

**CITY OF JACKSONVILLE
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 19, 2026
6:00 P.M. - 7:33 P.M.**

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

The City Council of the City of Jacksonville, Arkansas met for a regular session on February 19, 2026 at their regular meeting place. Council Member Ray delivered the invocation and Mayor Elmore led a standing audience in the "Pledge of Allegiance."

ROLL CALL: City Council Members: Dietz, McCleary, McCoy, Ray, LaBron, Moss, Twitty, Kinman, and Mimms answered ROLL CALL. Mayor Elmore also answered ROLL CALL declaring a quorum. PRESENT NINE (9) ABSENT ONE (1). Council Member Ruple was absent.

Others present for the meeting were: Police Chief Brett Hibbs, Parks & Rec Director Kevin House, Director of Economic Development Robert Birch, CDBG Director Michelle Spencer, Network Operations (Brian Harvey, Shawn Sutterfield, Phillip Lee), Assistant City Clerk Emilia Vazquez, Barry Jefferson, Barbara Batiste, and Rick Kron.

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES: Mayor Elmore presented the minutes of the regular City Council meeting of February 5, 2026 for approval and/or correction at the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting.

APPROVAL AND/OR CORRECTION OF MINUTES: Council Member Ray moved, seconded by Council Member LaBron that the minutes of the regular City Council meeting of January 8, 2026 be APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED.

CONSENT AGENDA: Council Member Ray moved, seconded by Council Member McCleary to approve the consent agenda as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REGULAR MONTHLY REPORT/JANUARY

Transported Runs	308	Non-Transported Runs	141
<u>FIRE</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>NO EMERGENCY</u>	<u>19</u>
Structure Fire	7	Controlled Burns	3
Grass/Vegetation Fire	3	Alarms: Accidental/Malfunction	9
Outside/Dumpster, Trash	7	No Incident Found	7
Vehicle Fire	2		
		<u>PUBLIC SERVICE</u>	<u>72</u>
<u>HAZARDOUS SITUATION</u>	<u>30</u>	Lift Assist	40
Electrical	5	Fire/Smoke/Gas Alarm	24
Gas Leak/Odor	5	Other	8
Smoke	9		
Motor Vehicle Collision	2	<u>RESCUE</u>	<u>1</u>
Other	9	Elevator	1

POLICE DEPARTMENT REGULAR MONTHLY REPORT/JANUARY

<u>Topic</u>	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>
Total Complaint Calls	2773	3279		
Homicide Reported	0	0	Theft Reported	50 44
Homicide Cleared	0	0	Theft Cleared	22 18
Rape/Sex Assault Reported	4	5	Vehicle Theft Reported	2 8

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Rape/Sex Assault Cleared	1	0	Vehicle Theft Cleared	3	1
Robbery Reported	5	1	Felony Cases Reported	75	108
Robbery Cleared	3	0	Felony Cases Closed	53	104
Felony Assaults Reported	6	13	Misd Cases Reported	187	222
Felony Assaults Cleared	11	9	Misd Cases Closed	139	161
Burglary Reported	2	9			
Burglary Cleared	3	2			

CODE ENFORCEMENT REGULAR MONTHLY REPORT/JANUARY

Assigned Calls	54	Demolition by City	0
Self-Initiated Calls	141	Demolition by Owner	0
Follow Up Inspections	304	Parking Violations	2
Complied after Notice	110	Garbage Cans Tagged	1
Three Day Notice	0	Basketball Goals	0
Seven Day Letter	181	Structures Inspected	492
Citation Letters Mailed	36	Apartment Complexes Inspected	7
Citations Issued	3	Red Tags Issued	12
Vehicles Tagged	19	Search Warrants	0
Vehicles Towed	1	Grass Mowed	0
Unsafe Structures Tagged	0	Signs Removed	25
Structures Condemned	0	Shopping Carts	1
Structures Rehabbed	0		

ANIMAL SERVICES REGULAR MONTHLY REPORT/JANUARY

ADOPTION FEES	\$	1,265.00
SPAY/NEUTER FOR ADOPTED DOGS		1,265.00
Paid by the City of Jacksonville		715.00
Best Friends Animal Rescue Grant		-
Paid for by Best Friends		550.00
FINES		1,163.82
CONTRIBUTIONS		<u>1,766.59</u>
TOTAL	\$	2,930.41

FINANCE DEPARTMENT INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT/JANUARY

	<u>Total Revenues</u>	<u>Total Expenditures</u>
General Fund	\$ 177,568	\$ 1,945,945
Street Fund	\$ 22,973	\$ 102,383
Sanitation Services Fund	\$ 5,973	\$ 126,305
AG&F Shooting Sports Complex	\$ 4,089	\$ 17,034
EMS Fund	\$ 201,053	\$ 235,722

WATER DEPARTMENT: 2025 Annual Report by Water Department Superintendent Jake Short

Water Department Superintendent Jake Short read the following statement:
 "Good evening mayor and Council. It is a pleasure to come before you this evening to present the Annual Report for Water Works 2025. Before I jump into it, I'd be remiss if I did not recognize Council Member Kinman; she also serves as Chair of our Commission, so I want to recognize her and thank her for her service in that capacity.

