



Minutes of the City Council Regular Meeting

Jennings City Hall

April 22, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.

The two thousand three hundred ninety first meeting of the Jennings City Council was held on Monday, April 22, 2019 at 7 p.m. at Jennings City Hall.

A. SWEARING IN

Deletra Hudson, City Clerk, started the Council meeting with the swearing in of newly elected/re-elected officials: Yolanda Austin, Mayor, Miranda Jones, Ward One, Terry Wilson Ward Two, Gary Johnson, Ward Three, Aja Owens, Ward Four. Ms. Hudson and the of newly elected/re-elected officials read the Oath of Elected Officials out loud. Each elected official signed the Oath of Elected Officials that was read out loud.

B. REGULAR MEETING

1. Call to Order

Mayor Austin called the regular meeting for the City of Jennings to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Councilmembers Present:

Allan Stichnote, Miranda Jones, Terry Wilson, Phyllis Anderson, Gary Johnson, Rodney Epps, Aja Owens

Councilmembers Absent:

Francine Dugger

Also, Present:

Yolanda Austin, Mayor; Samuel (Sam) Alton, City Attorney; Deletra Hudson, City Clerk; Kareen McNeal, Deputy City Clerk, Michael Vilmer, Deputy Building Commissioner; Myra Randle, Economic Development Specialist; John Geasley Jr., Corrections Lt.; Stephanie Crayton, Accounts Receivable Clerk; Willie Brandon Jr., Recreation Director, James (Jim) Maixner, Public Works Director of Streets and Parks; Captain Juan Cox, St. Louis County Police Department.

4. Approval of the Agenda

On the motion made by Councilwoman Jones and seconded by Councilman Wilson the Council voted all in favor of a 15-minute recess, for refreshments, photos, and to approve the agenda.

5. Approval of the minutes from the Regular Meeting of January 28, 2019

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson and seconded by Councilwoman Jones the Council voted all in favor to approve the regular meeting minutes from the March 25, 2019 Council meeting.

C. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONERS, REMONSTRATIONS, COMPLAINTS AND REQUEST:

1. Employee Recognition- Corrections Department

Lt. John Geasley Jr. recognized Sgt. Clarissa Walker for her dedication and hard work. He said she has really stepped up since Lt. Eugene Neal has retired. He described some of the ways Sgt. Walker has stepped up within the Corrections Department. Sgt. Walker expressed her gratitude. Mayor Austin agreed Sgt. Walker has been working hard.

2. Comments by the Public:

Robert Cotton of 7119 Garesche, congratulated the newly and reelected officials. He said hopefully the City can move forward and get somethings done without a lot of fighting. He said he has noticed in the Council Chambers the “systems” has mold growing around the room. Mr. Cotton asked if the City was addressing the mold. He also asked if City employees have had any health issues from the mold at City Hall. Jim Maixner said the City has had System Air come out. He said a spore test was done that came back negative. He said the “mold” is from the dust and moisture build up. Jim said once the City can get the system shut down for a while, he was told to spray it down with bleach, and spray it with kilz after it dries, before painting the walls. Jim said the Public Works, and Recreation buildings have been done the same way.

Susan Sneed of 8827 Scottdale Ave, said she has lived in Jennings for over 35 years, and she is proud to be a charter member of the [Jennings Kiwanis Club](#). Ms. Sneed said the Kiwanis Clubs are located all over the world with several local chapters. She described the [Kiwanis Club mission](#). She detailed some of the Community outreach programs the Kiwanis Club is involved in within the Jennings Community. Ms. Sneed said on Saturday June 8, 2019 the Kiwanis Club is hosting its fourth annual Fishing Derby starting at 7:30 am at Koeneman Park. She said it is an exciting time for everyone. She said last year there were around eight children fishing for the first time at the Fishing Derby. Ms. Sneed said Kiwanis has partnered with the fire and police departments in a friendly competition to allow the children to pick a side and see who is the “fishiest”. She invited the Mayor to ring the starting bell on June 8, 2019.

Sam Alton, said there was an issue with the flyer for the Fishing Derby, because it says, “The Kiwanis Club of Jennings, Missouri and the City of Jennings, Kids Fishing Derby Koeneman Park.” Sam asked Ms. Sneed if the flyer can be redone to be clear that the City of Jennings is not hosting or sponsoring the Fishing Derby. Sam said the current flyer makes it sound as if the derby is a City sponsored event. He said the City has been in contact with the City’s insurance adjustor and would like Kiwanis to change the flyer and make it clear that the derby is not a City sponsored event. Ms. Sneed said Kiwanis will remove the City of Jennings name from the flyer and it will just say Kiwanis. Mayor Austin said once the City gets an updated flyer with the City’s name removed then the City can start circulating the flyers for the derby.

Nancy Sparks of 7223 Sapphire, asked if it was possible to have postcards sent to every home in the City about the easements. She said easements in Jennings have become a forest. She said she can no longer get in and out of her easement because the high weeds on the neighboring easements. She described how the high weeds are affecting her being able to get in and out of her easement. Ms. Sparks stated that she is offering to help cover the cost of sending postcards to every home. Mayor Austin said the Building Department will look to see which properties should get a postcard about easements, because every property does not have an easement.

Shirley Hiob of 8805 Clifton, congratulated everyone who was newly and re-elected, she said “we” should also remember to thank the former Council members who are gone regardless of how long they served the City. Ms. Hiob said if someone ask the Council a question the Council has to put on their listening ears and listen to the answer that is given. She described a situation where someone was asked a question and the person was not listening to the answer. She said when the Council asks a question to the Department Heads if they give you the answer and the Council is to rude to listen to it is not right. She described a situation when a Councilmember did not listen to an answer Department Heads were giving. She said if the Council wants the residents to be respectful then the Council should be respectful as well to residents and department heads and each other. She said if the Council could keep the enthusiasm that it had tonight it would be wonderful.

