee Darrell Dover stated that there should be an election of a new chair as the first item of business. Councilman McClain motion to nominate Councilman Joe Hafner as Chair of the Finance Committee, seconded by Councilwoman Williams. All voted aye.

1. Call To Order

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2. Roll Call by City Clerk Donna Jackson

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Present 4 - Ann Williams; Darrel Dover; Joe Hafner and David McClain

Absent 2 - John Street and Charles Coleman

3. Approval of minutes

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MIN-17:002

Minutes for the Finance & Administration Special Called Meeting on January 3, 2017

[play video](#)

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ann Williams, seconded by Chair Darrel Dover, that this matter be Passed. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 3 - Ann Williams; Darrel Dover and David McClain

Absent: 2 - John Street and Charles Coleman

4. New Business

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Resolutions To Be Introduced

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RES-16:165

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH JENNIE FINCH SOFTBALL FOR HOSTING A TWO-DAY SOFTBALL CAMP AT SOUTHSIDE SOFTBALL COMPLEX ON NOVEMBER 4-5, 2017

[play video](#)

Attachments: [Jennie Finch Contract.pdf](#)
 [RES-16-165 Redacted.pdf](#)
 [Jennie Finch17 Redacted.pdf](#)

Parks & Recreation's Softball Coordinator Sharon Turman spoke about the Jennie Finch Softball camp scheduled for November 4-5, 2017. She said she had emailed the committee earlier today on the budget that has been set aside for this event. She said she thinks this is an awesome event to be able to get an Olympic Gold Medalist that has been inducted into the U.S. Softball Hall of Fame. KAIT put a story on the news last night that this event was a possibility going before this committee. Mrs. Turman said that Parks & Rec has shared it on their Facebook page and the response on the FB page has been phenomenal. It's not every day that you get a chance to get an Olympic gold medalist to come to your community. Northeast Arkansas and the State of Arkansas is a hotbed for softball. There are so many girls that play softball.

Mrs. Turman said there is an extensive list of things required for the City to host this event. She has already been visiting with some people in town. Fairfield Inn & Suites has agreed to donate the hotel rooms for her staff while they are here. There is a list of equipment that she has required during the camp. Play it Again Sports has agreed to donate about \$4,500 worth of equipment. Some of the other things are meals for the campers both days and lunches for the staff. As good as the community has always been, she doesn't think this will be a problem acquiring to satisfy that condition. Our revenue will be based on the concession stands while they are at the park. We will feed the kids, but the parents won't have anywhere to eat so they will eat out of the concession stand. Also, there is a Champions Dinner on Saturday night. It is not only for the campers that participate in the camp, but we will open this up to the community.

Mrs. Turman stated that she attended a Jennie Finch camp last October in Bryant. There was a huge amount of people at the Champions Dinner that had not attended the camp. This is just another line of revenue and at the dinner, they will have a silent and live auction. Jennie Finch donated about 25 items. Most of them were autographed. The ASU Lady Red Wolves softball team will be part of our staff that helps us host this camp.

Chairman Hafner asked about the four-page contract and that it requires that the City to provide night security Friday and Saturday, medical staff which is the trainer and EMT. He asked if she thought there would be any problems finding that staff. Ms. Turman stated she thinks the ASU Lady Red Wolves has a trainer that travels with them and they will be available. She said she has visited with the coach from ASU and he assured her that if they didn't have one available, that they could get one. Mrs. Turman said the night security will probably be someone from the Police Department. What the camp does is to bring in merchandise to sell and they will have it set up. Instead of getting it out and putting it up every day, they want someone to

be there to watch over it. Councilman Dover asked if there was a charge for the participants or is it all free. Mrs. Turman said that the Jennie Finch Camp gets all the registration fees.

Chairman Hafner asked about the requirement of an indoor facility in case of bad weather. Ms. Turman said possibly the ASU Athletic Center, but a lot of the ASU stuff is contingent upon their football schedule which does not come out until February or March. She said that Jonesboro High School has a facility, an athletic center large enough as well as an athletic center at Valley View. She said she really doesn't think that will be an issue.

Councilman McClain asked if the City was looking to make money just off of the concessions. Mrs. Turman said yes as well as the Champions Dinner along with the silent auction that Jennie Finch has there that night. When we go out and start securing sponsorships, we will also secure items for the banquet for that night. Councilman Dover asked how many kids can participate in the camp. Mrs. Turman stated that 400 is their maximum.

Councilman McClain asked if Mrs. Turman knew what revenue was generated with the camp in Bryant. Mrs. Turman said she could get that number for him, but she did not have it with her. She said that they said it was very successful and they didn't lose any money. They had a lot of items at their auction and got sponsorships for their dinner. The food for the kids was donated as well. Chairman Hafner stated that he thought the fact that an Olympian and Hall of Famer was coming to Jonesboro was positive. He just wanted to make sure that we had everything in order because we want it to be a great experience for them so they will come back. We want to let them know that Jonesboro can put on a first rate event.

A motion was made by Chair Darrel Dover, seconded by Councilwoman Ann Williams, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 3 - Ann Williams;Darrel Dover and David McClain

Absent: 2 - John Street and Charles Coleman

RES-17:001

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH CRAIGHEAD COUNTY JONESBORO PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

[play video](#)

Attachments: [Contract](#)
[Public Library Redacted.pdf](#)

Chairman Hafner stated that this was regarding the Public Library Contract for public service. He said this is a standard yearly contract concerning millage that the city collects and turns over to the Library for their operations.