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Water Works currently operates and maintains close to 1.2 million linear feet of water distribution lines, 1000 fire hydrants, 5.25 million gallons of storage, and provides an average of 3.7 million gallons of potable water per day to the residents of Jacksonville. Jacksonville Water Works (JWW) not only provides reliable water service to a population of over 29,000 people in the Jacksonville area, but we also deliver water to Little Rock Air Force Base (LRAFB) and three other wholesale customers. The projects completed in 2025 include the installation of 6,472 linear feet of pipe, 8 additional fire hydrants, and 25 valves. At the end of 2025 we had 11,811 water meters in the water distribution system which includes 119 new water services. We also completed a major maintenance initiative by sandblasting, priming, and painting 307 fire hydrants in 2025. Combined with the 609 hydrants that we painted in 2024, this effort successfully completes the full rehabilitation and repainting of our hydrant inventory. The completion of this project ensures better corrosion control of these important pieces of system infrastructure, but also improves their visibility and reliability for emergency response across the City. These now newly bright freshly painted well-maintained hydrants not only enhance the overall appearance of our neighborhoods and business centers, but also help to demonstrate the Water Works' commitment to doing our part and having a clean, safe, and attractive city. Water use increased marginally in 2025. We reached a peak demand of 7.9 million gallons on December 16, 2025. That was slightly above the previous year's peak demand of 7.7 million gallons which occurred on January 17, 2024. The total water demand for the year was 1.35 billion gallons; a quarter percent above the previous year's total.

2025 was the Water Works' seventh full year serving as the privatized owner of the LRAFB distribution system. This 50-year contract requires us to operate, maintain, repair, upgrade, and improve the LRAFB water system. This system is comprised of approximately 290,000 linear feet of pipe, 500 hydrants, 3 pump stations, and 1.35 million gallons of storage capacity. This system provides an average of 380,000 gallons of potable water per day to the roughly 10,500 individuals who reside and work on the installation. In acquiring these facilities, we have employed the operations and maintenance strategies that have proven successful with our own system here in town and blended those with procedures familiar to the LRAFB. Our Maintenance Team on the installation participated in the scheduled maintenance of 233 valves and 170 fire hydrants in the system, they conducted training for LRAFB personnel as needed, and repaired 4 emergency leaks as part of routine activities. This same team also oversaw the replacement of 3400 feet of 8" PVC water main on Cannon Drive as part of an ongoing process to correct system deficiencies on the installation. It is important to note that these two systems operate independent of one another. But I am happy to report that in 2025, both the Jacksonville system and the LRAFB system reported zero water quality violations, so that is a big win. This work was completed with a workforce of 30 staff members; 9 of which are currently licensed with the Arkansas Department of Health to operate the water system, with 4 additional staff members currently in training working to get their license to further enhance the professionalism of our team."

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Mayor Elmore asked if the bad debt totals of \$50,244.00 were from Willow Bend.

Superintendent Short replied that a large portion of it was; there is probably some from 2024 for them as well.

WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT: 2025 Annual Report by Wastewater Utility Manager Thea Hughes

Wastewater Utility Manager Thea Hughes read the following statement: "The 2025 Jacksonville Sewer Commissioners are: Fred Belote, John Ferrell, Eddie Porter, Jerry Sanders, and Jay Whisker. Four of them are present tonight. A short history of the sewer system is found on pages 1 and 2 of the report. I include that every year because there is usually some new council members who may not know about our system. Jacksonville's sewer system consists of approximately 183 miles of gravity line ranging in size from 6 inch to 42 inch, about 13 miles of force main, and over 3,800 manholes. The system also includes 14 remote pump stations. I am happy to report again this year that we completed our 30th consecutive year at the treatment plant without a permit violation. You probably remember that for about the last five years, our treatment plant has been under construction with new upgrades, so each year we operate under construction without permit violations, our operators are very pleased and very proud of being able to do that. Phase II of our plant improvements has begun. It consists of items that were removed initially from Phase I due to lack of funding at the time. It includes new solids handling equipment, an alkalinity feed system to help with nitrification, a new Peracetic Acid disinfection system which will act as back to the UV system.

Our utility is broken down into four departments. Our Technical Services department handles investigation, cleaning and televising, and oversee all new construction. They completed over 8 miles of televising line and cleaned 55 miles of main line. New sewer line was accepted for operation and maintenance in Aubethany Estates, Graham Woods IV, and Sunnyside Hills Addition. A list of their work is on pages 3-4 of the report. Our Collection Systems department is responsible for repair and maintenance of existing sewer line and manholes, and some construction of new lines. They inspected and/or repaired 182 manholes and performed 14 street cuts, along with routine spot repairs in various locations. Their report is found on page 3-4 with a picture of their Christmas Parade float on page 9. The Operations department is responsible for operating the treatment plant, running process control tests in the laboratory to ensure we are within permit regulations, assisting our industries with their wastewater pre-treatment, and maintain and repair all plant equipment and vehicles. The plant treated over 1.8 billion gallons of water in 2025, performed 524 inspections of grease traps throughout the City, and performed over 5,700 analytical tests in our laboratory. Our plant operators were able to operate under some difficult conditions. Even though our first stage of plant updates was completed and operational, we had some problems with some of our new equipment. The manufacturer has been very cooperative and has been out several times to try to remedy the problem; even providing new equipment, so things are currently working and going well, but had a struggle throughout the year dealing with that.