Teresa Lowman of 5513 Bel Ridge, said she was told 2 code enforcement officers were hired for each ward. Mayor Austin said that is not correct. Ms. Lowman said that she would like to see more inspectors hired or have the current inspectors trained properly on the ordinances that are to be followed when new tenants move into the community to get their occupancy permits. She said she thinks the inspectors are slacking when they are doing inspections. She said she feels some of the inspectors have been with the City for a while and should know more of the ordinances. She said when she speaks with Department Heads or inspectors, she gets a different answer for the same question every time and that is a serious issue for her. She said she would like to see the inspectors better trained, and when new inspectors are hired to have them fully trained on the ordinances. She said her issues are not from this administration. She described situations of landlords fussing about having to do things to their home. She said the City wants people to move into Jennings, then the landlords should have to make repairs to their properties and pass inspections. She said the residents should feel safe moving into Jennings. Ms. Lowman said a lot of properties inspections are just being passed. She said she hopes that inspection and training situations can be resolved in the near future.

Terry Buford of 2601 Kinamore Drive, welcomed the newly elected councilmembers. She said people are “zooming” through the stop signs at Kinamore and McLaran and not stopping. She described an instance when she was at the stop sign and someone “zoomed” around her. Ms. Buford said if there were police officers at Kinamore and McLaran, they could issue about a thousand tickets because people are not stopping at the stop sign.

Ms. Buford said there was street work done at Kinamore near Old Lucas and Hunt, but the street was not repaved. She said the street is very bumpy and has a lot of potholes. She asked who was responsible for repaving the street. Ms. Buford said she called Public Works but did not get a return phone call. Jim apologized for not returning Ms. Buford’s call. He said there have been some problems with the Public Works phone system. Jim said the work on Lucas and Hunt is not finished. He said he would get Ms. Buford’s phone number and follow up with her tomorrow. Ms. Buford said that she would like to put 2600 Kinamore, 2608 Kinamore, and 8416 McLaran on the list early for grass cutting. She said two of the addresses she provided are vacant and get waist high weeds every year.

Debra Taylor of 9247 Cottonwood Dr., said she has lived in Jennings for 14 years. Ms. Taylor said she does not have a problem with people being on section 8 but she does have a problem when some breaches their contract. She said she has called the police last Saturday because her neighbor at 9251 won’t pick up her leaves. She said she knows Jennings does not have an ordinance. She said if it is in the neighbors contract to provide lawn care then the neighbor should be made to honor her contract. Ms. Taylor said the police told her they could not do anything about the neighbor, but the neighbor also has a camera facing her house. She said the neighbor threaten to put another camera on the side of Ms. Taylors house. Ms. Taylor said she does not do anything to her neighbor. She said her and her husband have picked up five bags of leaves under their bushes from her neighbors. Ms. Taylor said the neighbor also has a chain that she has laid down to divide the yards, to say where the property line is. She said she knows the property has not been surveyed to determine where the property line is. She said Cottonwood drive is a nice neighborhood. Ms. Taylor said she is being harassed and the police said they are not able to do anything about it. She asked if she should take things into her own hands and buy a gun and go to the gun range. Mayor Austin interjected. Ms. Taylor continued to say she can become a legal gun owner and defend her property. Mayor Austin interjected again and said she spoke with Ms. Taylor earlier today and she told Ms. Taylor an inspector would come over. Ms. Taylor agreed and said the inspector came over but said she did not see anything. Mayor Austin continued to say that Ms. Brown, Building Department Administrative Assistant, has called the landlord for 9251 Cottonwood Drive. Ms. Taylor agreed with Mayor Austin’s response, but said she wanted to come to the Council meeting and show her face because it is a serious matter to her. Mayor Austin said the City takes the issue seriously as well and that she would follow up with Ms. Brown tomorrow. Ms. Taylor said there is also a dog jumping the fence. She said she looks forward to hearing the response, saying today is Monday and she is going to see how long a response takes. She said she is not threatening anyone she is just making it known. Mayor Austin said she does not take it as a threat, because she spoke with Ms. Taylor earlier today and got right on top of her request. Ms. Taylor said she has also spoken with Councilman Wilson.

Sam said be careful about going onto someone's property. He said not to go on anyone else property with a gun. Ms. Taylor said she does not have a gun and she does not go onto her neighbor’s property at all. She said the police told her to be the bigger person. Sam said Ms. Taylor was talking about and then mentioned something about a gun. Ms. Taylor said she will not be threatened. She said her neighbor is pointing a camera directly at her house. Sam advised Ms. Taylor to call the police and let them handle the issue with the neighbor. Ms. Taylor interjected and said the police didn’t do anything when she called, they told her to come to the Council meeting and let the Council know her complaint. Sam said

the police are at the Council meeting tonight and they can hear Ms. Taylor's frustration now and hopefully the police will come out and respond. Ms. Taylor said the police did respond but told her they could not do anything and suggested she come to the Council meeting, which is why she is here.