A motion was made by Chair Darrel Dover, seconded by Councilwoman Ann Williams, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 3 - Ann Williams;Darrel Dover and David McClain

Absent: 2 - John Street and Charles Coleman

5. Pending Items

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6. Other Business

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RES-17:002

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT TO SELL PROPERTY TO CITY WATER AND LIGHT

Attachments: [CWL Purchase Agreement.pdf](#)
 [Appraisal Dan Ave 25 acres.pdf](#)

Councilman Dover said this is the resolution to sell back the property to City, Water, & Light that we had traded a parking lot for. The purchase price is \$126,000. This piece of property was going to be used for part of the shooting range, but we have since changed plans. The money from the land sale is to go towards the shooting range expenses or it may just go to general fund revenues.

Councilman McClain asked what property this was. Parks & Recreation Director Wixon Huffstetler spoke. He said it was the land adjacent to the Street Department on Dan avenue. City, Water, & Light used to own it, but they needed the parking lot over by City Hall so they swapped with the City for the property. Since the Firing Range wouldn't fit on that property, we have no use for it. Councilman McClain asked if we swapped with them. Mr. Huffstetler said that was correct, but they asked the city if they ever wanted to get rid of the property that CWL would have first rights to buy it back at the appraised value.

Councilman Dover motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Williams, to suspend the rules and walk on RES-17:002. All voted aye.

Aye: 3 - Ann Williams; Darrel Dover and David McClain

Absent: 2 - John Street and Charles Coleman

COM-17:005

Elected Officials Salary Comparison

Attachments: [Elected Officials.pdf](#)

Chairman Hafner stated that there was a discussion on elected officials' salaries at last week's special called Finance Committee meeting. He stated he had a few comments regarding that. Chairman Hafner passed out a handout. He said he took CFO Suzanne Allen's handout and put it in a little different format. He stated that he looked at different cities and compared each elected official position. He said the only thing he really added was population.

Chairman Hafner said a little more background information was needed. He looked at the Mayor, the City Clerk, and the City Attorney which are full time positions. The Alderman are part-time and he doesn't consider alderman as part of the equation at this time. In 2013, the Mayor got a 2% raise. In 2014, he got a 10% raise. In 2015, he got a 2% raise. In each of those years, the City Attorney and the City Clerk both got a 2% raise. He said you have to look at elected officials a little bit differently because you are paying the position and not really the person in the position. For instance, Mayor Perrin has been in office for eight years. If someone else came into the position of Mayor, they would be making the same thing he is. It is the same with the

City Clerk position and the City Attorney position.

Chairman Hafner said what he thinks they should do is look at these different cities knowing that things are different between cities and kind of use this survey as a sanity check to make sure we are paying fair wages to our elected positions. Based on what he sees, with the exception of the City Attorney which looks to be below the averages of what some of the other cities are making. Chairman Hafner stated he thinks the City is paying fair wages for our elected officials. Obviously, we know the budget is really tight this year and we are having to take over \$3 million from the reserves so we need to be really prudent. Based on the salary survey that was done, Chairman Hafner believes that the City is being fair. What he would like to see is the Finance Committee put something in place so that on a yearly basis during the budget process, we actually look at where we are financially, how we are doing compared to budget, and come up with a tool whether it be the CPI index for 12 months or something comparable and come up with a tool that we can base our raises for elected officials on.

Chairman Hafner said he would like for the Committee to look a little more at the City Attorney row compared to some of the other cities because that is the one that is below average and maybe see what we want to do there. His personal opinion as far as the other positions go, the City is paying a fair wage. He does appreciate Councilman Dover requesting this information and kind of letting us know where we are compared to these cities.

Councilman McClain said we should be prudent in this. We should look at it more in depth and consider a plan for the long run, but not right now. He doesn't think we are in a financial state to afford these raises on top of what we already have. He doesn't see that as a good move for the City right now. Councilwoman Williams agreed.

Chairman Hafner said that when he first started looking at this, he wanted to come up with a salary scale for each position based on longevity. The more research he did, the more he thought that you cannot do that for elected positions. The Governor, the President, people will make the same whether they have been in their eight years or one year. It is really up to the voters to decide the qualifications of office and if they are doing a good job then their job performance is based on the vote of the people. If people think they are doing a good job, then they stay in office. If not, someone else comes in.

Councilman Dover asked about the bottom of the handout. Chairman Hafner said that it did not include Jonesboro and he took out the high and the low. Councilman Dover asked if that was the adjusted averages. Chairman Hafner said that it was the adjusted averages taking out the high and the low. Councilman Dover said it made a little difference, but not a whole lot. He said the whole purpose of this was to get facts. Councilwoman Williams stated that she agrees with what has been said.

Read

7. Public Comments

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8. Adjournment

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A motion was made by Chair Darrel Dover, seconded by Councilwoman Ann Williams, that this meeting be Adjourned . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 3 - Ann Williams;Darrel Dover and David McClain

Absent: 2 - John Street and Charles Coleman