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Last November we were awarded a \$6.8 million loan from Arkansas Natural Resource Division for the final upgrades to the treatment plant. We received a phenomenal interest rate of 1.75%, and were able to get the bonds issued in December. We have spent this entire year waiting for equipment to arrive. The new sludge screw presses are expected to arrive in April. Once construction begins, we hope to be finished by the end of this year. At that time, we will have almost a completely new wastewater treatment plant.

The Administration department handles financial management, personnel, purchasing, and all administrative duties. We have about 28 employees currently; 19 of them have Wastewater Operator's licenses, 9 have Collection System certifications, 4 have Solid Waste licenses, 6 have Plumbing Inspector licenses, and 13 have Commercial Driver's Licenses."

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

STREET DEPARTMENT:

SANITATION DEPARTMENT:

PARKS & RECREATION:

PLANNING COMMISSION: ORDINANCE 1808 (#03-2026)

AN ORDINANCE RECLASSIFYING PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, ARKANSAS (1315 LEE MAC DRIVE); AMENDING ORDINANCE NOS. 213 AND 238 AND THE LAND USE MAP OF THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, ARKANSAS; AND, FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Council Member Ray moved, seconded by Council Member McCleary to place Ordinance 1808 on **FIRST READING. ROLL CALL:** Council Member Dietz, McCleary, McCoy, Ray, LaBron, Moss, Twitty, Kinman, and Mimms voted AYE. **MOTION CARRIED. Whereupon City Clerk Davitt read the heading of Ordinance 1808.**

Director of Engineering & Public Works Adam Whitlow explained R-7 is a mobile home park and R-8 is an RV park. He related that the owner wants to get rid of the FEMA trailers and create an RV park.

Council Member Ray moved, seconded by Council Member LaBron to **APPROVE** Ordinance 1808 on **FIRST READING** and **SUSPEND THE RULES** and place Ordinance 1808 on **SECOND READING. ROLL CALL:** Council Member Dietz, McCleary, McCoy, Ray, LaBron, Moss, Twitty, Kinman, and Mimms voted AYE. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Council Member Ray moved, seconded by Council Member LaBron to **APPROVE** Ordinance 1808 on **SECOND READING** and **SUSPEND THE RULES** and place Ordinance 1808 on **THIRD AND FINAL READING. ROLL CALL:** Council Member Dietz, McCleary, McCoy, Ray, LaBron, Moss, Twitty, Kinman, and Mimms voted AYE. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Council Member Ray moved, seconded by Council Member LaBron to **APPROVE AND ADOPT** Ordinance 1808 in its entirety. **ROLL CALL:** Council Member Dietz, McCleary, McCoy, Ray, LaBron, Moss, Twitty, Kinman, and Mimms voted AYE. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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ORDINANCE 1808 (#03-2026) APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 19TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2026.

COMMITTEE(S):

GENERAL: a. **PRESENTATION of 2024 Audit by David Coleman with Forvis Mazars**
Finance Director Laura Collie introduced Assistant Finance Director Brandy O'Brien, noting if there are any issues with the day-to-day operations of Finance, she can assist.

David Coleman with Forvis Mazars presented a PowerPoint regarding the FY2024 Audit. He stated under Governmental Activities, Total Assets and Deferred Outflows were \$92 million; an increase of \$5 million from the previous year. He told how Total Liabilities and Deferred Inflows were \$32.9 million; a decrease of \$2.4 million from the previous year. He related that the General Fund's Unassigned Fund Balance was \$8.2 million at year end, and compared to total budgeted expenditures, was 31.1%, where 20% is standard. He shared that the current year change in Unassigned Fund Balance went down by \$677,622.00. He listed that the City has five pension plans including Policemen's Pension and Relief Fund, Firemen's Pension and Relief Fund, LOPFI-Police, LOPFI-Fire, and APERS. He noted the Policemen's Pension Fund went from being a liability in 2023 to a current year asset. He brought up that the Retiree Medical Plan (OPEB) is health insurance the City provides retirees before they hit Medicare age. He shared that it went down from a \$1.2 million liability to \$712,442.00 at year end.

He confirmed they issued an unmodified "clean" opinion on the City's financial statements and last year the City received the award for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association. He believes it meets the standards to get awarded again this year. He brought up that the audit included an emphasis of matter related to grants. He explained there was an approximately \$1 million street grant received from the State and in 2023 the work was being done and paid, but the invoice to the State was not appropriately accrued at year end. He clarified that there were timing issues of what period it should have been recorded in. He affirmed there was no money missing, no errors, etc.; it just needed to be accrued earlier. He told how the same thing happened with FEMA, where the rules changed to whenever the federal government obligates funds, that is when the City recognizes the revenues. He told how there was an obligation in October 2023 that was not billed until January and did not get paid until April, but it should have been accrued in 2023. He shared that he expects to get the audit issued in a timelier manner this year; preferably in June.

Council Member McCoy requested Council receive the report prior to the presentation so they can review and have questions prepared going forward.

b. ORDINANCE 1809 (#04-2026)

AN ORDINANCE CONDEMNING STRUCTURES AND REAL PROPERTY AT THE LOCATION NOTED BELOW IN JACKSONVILLE, ARKANSAS, FOR STRUCTURAL DEFECTS, DEFICIENCIES, AND PUBLIC HAZARD CONDITIONS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND, FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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Code Enforcement Supervisor Marissa Barger explained that 213-217 Marshall is a shopping center owned by Fish Net Missions, but they have had no response on notices mailed. She noted that the exterior has minor defects, but the interior defects are major, including ongoing water issues, mold, mildew, and standing water. She brought up that 2112 Chapel Hill Road was a mobile home that the owners half-demolished, so there is a large pile of rubble that has been an ongoing issue for several months with no contact from the owners. She lastly listed 118 Burroughs Road, noting it burned last year and there has been no progress or communication until the last council meeting. She shared that the heirs attempted to clean up the front yard, but have not had any additional progress at this time.