Councilman Epps asked if it would be considered harassment, if someone put cameras on their home pointing at "your" home. Sam said not necessarily people can have cameras for security around their home, but if there is proof that a camera is pointing in someone's bedroom or window then the police can look at that. He said he understands Ms. Taylor and believes what she is saying but "we" have to be careful when "we" are talking about going on to people's property and the use of guns. He said if the police want to take a look at the neighbors' cameras and the cameras are prying in to Ms. Taylor's house then the police can handle it. He said people are allowed to have cameras around their home to be secure. Councilman Epps said trying to be secure and pointing a camera at someone's home sounds like two different things and to him it sounds like harassment. Sam said he is not sure if it would meet the definition of harassment. Captain Cox added that Sgt. Perez is familiar with the situation, but there is nothing the police can do about people putting cameras on their homes. He said if the camera is pointing directly at Ms. Taylor's home and that is the only thing that it is focused on and Ms. Taylor feels like there has been an invasion of privacy, which is hard to prove, then the police department can investigate. Captain Cox said he is sure Sgt. Perez can have one of his officers talk to the neighbor so the situation can be resolved, but from a legal perspective there is nothing the police can do at this point.

3. Councilmember's Reports:

Councilman Allan Stichnote: Councilman Stichnote Congratulated the newly & reelected officials. He said on April 9, 2019 he attended the youth commission meeting, which he will report on later. He said on April 16, 2019 he attended the Senior Commission meeting and it was very interesting. Councilman Stichnote said on April 13, 2019 there was the ribbon cutting at Koeneman Park, there were a lot of people that showed up, and it was great. He said everything is pretty well in order and ready to rent out at the Park. He said the kids are enjoying the basketball court, and things are going smoothly at Koeneman Park. He thanked Jim for fixing the pothole on Corwin and Mary. Councilman Stichnote read the crime stats and said Ward 1 had the lowest crime stats for March followed by Ward 2, Ward 3 and then Ward 4. He said last month Ward 3 and 4 had the lowest crime stats.

Councilman Miranda Jones: Congratulated the elected officials on their wins, especially the Mayor. She said the energy from the Council is very refreshing, having new energy new faces and new ideas. She said she wanted to pay homage to the former Council people who worked very hard. She thanked Carol Epps and Julia Roberts for their years of service. She said going forward she hopes the Council can keep the momentum and serve the constituents and the community well. She said one thing she hears especially from the new Council members is about serving and understanding that the Councilmembers are public servants.

She said that she spoke with Councilman Stichnote and they were very concerned with the crime stats last month (in March), because Ward 1 was the highest. She said that was due to car thefts, from people warming up their cars while unattended when it was cold outside. She said "they" have noticed a lot more police officer activity. She said the police are trying to find out what is going on when things happen. She said the increased police presence is appreciated. She sees the police are really trying. She thanked the police department for taking the calls and keeping the Council informed about what is going on. She said there are a lot of things that people cannot control but having the increased police presence has helped. She said she has not noticed as many gun shots at night as she did a month ago.

Councilwoman Jones said she attended the ribbon cutting at the basketball court (in Koeneman Park, on April 13, 2019), which was great but, she can see that it is not big enough. She said now that "you" see how many people are out playing and how hungry the community is to have something positive, that just gives the Council a signal that Jennings needs to continue to do more things like, the basketball court at Koeneman Park. She said if people have something to do then you find that you don't have as many people doing the wrong things because right things to do. She congratulated the parks committee for making that happen and said "we" need some more basketball courts. She said she noticed that someone put up a hoop at Lions park at the circle and she thought see they are giving us a signal that it is time to get something going over there to.

Councilwoman Jones also congratulated Krab Kingz she said it opened the same day April 13, 2019 at the same time as the ribbon cutting she said that she did not have time to make it to the Krab Kingz that day but she went on April 19, 2019, Good Friday and had a great lunch she said she got a chance to talk to the owner and he is really excited to be a part of the community. She said the owner attended the March Council meeting and was making comments about what was going on about the Council meeting

and that he spoke with Councilman Terry Wilson, and the other people who have been by to see him. She said she expected it to be a line out the door, but it wasn't. She said 'we' have to make sure to keep the business supported so they can stay in business and stay in the community.

She said Ward 1 has a Facebook page which is [Jenningsmoward1](#) she said that she has 13 people that have looked at which has increased from 2 last month. She said she is going to keep sharing it and maybe do a post or something so that people know that it is out there. If you know anyone or would like to know the like the page. She said Ward 1 will be having a meeting soon to ensure they are hearing the resident's concerns.

Councilwoman Terry Wilson: Congratulated the newly/re-elected officials. He said the City is well represented by the Council. He thanked the fire firefighters for always supporting what the City does. He said the firefighters were out in record number at the ribbon cutting on April 13, 2019. He acknowledged the police and recreation department as well. He said Jim is also doing an amazing job he can tell the difference already from the prior director of public works. Councilman Wilson said Jennings High School Graduation will be May 24, 2019 at 11 am at the St. Louis University [Chaifetz Arena](#). He said Jennings High School has the best choir in the world under the leadership Dello Thedford, and they will be performing at the High School Graduation. He Acknowledged the Parks and Recreation Department for the Easter Egg hunt. He said that his children got loads of candy. He said to make sure to communicate neighbors about the event. We are trying to strengthen our community by doing community events that is the Jennings that he remembers, and he hopes we can bring that back because we are a close knit community we just have to start coming out of the house and talking to our neighbors more and participating. He said Ward 2 also has a Facebook page [Councilmanwilsonward2](#). He said there is a link on the [City's Website](#) under his photo on City Council Members. Councilman Wilson asked Jim when the sign on Hord and Lucas and Hunt will be turned on. Jim said it is coming we are waiting on St. Louis County to finish their work. Councilman Wilson asked the residents to be patient the sign is coming, and we need to communicate and invite someone out in your neighborhood that you don't normally see to the Council meetings as well.

Councilwoman Francine Dugger: Councilwoman Dugger was absent from the meeting; no report was provided.

