

City Council Meeting  
Jennings City Hall  
April 24, 2017 - 7:00 pm

The two thousand three hundred sixty-second meeting of the Jennings City Council was held on Monday, April 24, 2017 at 7 p.m. at Jennings City Hall.

***Swearing in of newly elected and re-elected council members:***

*Miranda Jones, Ward One  
Terry Wilson, Ward Two  
Julia Roberts, Ward Three  
Carol Epps, Ward Four*

Oath of Office was administered by Deletra Hudson, Interim City Clerk.

**REGULAR MEETING:**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was officially called to order by, the newly elected Mayor, Yolanda Austin at 7:05 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Present:

Mayor Yolanda Austin	Councilwoman Phyllis Anderson
Councilman Allan Stichnote	Councilwoman Julia Roberts
Councilwoman Miranda Jones	Councilman Rodney Epps
Councilman Terry Wilson	Councilwoman Carol Epps

Also present: City Attorney, Carla Allen and City Clerk, Deletra Hudson.

On the motion made by Councilman R. Epps, second by Councilwoman Jones, the City Council voted to approve the agenda.

On the motion made by Councilman R. Epps, second by Councilwoman Jones by general consent, the minutes of the regular meeting held March 27, 2017 and special meeting of April 13, 2017, were approved by the City Council as transcribed in the office of the City Clerk.

**Reports of Council:**

***Councilman Allan Stichnote*** extended congratulations to Mayor Austin and the newly elected and re-elected council members. He thanked Earl Green and Iris Hunter, of the Recreation Department, for doing a great job with the Easter Eggs Hunt.

Councilman Stichnote discussed placing the Mayors' pictures back on the wall of the Council Chambers. He shared a sample of the new frames that the pictures will be placed in for display. He stated that Linda Schmerber, Historical Society will help him with the project of getting the pictures reframed. Linda will go the Michaels Store to get the frames. She proposed buying all of the same frames in the same size so that all of the pictures are uniform. Councilman Stichnote proposed the City have Michaels to frame the pictures. He asked the Council to appropriate \$500 for the project. Councilwoman Jones suggested each Ward contributing their Ward funds, up to \$150 each, for the project. Councilman Stichnote made a motion to give Linda permission to spend up to \$500 to redo the Mayors' pictures in new frames and rehang them in the Council Chambers. The project will be funded from each Wards' fund, contributing up to \$150 each. The



motion was seconded by Councilwoman Anderson. The City Council voted all in favor of the motion.

Councilman Stichnote reported on police stats stating that last month there were 55 drug arrests, 11 in Ward 1. This month, there were 38 drug arrests, 6 in Ward 1. . He said crime is down 3% this past month, and 9% from March 2016-March 2017. He thanked the St. Louis County Police Department.

**Councilwoman Miranda Jones** extended congratulations to the new council members. She stated that she looks forward to working with them, as well as congratulations to Carol Epps on a successful re-election to the Council. She extended special congratulations to Mayor Austin. She thanked the Mayor Pro Tem Francine Dugger for her service. Councilwoman Jones told the public it was great to see so many people in attendance at the meeting. She asked them not to make it a one-time visit. She informed the public that the city needs new voices and faces in City Hall. She stated that it makes a difference. She said she is looking forward to the next few years. She said the first two years of service addressed a lot of things that they should not have had to deal with to move the city forward. She stressed the importance of cooperation and agreements amongst the Council. Councilwoman Jones said these things make for the council being more progressive. She said she is excited about the new start, fresh faces and minds to get some things done for the City.

Councilwoman Jones said she is passionate about having more places for children and having things to do in the City of Jennings. One of the first things that the city has been working on is getting a basketball court, inspired by the donation of a basketball goal from St. Louis County Police. The City realized the Park Funds is money earmarked for parks. The funds should be used to beautify parks and give more spaces and places for kids to play. Councilwoman Jones stated that the portable basketball goals in the middle of the streets is not safe and the kids deserve a better place to play. She committed that the basketball court would be one of the things the Council will work on this year. She also stated that the community deserves a community center. She encouraged partnering with the School District to ensure the kids have safe places and things to do.

Councilwoman Jones acknowledged the presence of fellow School Board members and thanked them for their service. She said Jennings School District has been doing great things. Councilwoman Jones stated when you have a great school district, it helps to turn the City around. She said she is looking forward to a stronger partnership with between the City and the school district to help move the City forward. She thanked the public and said she is looking forward to the year.