Jerry and Willie Trotter, heirs of 118 Burroughs Road, requested more time, noting they need to get a dumpster. They were unsure, when asked, what day the fire occurred, but surmised four or five months ago.

Supervisor Barger believes the fire was in May, but Code initially tagged it in August and requested a report of progress or plan of action.

The Trotters shared that one of them worked on it Saturday, since he works his job during the week, and got leaves out and put a pile of debris near for road for Sanitation pickup. When they were asked how much time they need, they responded a couple of more weeks. When Council Member Ray asked if they need another 60 days, they concurred.

When Council Member McCleary inquired about giving more time, Council Member Twitty requested if Council agrees to that, she would like for the Trotters to be present at the next meeting to keep them up to date on progress.

Supervisor Barger pointed out that the concern is not only the cleanliness of the yard, but also the safety of the structure since there have been people removing the wood and entering the property illegally. She confirmed that the structure being unsecure and the safety issues are their biggest concerns.

The Trotters related that they secured the wood back over the door. When asked about a timeline for reconstruction, they cited money as being the issue. They explained that the living room and the roof was the only areas burned badly, confirming they will either rehabilitate the structure or tear it down.

Council Member Dietz shared his issue is that the property needs to be in probate in order to get it in the Trotter brother's names, because right now they are working on property that they do not own, or may not ever own.

When Supervisor Barger inquired if any progress on that was made since the last meeting, the Trotters replied that they have not had time to contact the numbers provided, but will sit down tomorrow to go through the procedure. They confirmed that the property is in their mother and brother's names, both deceased.

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Council Member Ray moved, seconded by Council Member LaBron to give the Trotters 60 days to complete the rehabilitation of 118 Burroughs Road, with the stipulation of recurring reporting to City Council. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Mayor Elmore stated that Supervisor Barger will be back to the property in 60 days to give a "final ruling."

Council Member Kinman moved, seconded by Council Member McCleary to amend Ordinance 1809 by removing 118 Burroughs Road. **ROLL CALL:** Council Member Dietz, McCleary, McCoy, Ray, LaBron, Moss, Twitty, Kinman, and Mimms voted AYE. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Council Member Ray moved, seconded by Council Member Twitty to place Ordinance 1809, as amended, on **FIRST READING**. **ROLL CALL:** Council Member Dietz, McCleary, McCoy, Ray, LaBron, Moss, Twitty, Kinman, and Mimms voted AYE. **MOTION CARRIED.** Whereupon City Clerk Davitt read the heading of Ordinance 1809.

Council Member Ray moved, seconded by Council Member Kinman to **APPROVE** Ordinance 1809, as amended, on **FIRST READING** and **SUSPEND THE RULES** and place Ordinance 1809, as amended, on **SECOND READING**. **ROLL CALL:** Council Member Dietz, McCleary, McCoy, Ray, LaBron, Moss, Twitty, Kinman, and Mimms voted AYE. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Council Member Ray moved, seconded by Council Member McCleary to **APPROVE** Ordinance 1809, as amended, on **SECOND READING** and **SUSPEND THE RULES** and place Ordinance 1809, as amended, on **THIRD AND FINAL READING**. **ROLL CALL:** Council Member Dietz, McCleary, McCoy, Ray, LaBron, Moss, Twitty, Kinman, and Mimms voted AYE. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Council Member Ray moved, seconded by Council Member LaBron to **APPROVE AND ADOPT** Ordinance 1809, as amended, in its entirety. **ROLL CALL:** Council Member Dietz, McCleary, McCoy, Ray, LaBron, Moss, Twitty, Kinman, and Mimms voted AYE. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Council Member Ray moved, seconded by Council Member McCleary that the **EMERGENCY CLAUSE** be attached, approved, and adopted. **ROLL CALL:** Council Member Dietz, McCleary, McCoy, Ray, LaBron, Moss, Twitty, Kinman, and Mimms voted AYE. **MOTION CARRIED.**

ORDINANCE 1809 (#04-2026) APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 19TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2026.

**c. ORDINANCE 1810 (#05-2026)
AN ORDINANCE TO FIX THE SALARY OF THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

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Council Member Moss read the following statement: "There was an item that was discussed in executive session by Council that required action in an ordinance. This ordinance is an action to properly put forth that item. As a council member, being informed and knowledgeable about the proper procedure in the hindsight are both 20/20. What should have happened is that the budget should have been delayed and this item brought forth in public session and then as an ordinance. This ordinance requires a vote. It is up to the Council to vote on passage or non-passage of this ordinance."