Councilwoman Phyllis Anderson: Congratulated the newly/re-elected officials. She said she asked Henry Johnson but if Mike could give her a list of the new constituents that have moved into Jennings since June 2018. Mike said Henry Johnson assigned him with the task of getting that done and will get with Margie Brown tomorrow for the list. She said Jim and she talked around October about the street cleaning signs but there was a hiccup, she asked if Ward 3 street cleaning signs can be put out now prior to Wednesday and if there is a hiccup, they can revisit the issue and try and fix it. She's said there was a third ward meeting on Saturday April 20, 2019 and some of the concerns were the shooting activity on Osborn and West Florissant she said she thinks it may be Country Club Hills but it always spills over into Jennings she asked if the police can patrol the area more. She said the big trucks sitting on the Buzz Westfall Parking Lot isn't that illegal. Robert Cotton said the shopping center has to post the sign. Mayor Austin agreed the City is waiting on Target to post the signs saying that it is legal to park. Mayor Austin asked Councilwoman Anderson if she recalled from the March Council meeting she asked police to start giving citations to the people who have their trucks parked on the lot, and the City is waiting on signs to go up and the Captain Cox is already ready to take care of the issue. She said the residents who live at 2611 Kinamore have placed a basketball hoop at the vacant home 2608 Kinamore, she said they are trespassing and asked if it could be looked into that. She said she spoke with Sam about the derelict cars at 8335 Osborn she said they are parked in the driveway, but they are not running. She said to Ms. Terry about the RV "we" are looking into that. We are thinking something about the tires and the weight, and we are going to check into that. She said she tried to acknowledge Steve Pokorny, owner of [STS Car Care](#) in February but he was not at the February meeting and she was not at the March Meeting she said she asked if he would give Jennings residents a break when they tow the cars, if it is not their fault, if it was stolen, or if they were in a car accident, no the irresponsible part if you leave your car running and someone jumps in it. She said he still gave residents a break even after the resident was belligerent towards him. She said she visited STS on her break and if you all can get a chance to tour it, it is awesome. She thanked Steve again for helping Jennings residents out. She acknowledged Councilwoman Owens, she said she had fun at the Easter Egg hunt.

Councilman Gary Johnson:

Thanked the residents in Jennings for voting and believing in him. He congratulated Councilwoman Owens and the reelected officials. He said when it comes to his report you can put your pens down and he will talk to department heads out side of the meeting he promised to never put them on "front" about issues as long as "we" can communicate outside of here. He read [literature](#) he had from when he

was running for election so everyone would know his platform and the things that he would do since this is his first report. He said he also wanted to have neighborhood incentive's such as best yard, best decorations, he said he wanted to make sure we acknowledge our residents and citizens who take care of their property. He said he was not sure if there was 3rd Ward information line or Facebook but he could create that. Councilwoman Anderson said there is a Ward 3 Facebook page. Councilman Johnson said they would make sure it is up to date with information about the ward meetings and the things they participate in. He said he will host engagement forums on municipal issues to keep the constituents updated on municipal issues. He said the next 3rd Ward meeting is Saturday, May 18, 2019 at 2 pm. He said he attended the senior meeting on April 16, 2019, the April 13, 2019 ribbon cutting. He said he met with St. John Newman seniors to start a multi generation garden program and neighborhood watch. He said he will also attend the upcoming [Municipal Leagues Newly Elected Officials Training Conference](#).

Councilwoman Rodney Epps: Councilman Epps said his better half Carol Epps said thank you for allowing her to serve. He also congratulated Mayor and the other newly and reelected officials. He said he and Councilwoman Owens will work together to see if they can get somethings done in the 4th Ward. He thanked Jim for the work he did for him on Janet, and at Corpus Crispy. He said 6360 Laura there are people getting into the property at night. He said if they are getting into the property at night then they may be squatting and doing something illegal also. He said it is kind of scary for the residents on the street. He said if the police could send someone there. He said he thinks it maybe someone who doesn't have anywhere to stay and congregating there at night. He said that he hopes councilman Johnson has time to do all that he is trying to do.

Councilman Aja Owens: Councilwoman Owens said she is long winded so she said she is an MC and a poet she said the quote she wanted to open with is to say "Live your life like you care about legacy you will leave behind to future generations" she said she came up with that quote and it is something that she thinks about all the time when you think who's name you hold she thinks about her grandfather, she thinks about the name, the work, and the legacy she will leave behind. She said there are so many people to thank, she thanked her family, friends, and residents in Jennings, the Council, and City Hall, she said she asked a lot of questions and anytime she asked a question she was given a prompt answer, along the journey. She thanked Councilman Epps for all the previous work he and former Councilwoman Epps did. She said she has been a resident of Jennings for 30 years and she knows a lot has gone on and she would like to take the opportunity to help and get things back on and things like that. She acknowledged Mario Gardner who passed away last month (March) she said in January his older brother also passed away both were Jennings Alumni. She said she hopes that you keep him and his family in your prayers because Mario was all about the community and he was really excited to see things happening in the 4th ward because he was from the 4th ward as well. She said as far as the abandoned homes, vacant lots, and things as far as the yards being keep up better lit streets and sidewalks, better police visibility, corner stores accountability, and more resources for homeowners especially the disabled and elderly homeowners. She said she wanted to make sure they were working together to address, she said it came up in several peoples reports in terms of the shootings and she has heard a lot of shootings, even yesterday, she wants to work with the police and anybody and see what they can do about addressing the shootings in the neighborhoods. She thanked the police from some of the seniors in the Starr residents for coming to check on them. She said sometimes you see different things going on and you complain about it, but we also have to make sure that we acknowledge when things are going good. She said when she was campaigning is a lot of the vacant homes and things like have benign demolished and really taking care of those properties she thanked the City of Jennings for addressing that issue it is making the neighborhood look better especially the homes that they were next to it is starting to look really good and she thanked everyone who played a part in making that happened. She reiterated her congratulations to everyone who was elected to the Council and agreed with Councilman Wilson that the current Council is very diverse and said she hopes the Council can build a better Jennings. Thanked everyone, Mayor Austin and the Council who came to the Easter Egg Hunt. She closed with a poem called [Rock What You Got](#).

