

City Council of Jacksonville, Arkansas

A G E N D A

Regular City Council Meeting

September 21, 2023 6:00 p.m.

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13. PLANNING COMMISSION:		
14. COMMITTEE(S):		
15. GENERAL:		
a.	ORDINANCE 1740 (#24-2023) Amending Ord. 1737 & updating JMC § 8.01.078 (Grass or Weeds) (Council Member Rains) Returned from 8/17/2023 City Council Agenda	9-10
b.	RESOLUTION 837 (#06-2023) Establishing The At-risk and Displaced Community Outreach Committee (Council Member Rains) Returned from 8/17/2023 City Council Agenda	11-12
c.	Request to approve ARPA fund expenditure regarding the Chamber Fountain (Council Member Twitty)	

City Council A G E N D A continued:  
September 21, 2023

GENERAL continued:

- d. Request to approve ARPA fund expenditure regarding Animal Shelter improvements (Mayor Elmore)
- e. Understanding the Annual Budget (Included in packet) (Mayor Elmore)

16. APPOINTMENTS:

17. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

18. NEW BUSINESS:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 7, 2023  
6:00 P.M. - 6:36 P.M.

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING - CITY HALL - #1 MUNICIPAL DRIVE**

The City Council of the City of Jacksonville, Arkansas met in a regular session on September 7, 2023 at the regular meeting place of the City Council. Mayor Elmore delivered the invocation and led a standing audience in the "Pledge of Allegiance" to the flag.

**ROLL CALL:** City Council Members: Dietz, McCleary, Sansing, Twitty, Kinman, and Rains answered ROLL CALL. Mayor Elmore also answered ROLL CALL declaring a quorum. PRESENT SIX (6) ABSENT FOUR (4). Council Members Bolden, Ray, Mashburn, and Moss were absent.

Others present for the meeting were: City Attorney Stephanie Friedman, Assistant City Clerk Emilia Vazquez, Fire Chief Alan Laughy, City Engineer Adam Whitlow, Parks and Recreation Director Kevin House, CDBG Director Michelle Spencer, Communications Director Emily Sundermeier, Lieutenant Ryan Wright, IT Director Emily Osment, Kerrie Henderson, Madison Binsted, Alicia Fenton, Roger Sundermeier, Jay McCarty, Lida Feller, Jim Moore, and Wyatt Elmore.

**PRESENTATION OF MINUTES:** Mayor Elmore presented the minutes of the regularly scheduled City Council meeting of August 17, 2023 for approval and/or correction at the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting.

**APPROVAL AND/OR CORRECTION OF MINUTES:** Council Member Twitty moved, seconded by Council Member McCleary that the minutes of the regular City Council meeting of July 20, 2023 be APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED.

**CONSENT AGENDA: REGULAR MONTHLY REPORT/ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT**

Council Member Sansing moved, seconded by Council Member Twitty to approve the regular monthly report for August 2023.

**AUGUST**

**PERMITS/LICENSE ISSUED**

Building Permits	12
Business License	-

**INSPECTIONS PERFORMED**

Building Inspections	54
Electrical	71
Plumbing	42
HVACR	24

**REGULAR MONTHLY REPORT/POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Council Member Sansing moved, seconded by Council Member Twitty to approve the regular monthly report for July 2023 regarding annual crime statistical comparisons.

**REGULAR MONTHLY REPORT/CODE ENFORCEMENT**

Council Member Sansing moved, seconded by Council Member Twitty to approve the regular monthly report as presented for July 2023.

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Assigned Calls	49		
Self-Initiated Calls	186		
Follow Up Inspections	476	Demolition by City	0
Complied after Notice	173	Demolition by Owner	1
Three Day Notice	23	Parking Violations	0
Seven Day Letter	322	Garbage Cans Tagged	0
Citation Letters Mailed	29	Basketball Goals	1
Citations Issued	11	Structures Inspected	711
Vehicles Tagged	24	Apartment Complexes Inspected	4
Vehicles Towed	4	Red Tags Issued	0
Unsafe Structures Tagged	0	Search Warrants	0
Structures Condemned	0	Grass Mowed	102
Structures Rehabbed	0	Signs Removed	6

**ROLL CALL: Council Member: Dietz, McCleary, Sansing, Twitty, Kinman, and Rains voted AYE. MOTION CARRIED.**

**WATER DEPARTMENT:**

**WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT:**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

**POLICE DEPARTMENT: Camera system demonstration by Chief Hibbs**

Mayor Elmore stated this item of business is going to be put off until another meeting.