Council Member Kinman moved, seconded by Council Member Ray to place Ordinance 1810 on **FIRST READING. ROLL CALL:** Council Member Dietz, McCleary, McCoy, Ray, LaBron, Moss, Twitty, Kinman, and Mimms voted AYE. **MOTION CARRIED. Whereupon City Clerk Davitt read the heading of Ordinance 1810.**

Council Member McCoy read the following statement: "For the clarity, this matter was not unanimously agreed upon by Council. I want to begin by clarifying my position. I am not opposed to competitive compensation. I believe leadership roles should be compensated appropriately and responsibly. However, my concern has always been about process, proportionality, and equity. Any adjustment to compensation should be adopted through proper ordinance and discussed transparently in public session. Additionally, we currently has approximately 113 city employees identified as underpaid. If we are going to allocate additional funds toward compensation, I believe it should be done through a structured, incremental plan that considers the broader workforce; not isolated adjustments. When reviewing the recent allocation of \$29,000.00 across 13 individuals, with \$15,000.00 directed to one position, it raises questions about prioritization. My position is that we should approach this compensation wholistically and sustainably. My vote will reflect my commitment to process, proportionality, and fairness across all. I am willing to support a structure compensation plan that addresses the broader workforce, but I cannot support isolated adjustments without a comprehensive framework. And lastly, in this ordinance it mentions \$115,984.00, which does not match what is in the actual payroll, which comes out to \$124,887.36. I believe those are perquisites that includes an additional \$8,900.00 that would probably need to be in the ordinance for Council approval."

Mayor Elmore related that the \$8,900.00 is not on top of this, it is part of the perks package of this position which includes the auto allowance, retirement, etc. He noted that Council Member McCoy supported the pay increase mentioned in that meeting.

Council Member McCoy affirmed that was not true, adding that this issue was brought up because the City Engineer makes more than Mayor Elmore. She mentioned she did not support it, but actually spoke about the mid salaries and never voted in that session.

Council Member Twitty brought up that it was asked if anyone was against it, or did everyone agree.

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Council Member McCoy stated at that time, she did not know everything she needed to know, so she went back to attorneys and legislative auditors to find out enough information so she would know what needed to happen. She surmised there would not ever be an increase without an ordinance because that is what she was told by other leadership.

Mayor Elmore related there was no other increase or adjustment offered with this. He shared that his salary was asked to increase by \$15,000.00.

Council Member McCoy concurred, but added that there is an additional \$8,900.00 and any of those compensations are still to be approved.

Mayor Elmore pointed out that that has been pre-approved; there would be an ordinance going back previous mayors and was already set when he came into office. He confirmed he did not ask for this raise and it was not his doings.

Council Member McCoy agreed he did not come into the executive session and ask for it.

A brief discussion ensued between Mayor Elmore and audience member Johnathan Feldman.

Council Member McCoy told how she sent an email to Council and the Mayor; she did not include the press at that time, but shared what she had learned at Arkansas Municipal League (AML) Winter Conference's budget session. She related that she received a response from a council member that said "FOIA violation." She noted that required an action on her end, so she did what was right and included the newspaper on the email. She related that it was never intended to get to that point, but that response put her in a position to have to cc them, reply all, and do the right thing.

Council Member Kinman mentioned executive session is not to be discussed outside of that room.

Mayor Elmore requested the record to show that there have been four pay periods since the beginning of the year, and with his salary increase given, he has repaid back to the City the difference of the portion of \$15,000.00.

Council Member Twitty appreciates the mayor's actions, but affirmed that he did not do anything wrong; it was the council's actions and they were not aware of what they should have done, but are here tonight to fix it. She shared appreciation to Mayor Elmore and his repair of the City's relationship with the Little Rock Air Force Base.

When Council Member McCoy mentioned the other \$4,000.00 that shows up in the salary roster, Mayor Elmore replied that is a separate ordinance.

Council Member Moss reiterated that this was Council's error and this ordinance is an opportunity to either vote it down or pass it.

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Council Member Kinman noted 11 people were in that room and no one knew that this needed to be done.

Council Member Ray moved, seconded by Council Member LaBron to **APPROVE** Ordinance 1810 on **FIRST READING** and **SUSPEND THE RULES** and place Ordinance 1810 on **SECOND READING**. **ROLL CALL:** Council Member Dietz, McCleary, Ray, LaBron, Moss, Twitty, Kinman, and Mimms voted AYE. **MOTION CARRIED** with Council Member McCoy voting NAY.

Council Member Ray moved, seconded by Council Member LaBron to **APPROVE** Ordinance 1810 on **SECOND READING** and **SUSPEND THE RULES** and place Ordinance 1810 on **THIRD AND FINAL READING**. **ROLL CALL:** Council Member Dietz, McCleary, Ray, LaBron, Moss, Twitty, Kinman, and Mimms voted AYE. **MOTION CARRIED** with Council Member McCoy voting NAY.

Council Member Ray moved, seconded by Council Member Kinman to **APPROVE AND ADOPT** Ordinance 1810 in its entirety. **ROLL CALL:** Council Member Dietz, McCleary, Ray, LaBron, Moss, Twitty, Kinman, and Mimms voted AYE. **MOTION CARRIED** with Council Member McCoy voting NAY.

ORDINANCE 1810 (#05-2026) APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 19TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2026.

d. ORDINANCE 1811 (#06-2026)

AN ORDINANCE TO FIX THE SALARY OF CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Council Member Ray moved, seconded by Council Member LaBron to place Ordinance 1811 on **FIRST READING**. **ROLL CALL:** Council Member Dietz, McCleary, McCoy, Ray, LaBron, Moss, Twitty, Kinman, and Mimms voted AYE. **MOTION CARRIED. Whereupon City Clerk Davitt read the heading of Ordinance 1811.**

Council Member Ray moved, seconded by Council Member LaBron to **APPROVE** Ordinance 1811 on **FIRST READING** and **SUSPEND THE RULES** and place Ordinance 1811 on **SECOND READING**. **ROLL CALL:** Council Member Dietz, McCleary, Ray, LaBron, Twitty, Kinman, and Mimms voted AYE. **MOTION CARRIED** with Council Member McCoy and Moss voting NAY.