MONTHLY DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

On the motion made by Councilwoman Jones and seconded by Councilman Stichnote the Council voted all in favor to approve the monthly departmental reports.

E. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Ways and Means Committee – Chairman R. Epps reported that there was no meeting.

Public Works Committee -Mayor Austin reported that there was no meeting.

Building Committee- Chairwoman Jones reported that there was no meeting.

Parks Committee- Chairman Allan Stichnote reported that there was no meeting, but there will be a meeting on May 8, 2019 at 5:30 pm.

Municipal League- Council representative Terry Wilson said the next meeting for the Municipal League membership meeting will be Thursday, April 25, 2019 at 6:30, at the [Black Jack City Hall](#), located at 12500 Old Jamestown Road, Black Jack, MO. 63033. He said the meeting will be for the newly elected officials of the Municipal League and encouraged everyone to attend. He said the Municipal League reported that there is a newly formed local government Caucus in Jefferson City. Now they have a caucus that actually talks about issues that affects local government and they have not previously had that. He stated Deletra should have sent an email out to the Council about the training that is coming up that Councilman Johnson mentioned. He said they give out information to refresh things that you may not know. Councilman Stichnote added that they have good food as well. Councilman Wilson agreed.

Planning Commission- Council representative Allan Stichnote, reported that there was no meeting.

Policy Committee- Chairwoman Jones reported on the meeting from April 16, 2019. She reviewed the committee members who were present, and absent. She said the Committee reviewed about five ordinances that are listed on the agenda today under legal business. She said what the committee was trying to do is support Mayor Austin in this new term is to go through chapter 2 which talks about how meetings are conducted and the committees to try and clean up the language to start off this new term on the right foot. She said the committee looked at the order of business and the Mayor's report is currently at the end of the agenda, but the committee wanted to move the Mayor's report to after the Councilmembers report. That way people are having the opportunity to hear what the Mayor has to say instead of having to wait to the end of the meeting if the meeting goes long. The Mayor will still have remarks at the end of the meeting if there are thing that that need to be responded to. She said there has been a lot of meetings when a holiday fall on the 4th Monday they would be moved to the 3rd Monday and the School Board was doing some of the same movements. She said the proposal is the Meetings that fall on a Holiday would move to the 4th Tuesday so they would always stay within that 4th week. She said the committee also looked at all of the committees and has been looking for a few months on different Cities and how they works including Brentwood she said some of the combinations is that Ways and Means and Public Safety would be combined, along with Public Works and Building which would include solid waste and beautification being under Public Works, and Parks added Recreation. She said Parks and Recreation Committee would also deal with some of the special commissions, she said the commissions would be own their own, but they would be accountable to the Committees that actually work with them in conjunction. for example, a lot of the things that youth commission does falls in conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Committee so the Youth Commission would be accountable to the Parks and Recreation Committee and they would work in conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Committee. Sam agreed and said assuming that it passes the Youth and Senior Commission would be reporting to the Parks and Recreation Committee. She thanked the committee for their hard work they did within an hours' time getting through the entire chapter. She said the Councils role is legislators. She said ordinances and policies is what they really want to concentrate on so they can help things run smother. She said they also talked about the Use of City Hall. She said the Committee knows the Council Chambers are used for Ward Meetings, and Board Meetings, and Commissions and things of that nature, she said if there are other people that wanted to use City Hall, they wanted to have an ordinance around how that works. She said the Committee has not gone over how that works but wanted to be clear that City Hall is for City Hall business. She said there is the recreation Center and Gary Gore Center was there for other things and they wanted to be fair to all parties so that City Hall stays for City Hall Business.

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson and seconded by Councilman Epps the Council voted all in favor to approve the Use of City Hall Policy as presented by the Policy Committee.

Solid Waste Committee- Chairman Epps reported that there was no meeting, but this is the contract year and the committee was combined with public works, and they would have to see who is on the committee. Robert Cotton made an inaudible comment. Chairman Epps and Mayor

Austin responded they do not know yet because the committees are being reorganized. And those that are on the committee will let you know when the meeting is.

Beautification Committee- It was reported that there was no meeting.

Youth Commission- Councilman Stichnote reported that he attended the Youth Commission meeting on April 9, 2019 at 5:30 pm. He said there will be [auditions for a youth talent show](#) on April 26, 2019 at the Recreation Center (from 6-8:30 pm). He said the Youth Commission will hold a meeting after the auditions to decide who they want for the talent show. He said the [talent show](#) will be held on May 11, 2019 from 2-5 at Lions Park along with a Block Party. He said the Youth Commission is in need of two officers and looking for members.

Senior Commission -Meeting minutes were provided in the Council packets.

Approval of the Monthly Departmental Reports

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson and seconded by Councilman R. Epps the Council voted all in favor of approving the monthly departmental reports.

F. LEGAL BUSINESS (Proposed Ordinances)

- 1. An ordinance of the City of Jennings, Missouri, Repealing certain portions of chapter 1, section 1-9 of the Jennings Municipal Code Regarding a general penalty and enacting provisions relating to same.**

On the motion made by Councilman Epps and seconded by Councilman Wilson Bill 2563 was introduced an ordinance of the City of Jennings, Missouri, Repealing certain portions of chapter 1, section 1-9 of the Jennings Municipal Code regarding a general penalty and enacting provisions relating to same.