**STREET DEPARTMENT:**

**SANITATION DEPARTMENT:**

**PARKS & RECREATION:**

**PLANNING COMMISSION:**

**COMMITTEE (S):**

**GENERAL:**

**APPOINTMENTS:**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS: Council Member Sansing moved, seconded by Council Member Twitty to ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION regarding a personnel matter at approximately 6:02 p.m. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Council Member Twitty moved, seconded by Council Member Rains to RESUME GENERAL SESSION at approximately 6:30 p.m. MOTION CARRIED.**

Mayor Elmore related that the only business that took place, although it was not actually business, in the executive session was a discussion regarding a personnel matter within the City government.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS: City Statement Regarding Animal Shelter**

Mayor Elmore read the following statement on behalf of the City:

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"On Friday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, the City of Jacksonville and the Jacksonville Animal Shelter was made aware of a Facebook post regarding the overcrowding procedures of the shelter. While the post has gained traction and attention, it does not factually tell the complete story of the Jacksonville Animal Shelter and its daily operations.

The Jacksonville Animal Shelter has never been a no-kill shelter, and euthanasia is only sought as an absolute last resort. An animal is only considered for euthanasia for reasons such as length of stay, health concerns and aggression towards people and other animals, among other criteria. Euthanasia is never a first option for the Jacksonville Animal Shelter, the City of Jacksonville or its employees, and is a decision we do not take lightly. It hurts our hearts any time the difficult decision to euthanize an animal is made, and it is to be reiterated that euthanasia is the absolute final option after unsuccessful adoption, rescue or foster attempts. The City of Jacksonville, the Jacksonville Animal Shelter and its employees strive to deliver the best possible quality of life to all of the shelter's animals in hopes that they are adopted, rescued or fostered.

Lieutenant Ryan Wright's letter was not new information to the City or its employees. This letter is a statement of overcrowding guidelines and procedures for the operation of the Jacksonville Animal Shelter. The letter ultimately provides uniform structure and protection to ensure that healthy, adoptable animals will not be unfairly euthanized. Dogs will not be held in crates longer than 24 hours.

Volunteer work for the expansion of the shelter has been offered. However, as the City of Jacksonville is a municipality, there are state statutes to follow when dealing with any City facilities and taxpayer dollars. The donation in question was not in cash, but instead, rather a dollar amount of time and machinery usage. By law, the City of Jacksonville requires that any sort of work regarding City facilities and taxpayer dollars must be bid on if exceeding a specific dollar amount. If it is under a specific dollar amount, the City must obtain multiple quotes for the project.

The City of Jacksonville understands the urgent need and high importance to improve the Jacksonville Animal Shelter. Animals at the shelter deserve a space where they can be nurtured and cared for in a facility that is updated and can accommodate the shelter's needs on a day-to-day basis. However, legally, there are rules, regulations and statues put into place by the state of Arkansas that the City must abide by in order to make these necessary improvements to the shelter a reality. I am currently exploring options and the possibility of using remaining ARPA funds to finance a shelter renovation project sooner rather than later. If sufficient funds are not available, funding will be requested to be included in the 2024 budget.

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Generous outside support has allowed the shelter to operate comfortably within their yearly allocated budget. Because of this generosity, budget requests from previous years did not accurately reflect the shelter's ability to function independently. The proposed 2024 budget will be reflective of City funds required for the Jacksonville Animal Shelter to be self-sufficient. Donations of any sort are always welcomed and appreciated, and can be given directly to the Jacksonville Animal Shelter. Monetary donations to the shelter do not, and will not, be rolled into the general fund; they will remain with the shelter.

For accurate, up-to-date information regarding the Jacksonville Animal Shelter or any of its animals, please contact the animal shelter directly. Contact information, hours of operation and information on animals in the shelter that are available for adoption, can be found on the City's website, [cityofjacksonville.net](http://cityofjacksonville.net), as well as on the Jacksonville Animal Shelter's official Facebook page: Jacksonville Animal Shelter, Arkansas.

The support and love for the shelter and the animals that reside there is felt and highly appreciated. Last month, the shelter reported 99 animals had left the shelter, with 54 of those being adoptions. The Jacksonville Animal Shelter remains at an 85% save rate, with the end-of-year goal being 90%, but our ultimate goal is to be 100%. Multiple animals continue to come to the animal shelter, where they wait to be adopted, rescued or fostered. It is because of the generosity and support from the general public that hundreds, if not thousands, of animals have found themselves a new home and a family that they can call their own."