Council Member Ray moved, seconded by Council Member LaBron to **APPROVE** Ordinance 1811 on **SECOND READING** and **SUSPEND THE RULES** and place Ordinance 1811 on **THIRD AND FINAL READING**. **ROLL CALL:** Council Member Dietz, McCleary, Ray, LaBron, Twitty, Kinman, and Mimms voted AYE. **MOTION CARRIED** with Council Member McCoy and Moss voting NAY.

Council Member Ray moved, seconded by Council Member LaBron to **APPROVE AND ADOPT** Ordinance 1811 in its entirety. **ROLL CALL:** Council Member Dietz, McCleary, Ray, LaBron, Twitty, Kinman, and Mimms voted AYE. **MOTION CARRIED** with Council Member McCoy and Moss voting NAY.

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ORDINANCE 1811 (#06-2026) APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 19TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2026.

Citizen Richelle Brittain of 321 Lakeside Drive stated she listed her name on the sign in sheet to speak on Ordinances 1810 and 1811.

Mayor Elmore apologized, noting that public comment or questions are at the end when new business is discussed. He confirmed she is welcome to speak then, but the ordinances have been passed.

Council Member McCoy reminded Council that they have formally adopted Robert's Rules of Order as part of their governance procedures and because they have, they are obligated to follow them consistently. She explained that a motion must clearly be stated after recognition by the Chair, seconded, then restated by the Chair before discussion and vote. She related that simply stating "so move" without clearly articulated motion does not fully meet that standard. She affirmed her intent in raising this is not to delay, but also protects the integrity of their actions. She went on to say that when motions are not properly stated, it creates ambiguity in the record and could expose decisions of this Council to challenge based on procedural defects.

Council Member Moss concurred that, according to Robert's Rules of Order, the motion has to be restated properly and then a second.

Mayor Elmore took note, confirming they will adjust and move forward.

e. STATE OF THE CITY by Mayor Elmore

"Over the past three years, I have had the immense honor of serving the City of Jacksonville. Leading a city of nearly 30,000 residents who call Jacksonville home is a responsibility I do not take lightly. While I am immensely grateful for the opportunity to serve, no leader can lead alone. Excellence is achieved through unity and teamwork, and I am only one member of a team of hundreds who work each day to drive Jacksonville forward. To the hundreds of City employees across our many departments, thank you for your professionalism, dedication and desire to serve Jacksonville. This city could not operate without you. To the ten City Councilmembers who serve alongside me, thank you for your thoughtful leadership and steadfast commitment to the people of Jacksonville. Together, through open communication and a shared vision for a stronger community, we will continue to shape a more vibrant and welcoming city that all can call home. 2025 was a year that tested Jacksonville's strength and resilience. Yet the perseverance and spirit of our community, its residents and its public servants have never faltered. That very resolve defines our city and reminds us of what we can all accomplish together. Even in the midst of challenges, Jacksonville has continued to grow and evolve, embracing new opportunities and positioning itself as a community for the future.

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ARDOT Job CA0604, also known as the widening of Interstate 57, remains ahead of schedule, with construction to be complete by December of this year. While the construction has caused understandable disruptions and inconveniences for residents and travelers alike, the work that has been done thus far, and the work that continues to be done, marks a new chapter for Jacksonville and central Arkansas. The dedication to improving regional connectivity, enhancing safety and easing traffic flow from Little Rock to Chicago reflects a long-term investment in the economic vitality and accessibility of our region. Jacksonville is positioned for success and growth with this development, and we are preparing for those opportunities. The ARDOT Job is more than concrete and asphalt—it is about positioning Jacksonville and central Arkansas for industrial and economic growth for generations to come.

Residential and commercial growth continues in Jacksonville. In 2025, the City's Engineering Department issued 201 building permits, the majority of which were for single-family and multi-family residences. Those two categories alone accounted for nearly \$23 million of the more than \$31 million in total permitted construction value last year. Additionally, 798 businesses held active business licenses with the City, including 45 new licenses issued in 2025. Demand for housing remains strong as more businesses—from national retailers to small, locally-owned businesses—choose to invest in and expand within our community.

The prolonged construction along Interstate 57 has caused numerous disruptions, not only for residents, but for economic development. Reduced access throughout Jacksonville from the interstate, visibility challenges and construction fatigue have been contributing factors to difficult operating conditions for national and regional tenants. In 2025, Jacksonville saw the closures of several well-known and highly loved restaurants, such as Starbucks, Roma Italian Restaurant and Slim Chickens. These closures were not due solely to local conditions but reflected a combination of construction-related business disruption, corporate realignment and broader shifts in the retail and restaurant industries. Although these closures were disappointing for the community, opportunities for repositioning and reinvestment in these vacant spaces were created. The City's Office of Economic Development is working with property owners, brokers and prospective tenants to fill these vacancies, as well as others in Jacksonville's shopping areas. Currently, four leases or purchases are underway in formerly occupied spaces. Notably on the horizon for 2026 is the introduction of a new tenant for the former Centennial Bank branch located on John Harden Drive, just in front of Walmart. We enthusiastically look forward to sharing more details soon and welcoming these new additions to Jacksonville.