Councilwoman Jones said when the Committees were trying to do the ordinance for the Landlord Registration Program and make a referral to the penalty section they realized there were needed updates but the Policy Committee never had a chance to review the proposed ordinance and this is the first time they are seeing it as well she respectfully if the proposed ordinance could be tabled to Committee so the Policy Committee can review it. She said this is stuff that needs to be changed per Missouri's Constitution and the Supreme Court, but the committee would like to make sure they have a chance to digest, change and modify anything that needs fit for the City of Jennings.

On the motion made by Councilwoman Jones and seconded by Councilman Epps bill # 2561 was tabled to the Policy Committee by the following roll call vote; Councilmembers voting in favor: Allan Stichnote, Miranda Jones, Terry Wilson, Phyllis Anderson, Gary Johnson, Rodney Epps, Aja Owens; Councilmembers absent: Francine Dugger; none opposed or abstained from voting.

- 2. An ordinance of the City of Jennings, Missouri, amending ordinance no. 2439, rule 4, article II, City Council division 2, rules, section 2-27- "Order of Business" of the code of ordinances for the City of Jennings, State of Missouri dated April 24, 2017.**

On the motion made by Councilwoman Anderson and seconded by Councilman Wilson Bill 2564 was introduced an ordinance of the City of Jennings, Missouri, amending ordinance no. 2439, rule 4, article II, City Council division 2, rules, section 2-27- "Order of Business" of the code of ordinances for the City of Jennings, State of Missouri dated April 24, 2017.

On the motion made by Councilwoman Anderson and seconded by Councilman Epps bill # 2564 became ordinance number 2503 by the following roll call vote; Councilmembers voting in favor: Allan Stichnote, Miranda Jones, Terry Wilson, Phyllis Anderson, Gary Johnson, Rodney Epps, Aja Owens; Councilmembers absent: Francine Dugger; none opposed or abstained from voting.

3. *An ordinance of the City of Jennings, Missouri, repealing and replacing certain portions of article II, division 2, section 2-38 of the Jennings City Code.*

On the motion made by Councilwoman Anderson and seconded by Councilwoman Jones Bill 2565 was introduced an ordinance of the City of Jennings, Missouri, repealing and replacing certain portions of article II, division 2, section 2-38 of the Jennings City Code.

On the motion made by Councilman Epps and seconded by Councilman Wilson bill # 2565 became ordinance number 2504 by the following roll call vote; Councilmembers voting in favor: Allan Stichnote, Miranda Jones, Terry Wilson, Phyllis Anderson, Gary Johnson, Rodney Epps, Aja Owens; Councilmembers absent: Francine Dugger; none opposed or abstained from voting.

4. *An ordinance of the City of Jennings, Missouri, amending chapter 2, article II, division 1, section 2-17 of the Jennings City Code.*

On the motion made by Councilwoman Anderson and seconded by Councilwoman Jones Bill 2566 was introduced an ordinance of the City of Jennings, Missouri, amending chapter 2, article II, division 1, section 2-17 of the Jennings City Code.

On the motion made by Councilman Epps and seconded by Councilman Wilson bill # 2566 became ordinance number 2505 by the following roll call vote; Councilmembers voting in favor: Allan Stichnote, Miranda Jones, Terry Wilson, Phyllis Anderson, Gary Johnson, Rodney Epps, Aja Owens; Councilmembers absent: Francine Dugger; none opposed or abstained from voting.

5. *An ordinance of the City of Jennings, Missouri, amending, repealing, combining and replacing certain portions of chapter 2, division 3, section 2-39 through 2-43*

On the motion made by Councilwoman Anderson and seconded by Councilman Epps Bill 2567 was introduced An ordinance of the City of Jennings, Missouri, amending, repealing, combining and replacing certain portions of chapter 2, division 3, section 2-39 through 2-43.

Sam said the bill is combining the Ways and Means Committee and the Public Safety Committee.

On the motion made by Councilwoman Anderson bill # 2567 became ordinance number 2506 by the following roll call vote; Councilmembers voting in favor: Allan Stichnote, Miranda Jones, Terry Wilson, Phyllis Anderson, Gary Johnson, Rodney Epps, Aja Owens; Councilmembers absent: Francine Dugger; none opposed or abstained from voting.

6. *An ordinance of the City of Jennings, Missouri, amending, certain portions of chapter 2, division 3, section 2-46 of the Jennings Municipal Code.*

On the motion made by Councilwoman Anderson and seconded by Councilwoman Jones Bill 2568 was introduced an ordinance of the City of Jennings, Missouri, amending, certain portions of chapter 2, division 3, section 2-46 of the Jennings Municipal Code.

Sam said the bill is adding this committee shall also have the jurisdiction for overseeing complaints of illegal discrimination with respect to the hiring practices of the City of Jennings. He said it is adding a duty to the policy committee.

On the motion made by Councilwoman Anderson and seconded by Councilman Epps bill # 2568 became ordinance number 2507 by the following roll call vote; Councilmembers voting in favor: Allan Stichnote, Miranda Jones, Terry Wilson, Phyllis Anderson, Gary Johnson, Rodney Epps, Aja Owens; Councilmembers absent: Francine Dugger; none opposed or abstained from voting.