He stressed that if someone has a question regarding anything with the Shelter, they can contact himself, Chief Brett Hibbs, Lieutenant Ryan Wright, or stop at the Shelter and speak to any of the employees.

**ADJOURNMENT: Without objection, Mayor Elmore adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:36 p.m. MOTION CARRIED.**

Respectfully,

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Susan L. Davitt  
City Clerk-Treasurer

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MAYOR JEFF ELMORE



**JACKSONVILLE**  
**FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES**  
PRIDE of the City!

900 N. Redmond Rd.  
Jacksonville, AR. 72076  
(501) 982-5048  
Fax 982-0579

Alan Laughy, Chief

15 September 2023

Honorable Jeff Elmore  
Members of the Council  
City of Jacksonville

Gentlemen & Ladies:

I respectfully submit a report of Emergency Response Activity for the month of **AUGUST 2023**.

**National Emergency Medical Service Information System (NEMSIS)**

Ambulance Responses classified as:

**Transported Runs 302**

**Non-Transported Runs 140**

**National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS)**

Estimated fire loss for the month: \$38,500.00

Savings total for the month: \$881,500.00

**Rescue (420)**

EMS Incident (420)

**Service Call (72)**

Smoke, Odor Problem (1)

Public Service Assistance (70)

Unauthorized Burning (1)

**False Alarm (24)**

System or Detector Malfunction (6)

Unintentional System/Detector (17)

False Alarm/False Call (1)

**Fire (13)**

Structure Fire (8)

Vehicle Fire (2)

Natural Vegetation Fire (2)

Outside Rubbish Fire (1)

**Hazardous Condition, No Fire (9)**

Combustible/Flammable Spills/Leaks (5)

Electrical Wiring/Equip Problem (4)

**Good Intent Call (26)**

Controlled Burning (2)

Dispatched and Canceled En Route (19)

Steam, Gas Mistaken for Smoke (5)

Respectfully,

Alan Laughy, Chief  
Jacksonville Fire & Rescue Services

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# JACKSONVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

COURAGE • INTEGRITY • PROFESSIONALISM

Brett C. Hibbs  
Chief of Police

1400 Marshall Rd.  
Jacksonville, AR 72076  
(501) 982-3191

September 6, 2023

To: Mayor Jeff Elmore & Jacksonville City Council Members

From: Chief Brett Hibbs

Re: Jacksonville Police Department August 2023 Monthly Report

The following report of activities for the Jacksonville Police Department submitted for the month of August 2023:

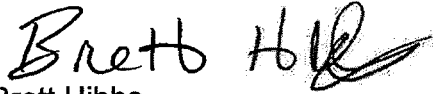
<u>Topic</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Total complaints Calls	2682	2874
Homicide Reported	1	0
Homicide Cleared	0	0
Rape/Sex Assault Reported	0	0
Rape/Sex Assault Cleared	0	0
Robbery Reported	2	2
Robbery Cleared	0	0
Felony Assaults Reported	22	15
Felony Assaults Cleared	10	5
Burglary Reported	19	19
Burglary Cleared	10	11
Theft Reported	58	77
Theft Cleared	20	41
Vehicle Theft Reported	16	6
Vehicle Theft Cleared	4	2

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Felony Cases Reported	147	129
Felony Cases Closed	129	189
Misd Cases Reported	306	281
Misd Cases Closed	306	295

Respectfully,



Brett Hibbs  
Chief of Police  
Jacksonville Police Department

BH/sb

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**Jacksonville Police Department  
Code Enforcement Unit  
1400 Marshall Road  
Jacksonville, AR 72076  
501-982-0688**

**Monthly Report:**

**August 2023**

	Barger	Rowe	Gonyea	Casey	Total
Assigned Calls	4	5	37	13	59
Self - Initiated Calls	37	63	79	34	213
Follow Up Inspections	150	267	201	29	647
Complied after Notice	86	107	45	11	249
3 Day Notice	2	16	26	6	50
7 Day Letter	73	99	100	58	330
Citation Letters Mailed	5	2	10	1	18
Citations Issued	1	1	1	2	5
Vehicles Tagged	1	13	5	7	26
Vehicles Towed		8	1		9
Unsafe Structures Tagged					0
Structures Condemned					0
Structures Rehabbed					0
Demolition by City					0
Demolition by Owner	2				2
Parking Violations					0
Garbage Cans Tagged					0
Basketball Goals					0
Structures Inspected	191	335	317	76	919
Apt. Complexes Insp.	2	4	4	1	11
Red Tags Issued		3	5		8
Search Warrants	1				1
Parking Violations					0
Grass Mowed	17	33	37	30	117
Shopping carts	1		1		
Signs	5	1	1		