Jacksonville's industrial sector remains strong and continues to gain momentum. Numerous industrial recruitment projects remain actively under consideration, and each represents significant capital investment and job creation for Jacksonville's workforce. In addition to adding to Jacksonville's economic landscape, 2025 was also a year where we welcomed several exciting industrial additions.

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Titan Automotive and Titan Direct Manufacturing opened operations in our industrial park, further reinforcing Jacksonville as a regional hub for manufacturing. Kansas City-based Cabinetry 1 relocated its warehouse to 1100 Redmond Road, with company plans to expand the location into a future manufacturing facility. JAMM Manufacturing renovated the former Wright's Cabinet building and relocated its own operations from outside of the city to that site. With new industrial developments and investments, major projects in active consideration and new retail opportunities coming forth, Jacksonville is in a stable position as we welcome the new chapter of growth in 2026. Jacksonville's economic foundation remains strong, and the focus on strategic recruitment and reinvestment will continue to drive sustainable growth.

Jacksonville's first responders continue to be a backbone of our community, selflessly serving with professionalism, courage and dedication. The 911 Emergency Communications Center consolidated with the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office, which brought about a year of upgrades to the City's Dispatcher Center. A new radio system allowed dispatchers to communicate more efficiently and reliably with first responders, improving response times and enhancing interagency coordination and communication. The Dispatch Center now serves a population of 96,000 and hosts operations for 18 volunteer fire departments, strengthening coordination and response capabilities countywide.

Jacksonville's Fire Department continues to lead the way in protecting lives and property with modern equipment, advanced training and a commitment to excellence. A new, state-of-the-art Fire Station 2 opened on Graham Road across the street from the former Fire Station 2 that had served the City and the Fire Department since the 1970s. The new, 11,000-square-foot facility can house six fire vehicles and provides first responders with seven spacious and comfortable quarters. Amenities at the station include a training gym, decontamination rooms, a washer and dryer, four individual shower rooms, an open-concept kitchen and living area, a temperature-controlled room for EMS equipment, a grilling porch and a safe room that firefighters can use in the event of severe weather. Next month, a Safe Haven Baby Box will be dedicated at Fire Station 2, providing mothers a safe and anonymous option for surrendering a newborn. With this new facility, our first responders are better equipped than ever before to respond quickly and serve safely.

The Jacksonville Police Department saw a year of increased positions and presence and the third consecutive year of double-digit decreases in crime statistics. The department averaged 46 active officers on duty, an increase from 37 in 2024. In 2025, the Jacksonville Police Department answered a total of 37,558 calls for service, an increase from 2024's call total of 34,402. These calls include officer-initiated activities, such as traffic stops and property checks, critical incidents, suspicious activities and life-threatening emergencies.

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An arrest was made in the 2008 homicide of Danick Marie Adams, a cold case that never left the hearts and minds of those who worked tirelessly to solve it. The Adams family received justice after sixteen years, ten months and fifteen days of searching for answers, and the Jacksonville Police Department never once stopped searching for Danick's killer. We are especially appreciative of Detective Cindy Harbour, who returned to the Jacksonville PD from retirement to be an auxiliary officer so she could work on the case. The relentless work done by the detectives and officers ensured that Lavelle Demario Calvin was held responsible for taking Danick's life on August 15, 2008.

Last summer, Willow Bend Apartments at 300 Marshall Road were condemned by the City of Jacksonville due to unsafe living conditions for tenants and numerous Code violations. Through support from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and coordination among HUD, Code Enforcement, Community Development and my office, all Willow Bend residents were relocated to safe, stable housing. The closure of Willow Bend Apartments was a long overdue but necessary step to safeguarding the dignity and health of our residents.

2025 was a positive year for Jacksonville Animal Services. Under the leadership of Police Chief Brett Hibbs and Animal Control Supervisor Kerrie Henderson, Jacksonville Animal Services saw significant progress in the city's animal welfare efforts. 1,148 animals (712 dogs & 436 cats) were received by Animal Services in 2025. Of those, 475 animals (298 dogs & 177 cats) found their forever home through adoption. Although adoption numbers were lower than in 2024, a substantial increase in placements with animal rescues was seen, with 356 animals being transferred to rescue partners. In November, through grants obtained through Banfield Foundation, Best Friends Animal Society and Jacksonville Friends of the Animals, Jacksonville Animal Services was able to launch a low-cost spay and neuter clinic at the shelter. Since opening, 72 animals belonging to Jacksonville residents have received services, demonstrating immediate community demand. The goal for this clinic is to reduce unwanted litters, improve public health and promote responsible pet ownership across Jacksonville. Despite staffing shortages and high animal intake, the Jacksonville Animal Shelter maintained an impressive 97% save rate in 2025. The work being done at Jacksonville Animal Services is more than statistics—it is a testament to a community that values compassion, responsibility and protecting its animals.

Jacksonville's Community Development Office spent 2025 providing utility assistance, home repairs and homelessness assistance for residents. The Jacksonville Warming Center shifted operations from its former site at First Presbyterian Church on West Main Street to its current location at New Commandment Church of God in Christ on South James Street. When temperatures fall below thirty degrees, Pastor Eddie Miller and the congregation at New Commandment step forward in serving our community without hesitation, providing warmth, safety and hope to those who need it most.