7. *An ordinance of the City of Jennings, Missouri, amending, repealing, combining, and replacing certain portions of chapter 2, division 3, section 2-42 and article v, divisions 2 and 3 and chapter 25, section 25-1 and 25-2 of the Jennings Municipal Code.*

On the motion made by Councilwoman Anderson and seconded by Councilman Johnson Bill 2569 was introduced an ordinance of the City of Jennings, Missouri, amending, repealing, combining, and replacing certain portions of chapter 2, division 3, section 2-42 and article v, divisions 2 and 3 and chapter 25, section 25-1 and 25-2 of the Jennings Municipal Code.

Sam said the bill is expanding the Parks and Recreation Committee and saying the Youth and Senior Citizens Commission will report to the Parks and Recreation Committee.

On the motion made by Councilwoman Anderson and seconded by Councilman Epps bill # 2569 became ordinance number 2508 by the following roll call vote; Councilmembers voting in favor: Allan Stichnote, Miranda Jones, Terry Wilson, Phyllis Anderson, Gary Johnson, Rodney Epps, Aja Owens; Councilmembers absent: Francine Dugger; none opposed or abstained from voting.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

H. NEW BUSINESS

1. Election of President Pro Tem

On the motion made by Councilwoman Anderson and seconded by Councilwoman Owens the Council nominated Miranda Jones to be President Pro-Tem. The Council voted against the nomination by the following roll call vote; Councilmembers voting in favor of the nomination were: Miranda Jones, Phyllis Anderson, Aja Owens; Councilmembers voting against the nomination were: Allan Stichnote, Gary Johnson, Rodney Epps, Yolanda Austin; Councilmembers abstained from voting: Terry Wilson; Councilmembers absent: Francine Dugger.

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson and seconded by Councilman Stichnote the Council nominated Rodney Epps to be President Pro-Tem. The Council voted in favor of the nomination by the following roll call vote; Councilmembers voting in favor of the nomination were: Allan Stichnote, Terry Wilson, Gary Johnson, Rodney Epps; Councilmembers voting against the nomination were: Miranda Jones, Phyllis

2. Announcement of the Mayor's Standing Committees' Appointment

Mayor Austin read the standing Committees:

Ways and Means & Public Safety Committee; Terry Wilson (Chairman), Rodney Epps, Phyllis Anderson, Miranda Jones.

Public Works & Building Committee; Rodney Epps (Chairman), Miranda Jones, Francine Dugger, Gary Johnson.

Parks & Recreation Committee; Allan Stichnote (Chairman), Terry Wilson, Aja Owens, Gary Johnson.

Policy & Ordinance Committee; Miranda Jones (Chairwoman), Terry Wilson, Phyllis Anderson, Rodney Epps.

Council representative for Municipal League Terry Wilson.

3. Approval of the appointments to the Senior Commission

On the motion made by Councilman Stichnote and seconded by Councilman Epps the Council voted all in favor of the recommended Senior Commission appointments.

Charletta A. Williams term expires 2021 & Jane Brown term expires 2022.

4. Approval of the appointments to the Youth Commission

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson and seconded by Councilman Stichnote the Council voted all in favor of the recommended Youth Commission appointments. Shanise Johnson term expires 2021 and Alice Wilson term expires 2022.

5. *Approval of appointment to the Planning Commission*

On the motion made by Councilman Stichnote and seconded by Councilman Epps the council voted all in favor of the recommended Planning Commission appointment.

6. *Approval of the appointment of the Planning Commission Council Representative*

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson and seconded by Councilman Stichnote the Council voted all in favor of the recommended Planning Commission appointment for Councilman Johnson as the Council Representative for the Planning Commission.

7. *Approval of the Special Event Permit- Health Fair*

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson and seconded by Councilman Stichnote the Council voted all in favor of approving the special event permit for a health fair.

8. *Approval of the placement of a stop sign at Huiskamp and Solway*

Mayor Austin asked if a traffic study had already been done. Sam said the traffic study was on the back of the recommendation.

On the motion made by Councilman Stichnote and seconded by Councilman Wilson the Council voted all in favor of the placement of a stop sign at Huiskamp and Solway.

9. *Approval of the transfer of business ownership for Kings Customs Auto Repair*

On the motion made by Councilman Epps and seconded by Councilman Stichnote the Council voted all in favor of the transfer of business ownership for Kings Customs Auto Repair.

10. *Approval of the monthly bills for payment*

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson and seconded by Councilwoman Jones the Council voted all in favor of approving the monthly bills for payment.

11. *Motion for closed session, legal and personnel (RSMO 610:021-1,3)*

On the motion made by Councilwoman Jones and seconded by Councilman Johnson the Council voted in favor closed session legal and personnel (RSMO 610:021-1,3) by the following roll call vote; Councilmembers voting in favor: Allan Stichnote, Miranda Jones, Terry Wilson, Phyllis Anderson, Gary Johnson, Rodney Epps, Aja Owens; Councilmembers absent: Francine Dugger; none opposed or abstained from voting

I. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Austin thanked everyone that came out. She also thanked everyone who voted for her. She said "we" worked really hard the last two years and she is excited about the next 4 years in Jennings as "we" continue to focus on our future, with Jennings having safer streets and stronger community. She said it is a good sign that the meeting will end by nine o'clock. She said letters will be sent for those that have served for a long time, but the City wanted to wait until the official results came in and the swearing in of the newly elected officials. She said she did attend the ribbon cutting and she said when she was on the City Council for 8 years, she fought to get a basketball court in our City. She said about 10 years ago the Council gave us a half of court. She said when the "we" had the ribbon cutting it filled her heart to know that now we have a full court for the youth and adults to play on. She said they have been playing on the court and she noticed that we need something for the middle school and younger children. She said she already spoken to Jim and they have an area in mind by the playground area where we will be looking at having another basketball court especially for the younger children. She said the [Business Watch](#) meeting will be on Friday April 26, 2019 she said to invite some of the business and churches to