**Notes & Highlights:**

Plan of Action submitted for: 2216 Loop Acres, 311 E. Main, 101 S. Oak, 113 S. Oak,  
221 Warren, 2204 Loop Acres, 112 North Ave  
Home Owner Demolished: 101 S. Oak , 113 S. Oak

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## ORDINANCE NO. 1740 (#24-2023)

### AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 1737 AND UPDATING JACKSONVILLE MUNICIPAL CODES § 8.01.078 (GRASS OR WEEDS).

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**WHEREAS**, City officials believe certain parts of the Jacksonville Municipal Code regarding grass, weeds, and vegetation are out-of-date with 2021 International Property Maintenance Code maintained by the International Code Council. As a result, the City Council believes the following amended provisions and additional requirements are necessary to update and amend the Jacksonville Municipal Code.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, ARKANSAS:**

**SECTION ONE: JMC § 8.01.078 (Grass or Weeds)** shall be amended to read as follows:

All real property, fences, exterior structures, including adjacent rights-of-way shall be maintained free from noxious vegetation, weeds, meadows, or plant growth in excess of eight inches (8") in height in all residential districts, in excess of eight inches (8") in height on lots in all commercial zone districts and industrial zone districts on which a structure is located, and in excess of eighteen (18") in height on lots in all commercial zone districts and industrial zone districts upon which a structure is not located. For purposes of this Code, weeds shall be defined as all vegetation other than trees and shrubs; however, this term shall not include gardens or cultivated flowers maintained in flowerbeds. For the purposes of this Code, gardens shall be defined as a plot of ground, located behind the primary frontline of a property, where plants are grown for produce; and flowerbeds shall be defined as a plot of ground, separated from surrounding ground cover by landscape edging or a border, where flowers or shrubs are grown. Flowerbeds must contain a weed barrier or mulch and be located behind the eleven foot (11') City right-of-way easement. Flowerbeds located in front of the eleven-foot (11') City right-of-way easement must be contained with landscape edging or a border, have a weed barrier or mulch, and must be no larger than two (2') square feet.

Exceptions: The restrictions noted above will not apply to undeveloped land that has not been previously subdivided and has been continuously maintained in a natural vegetative state, or to areas specifically designated or certified by the State or the United States as agricultural, wetlands, open spaces, natural or wild flower areas, or other designated preservation areas.

Upon the passing of this Ordinance, property owners not in compliance with the aforementioned Code shall file a request for an exemption with Code Enforcement within sixty (60) days.

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**SECTION TWO:** All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

**SECTION THREE:** This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage and publication, as provided by and subject to the requirements of applicable law.

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_ 2023.**

**CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, ARKANSAS**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**JEFF ELMORE, MAYOR**

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**SUSAN L. DAVITT, CITY CLERK**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**STEPHANIE FRIEDMAN, CITY ATTORNEY**

**Failed to be approved on first reading 08-17-2023.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 837 (#06-2023)**

**A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH THE AT RISK AND DISPLACED COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE.**

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**WHEREAS**, City officials believe it is important to support our community members resiliency when experiencing homelessness or at risk of experiencing homelessness. As a result, the City Council believes the following resolution is necessary to support establishing community solutions that fit our community's needs.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, ARKANSAS:**

**SECTION ONE:** The At Risk and Displaced Community Outreach Committee shall be composed of council members who volunteer to participate, as well as stakeholders in the community: CDBG Director; Planning Commission Member; Chamber of Commerce CEO; a member of the church; and two citizen representatives, one to include one citizen who has experienced displacement or homelessness.

**SECTION TWO:** The Committee shall be responsible for investigating current resources and programs in order to create a Community Asset Map to be publicly accessible. The Committee shall assess the direct needs of the community members in need. The Committee shall evaluate current community assets and current needs in order to give an accurate overview of how the city can engage and support a variety of community services that offer support to very low-income families in crisis.

**SECTION THREE:** Once The Committee finishes above requirements, they shall meet once annually to update the community asset map as well as assess if needs have changed.

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_ 2023.**

**CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, ARKANSAS**

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**JEFF ELMORE, MAYOR**

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

**SUSAN L. DAVITT, CITY CLERK**

**STEPHANIE FRIEDMAN, CITY ATTORNEY**

**Motion to be read failed on 08-17-2023. Resolution not approved.**