**Councilman Terry Wilson** thanked the citizens of Ward 2 for electing him. He committed to not letting them down. He stated that if he does let them down; vote him out. He also thanked his family for supporting his journey, along with his fraternity, 100 Black Men organization, and other elected officials from other municipalities around St. Louis County. He stated that it will take a collective effort of the different municipalities and organizations coming together to change North County. He acknowledged the presence of the Mayor of Dellwood, Mayor of Cool Valley, Jennings School board members, Moline Acres, Bellefontaine, the City of St. Louis Sheriff Vernon Betts. He also thanked his Godbrother Rev. Perkins from the Centennial Church, school mates, classmates, and everyone who played a part in his successful election. He promised that he would not let the people down. He committed to doing everything he can to be a successful councilman and leader in the community, and role model for the young people. He stated that he will have an official report at the next meeting regarding Ward 2. He concluded with thanking the people for coming out.

**Councilwoman Francine Dugger** said it was good to see the people and congratulated Mayor Austin. She said they talked about this a long time ago. She extended her congratulation to Mayor Austin as the new mayor for the City of Jennings. She also thanked the Council and citizens that she worked with as she served the past year as the Mayor Pro Tem. She stated she appreciated what they were able to do. She extended thanks for what was done, for what could



get done, and what will be done in the future. Councilwoman Dugger thanked the Civic Center, Kiwanis Club, Elks Club, the Flood Church and other sponsors for the Easter Egg Hunt. She acknowledged that the event grew and a wonderful effort was put forth. She said the children enjoyed the event and there was plenty to give away. She said the children enjoyed the games and the girls won the tug of war game. She said it was nice and thanked everyone.

Councilman Dugger announced that the Clergy Coalition met. She said she asked Mayor Austin to attend the meeting. She said the City can do policy changes, fuss and hug, but the coalition wanted to come together to pray. They came together to pray for the City by holding a Prayer Rally. The coalition decided they did not want to make it a one-time event. They want to make sure that when they do it again, the people will join them. The coalition took over W. Florissant and prayed for the City. The coalition met with the Councilwoman Dugger and Mayor Austin and decided that they wanted to be a part of the emergency efforts of the City, along with the Red Cross. Councilwoman Dugger said the churches want to be a part of the efforts if there is something they can do. They talked about this at the last coalition meeting. She reported that at the next coalition meeting, the churches will bring forth ways that they can assist the City, in the event of an emergency. Also Lt. Neal informed the coalition that the jail doesn't have bible study. Councilwoman Dugger informed the public that the jail houses federal inmates. The churches decided to come together to create a schedule of when they can offer bible study to the inmates.

Councilwoman Dugger said she met with the Kiwanis Club. She announced that on August 1<sup>st</sup>, at the Norwood Country Club, in Jennings, MO, the Kiwanis Club will sponsor a golf tournament. She said more information will be coming. She requested that anyone interested in making sure they get the information, provide their email address to her before they leave. She explained this event is to support the young people in the community. She said Kiwanis is a global organization that serves young people who want to serve in their community. She said the Kiwanis Club will support the young people in their effort. That's why they are raising funds. She said she looks forward to women and men coming out on August 1<sup>st</sup>. She agreed with a point raised by Mayor Austin regarding the Police PALS program, swimming, boxing, football, basketball; all of these things are available to the young people. Councilwoman Dugger said the organization wants to continue to expose them to more. They want to expose them to Boy Scouts, who often come and offer camping for young people; expose them to doing work in the community, whatever, we can do. Some will do basketball or something else, but she encouraged coming together as a community to support the young people in whatever way we can. She said, in the church, some people sing in the choir and some people usher; whatever your talent, use it to support young people. This will be a way to bring the community together.

Councilwoman Dugger also reported that she attended the State's Municipal League's Partners in Governments Conference on April 12<sup>th</sup>. She said there were a number of issues and subjects being discussed, including transparency in the community, transparency in campaigning funds, transparency in finance, transparency in the Sunshine Law. She said there is information online and available to the public to get more informed about what the state says regarding the subjects.

**Councilwoman Phyllis Anderson** congratulated the newly elected and re-elected councilmembers. She stated she and Councilwoman Roberts had been out in the neighborhoods to help create block units. She asked the public if they are interested in creating a block unit, please give her and/or Councilwoman Roberts a call. She asked the people to contact City Hall for their contact information and they would be happy to come to the people. She said they are also visiting different businesses and have created a list of different businesses that are hiring. They have a flier with a list of jobs. She encouraged those looking for jobs to get in touch with her or Councilwoman Roberts.