come out on Friday and Captain Cox or his designee will be sharing some trends, along with other guest speakers. She said she has been successfully attending the neighborhood watch meetings in the senior buildings. She said they go into the Jennings Place on the 3rd Wednesdays at 2 o'clock and on the 3rd Thursday at 11 they go into Star Residences and Fairview at 12 o'clock and River Roads at 1 o'clock. She said a lot of the seniors are not able to come out to the neighborhood watch and the monthly meetings so the idea from the police department was to go into them about the crime trends and safety techniques, different things going on and things the Seniors are doing within our community. She said she has had some representatives like Ms. Jane Brown or Lola Nash. She said this has been something that is really working, they are getting a lot of ideas from the seniors who didn't think they had a voice. For example, at Fairview they wanted to have signs posted for no trespassing on the park lot the seniors gave the suggestion they took it back and were able to place signs. She said a lot of people think their voice is not heard but when you come to these meetings and bring up your suggestions, we try to react on them. Mayor Austin encouraged neighbors to come to the [Neighborhood Watch](#) meetings on the second Thursdays of the month at 6 pm, and [Coffee with Cops](#) at Natalie's Cakes and More on the first Thursdays of the month at 9 am. She said on Wednesday April 24, 2019 at 6:00 pm. she will be attending a police contract appreciation with a couple of the Council members. She said with the contract we were slated to go up to 5% increase but after speaking with the Chief and telling him Jennings could not afford a 5% increase she got a letter saying there will only be a 3% increase. She said they talked back and forth we want to be able to keep the police department they are doing a good job but until Jennings gets some more revenue in, we just cannot afford 5% she said she was very glad to get the letter. She encouraged people to continue to look at the City's website there is a spot on there for complaints and complement she asked the citizens to fill us up with those because they can be tracked and monitor what has not been done. She recognized Jim for his hard work. She said she had a resident come into her non-profit that she and her husband have on West Florissant and asked how many people work in the public works Mayor Austin said today it was about 18 and the resident went to Natalie's and came back with about 24 cup cakes and a card. She said whenever she ask public works to do anything they get right on top of it they cleaned the alley in back of her house on Hodimont where there had been a lot of dumping and she wanted to let the department know they are doing a good job and the community appreciate them. She wanted to encourage the people to go out into the community and let them know we are going to start our [Summer Concerts](#) in Koeneman Park with Honey Vox being the first concert, he said there will be two a month until August 23, 2019. She said there were new appointments and she recognized Lt. Geasley with the Corrections Department who had been serving as interim Lt. since October, and Jim has been serving as interim director with public works since December and at the last Council meeting, he was made the full time Public Works Director. She said as she said a couple years ago she wanted to make sure the City had highly qualified people in place and now she can say that every department head has been voted on under her administration and she knows we are going to be off to the right start we have all new directors in place and we have energized council people in place she said she is sure that she is going to see a lot of great things coming out of each and every one of the Councilmembers. And thanked the residents for coming out.

Mayor Austin provided a five-minute break before going into the closed session, legal and personnel (RSMO 610:021-1,3)

K. CLOSED SESSION, LEGAL AND PERSONNEL (RSMO 610:021-1,3)

Hire Prosecuting Attorney

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson and seconded by Councilman Johnson the Council voted in favor of hiring Joshua Carvan as the Prosecuting Attorney by the following roll call vote; Councilmembers voting in favor: Allan Stichnote, Miranda Jones, Terry Wilson, Phyllis Anderson, Gary Johnson, Rodney Epps, Aja Owens; Councilmembers absent: Francine Dugger; none opposed or abstained from voting

Hire Court Clerk

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson and seconded by Councilman Epps the Council voted in favor of hiring Iesha Leeper for the position of Court Clerk with Junaita Sykes as the first alternate pending the successfully completion of pre-employment screenings by the following roll call vote; Councilmembers voting in favor: Allan Stichnote, Miranda Jones, Terry Wilson, Phyllis Anderson, Gary Johnson, Rodney Epps, Aja Owens; Councilmembers absent: Francine Dugger; none opposed or abstained from voting

Part Time Public Works Laborers

On the motion made by Councilman Epps and seconded by Councilwoman Jones the Council voted in favor of hiring Darnell Jefferies, Deandrea Johnson, Leon Jackson, Kwasi Stephenson, Randy Stokes, and Jason Shaw as Part Time Public Works Laborers by the following roll call vote; Councilmembers voting in favor Allan Stichnote, Miranda Jones, Terry Wilson, Phyllis Anderson, Gary Johnson, Rodney Epps, Aja Owens; Councilmembers absent: Francine Dugger; none opposed or abstained from voting

Promote to Foreman of Public Works

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson and seconded by Councilman Epps the Council voted in favor of promoting Vinson Rhone to Public Works Foreman by the following roll call vote; Councilmembers voting in favor: Allan Stichnote, Miranda Jones, Terry Wilson, Phyllis Anderson, Gary Johnson, Rodney Epps, Aja Owens; Councilmembers absent: Francine Dugger; none opposed or abstained from voting

Adjournment

On the motion made by the Councilman Epps and seconded by Councilman Wilson the Council voted to adjourn the closed session, legal and personnel (RSMO 610:021-1,3) at 9:21 pm on Monday April 22, 2019 by the following roll call vote; Councilmembers voting in favor: Allan Stichnote, Miranda Jones, Terry Wilson, Phyllis Anderson, Gary Johnson, Rodney Epps, Aja Owens; Councilmembers absent: Francine Dugger; none opposed or abstained from voting

Attest:



Mayor Yolanda Austin



Kareen McNeal, Deputy City Clerk