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Communication and coordination between the City and New Commandment have been exceptional, from ensuring the center is fully supplied during operations to providing timely public updates regarding the center's operation. Assisting with delinquent utility bill payments and house repairs and providing backpacks with basic necessities to our city's unsheltered are only the tip of the iceberg of what Community Development has done for the city of Jacksonville. The work of the Office of Community Development exemplifies how mission-driven the people of Jacksonville are, neighbors helping neighbors in times of need.

The City's Parks and Recreation Department continues to give back to the community through a wide variety of programs and events. In 2025, long-standing goals became a reality, including free tutoring for scholars in kindergarten through sixth grade at Martin Street Youth Center and bi-weekly summer arts and crafts programs. The Maintenance Department ensured the upkeep of more than 21 City lots and 33 parks and facilities. Athletics hosted hundreds of teams of all ages across a variety of sports, encouraging the next generation of athletes to get out, get active and have fun. The Jacksonville Community Center also celebrated the 30th anniversary of its opening with the first pickleball courts in Jacksonville as part of the milestone celebration.

I am continually proud of the recognitions that our City departments and employees have received, as they reflect the dedication, professionalism, talent and integrity of the public servants who represent our City every day. For the 27th consecutive year, the City's Finance Department was awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the U.S. and Canada. The Department will submit the 2025 report in June for the 28th award. Our Parks and Recreation Department continues to astound on a national level. At the USSSA National Convention in November, the Department received the USSSA Community Service Award for the Autism Awareness Stock Battle of the Brands, an annual fundraiser for Pathfinder Inc. that attracts hundreds of athletes from across the country to Jacksonville for three days of softball fun, all while raising money for a worthy cause. Additionally, Athletics Manager & Adult Sports Coordinator Joe Stoute was inducted into the Arkansas Softball Hall of Fame this past summer. These recognitions reflect more than departmental excellence—they reflect the heart and soul of Jacksonville.

A city government is only as strong as those who devote their time to serving the people of their community. Excellence in public service begins with investing in the people who deliver it. The City's Human Resources Department continues to provide a wide spectrum of services to City employees, such as benefit management, payroll, risk management, employee relations, recruiting, safety and training for over 300 full-time, part-time and seasonal employees. 124 new hires joined the City of Jacksonville family, with 78 regular full-time employees and 46 part-time and seasonal employees.

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The City's Employee Assistance Program (EAP) assisted approximately 108 employees and their families by providing confidential counseling services for domestic, financial, emotional and mental health matters. The EAP is zero cost to City employees. Our Human Resources Department continues to pride itself in ensuring that City employees are provided with the highest quality of service and safety while at work; in 2025, there was a 15% decrease in workers compensation claims filed with Human Resources. These efforts reflect our commitment to cultivating a safe, supportive and well-equipped workforce that is dedicated to serving the people of our City.

The story of Jacksonville is one of resilience, progress and community spirit. Although challenges will continue to arise as we move forward, our commitment to service and the bright future of this city remains unshaken. Residents, businesses, public servants and community partners: together, we are building a Jacksonville that is stronger and safer for the generations to come. It is an honor to service this city, and I look forward to the continued work ahead as we shape the next chapter of Jacksonville's growth."

APPOINTMENTS:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS: Citizen Laron Batiste of 19 Georgeann Circle requested clarification regarding what procedures and policies or additional training is available for Council and everyone involved to prevent an issue like this from happening in the future. He acknowledged it was a mistake, but it is an issue of public trust and transparency as well. He believes the citizens of Jacksonville have a right to know what is going on with their public officials. He inquired what changes have been made to ensure something like this does not happen in the future.

Council Member McCoy brought up that there are two trainings annually held by the AML offering various sessions, where they also receive a copy of Arkansas Law. She stated it is up to Council to do their due diligence, research, and ask questions to bring back to the City to function.

Mr. Batiste brought up that there is an individual responsibility for everyone to do their job so they can perform in a proper manner in which does not interfere with public transparency and trust.

Mayor Elmore confirmed Council is committed, but we all make mistakes and learn from them. He reiterated AML's Winter and Summer sessions they attend, adding that they are also under the guidance of the City Attorney.

Ms. Brittain readdressed Council, sharing her appreciation to Council Members McCoy and Moss. She stated she specifically signed up to speak on the two salary ordinances, yet she was never called.

Mayor Elmore apologized, affirming they will ensure the sheet is gathered next time.

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Ms. Brittain shared that even if they did not know that salaries were something that were not supposed to be discussed in executive session under FOIA, she has known for many years that anything that is discussed in which a vote is needed, it has to be reenacted in public session as soon as it is over.

Mayor Elmore noted what was missed is that the discussion was about elected officials and any action that takes place has to come out and be done by a separate ordinance.

Council Member McCoy recalled it being asked in executive session if there was any action required and "no" was said.

Mayor Elmore confirmed it should have and that is the realization everyone has arrived at and has learned from this.

Council Member McCoy mentioned two more increases totaling \$4,000.00. She asked if that will be dealt with at the next meeting.

Mayor Elmore replied that those do not need to be dealt with since they were city employees, not elected officials.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT: Without objection, Mayor Elmore adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:33 p.m. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully,

Susan L. Davitt
City Clerk-Treasurer

MAYOR JEFF ELMORE