**Councilwoman Julia Roberts** greeted the people and thanked everyone who voted her into office. She thanked her family for their support. She asked that the people hold her accountable as she learns the council position. She said she wants to hear the issues and wants to work together to improve the community so it is what we want it to be: Safe, family oriented for



children and elderly. She stated she desires to have a thriving community. Councilwoman Roberts said she is excited to be in her position and to do the work required and the journey ahead. She said she is also excited to be in a leadership position and work with the citizens in the community to make the community what we want it to be. She said she looks forward to growing stronger together.

**Councilman Rodney Epps** extended congratulations to the newly elected and re-elected officials. He thanked Ex-councilwomen Yolonda Forston and Nicole Cook for their services. He congratulated Mayor Austin. He said he is looking forward to working for her and with her. He acknowledged that there were many dignitaries present at the meeting. He stated that they all know that when you hold offices, you are servants for the community.

Councilman Epps said he and his wife, Carol Epps, have been trying to get some development in Ward 4. He said he has been promised 50 new homes since last Spring. He said hopefully this Spring, the development will get started. He stated that as Council people, the job consists of more than potholes, dogs barking and trash. He said in order to keep a vibrant and safe City, we need to keep people in the City. He said that is the reason he is always fighting for housing. Many of the City's problems exist because of the derelict houses. He said the City of Jennings has lost approx. 3000 people in the past 10 years. He said if you want a vibrant community and want businesses to come into the community, it is the council's job to make sure there is affordable and decent housing in the community. Councilman Epps stated this is what he is hoping to see working for and with the new mayor; that the City starts building, bring residents in, and the commercial properties will come. He stressed the point that you have to have people. When residents come in, crime will decrease because there are more people watching. He said this is his goal and Councilwoman Epps's goal, to try to get development started. He hopes the City has the right people in office now to do that. He said it has been a blessing for him to serve the community. He said he was serving the community before he held office. He believes sometimes people are put in certain places for a reason. He said he and his wife have a small business in the community and they love the community. He hates that some parts of the community are dying. He said it is their job to catch the City before it dies off. He said the City of Jennings doesn't want to be like the City of St. Louis, where 30 years from now 1.1 million people will be down to 311,000 people. He doesn't want that to happen in Jennings nor any other community. He thanked the crowd for coming and voting. He said he is looking forward to working with everyone.

**Councilwoman Carol Epps** greeted the people and thanked everyone who voted for her. She said she was happy to be back and serving under a new mayor. She did not have a report. She stated that Councilman Epps always reports everything, so she doesn't have anything else to say. She said she loves Jennings.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Austin reported that she has occupied the seat as Mayor for three days. She said she came in running and has so many things on her mind and heart that she wants to do. She thanked everyone present and the voters who voted for her. She said she believes it takes all of us to move Jennings forward in a positive way. She said she informed the people that she has talked with that if anyone comes to them with any negativity, turn it into something positive because there is lot to be done. She thanked Mayor Pro Tem Dugger for holding down the seat for the past year. She said building relationships and partnerships is very important to her. She said she will post her 100 day Plan on the website. There are some strategic commitments that she wants to discuss, which includes: Employee Morale – which is important to her. She said she has scheduled meetings with all department heads. They have been given a Reflection Form which ask them to outline their 6 and 12 month visions for the department, tasks and job descriptions they feel they have not accomplished and need to work on. Mayor Austin said she reviewed the recent evaluations and plan to work hand and hand to improve areas where needed, addressing department needs and identifying the department successes. She said she will institute an Employee of the Month program. Mayor Austin said community engagement is very important. She said she wants to revive the Youth and Senior Commissions. She wants the Youth



Commission to work with the Police, Parks and Recreation Departments. Mayor Austin addressed the Senior Citizens by saying there are a lot of residents in the community who haven't gotten involved. She informed them that the city is here to be a support. She reassured them that the city wants to hear their voices. She stated the public will hear more about the two commissions.

Mayor Austin asked the churches to let the City know who their representatives are for the Council meetings and the Neighborhood Watch meetings. There are a lot of meetings going on, but the Mayor wants to get the word out to the community. She feels that if the churches send a representative, they can take the information back to their churches. Mayor Austin announced that she will be working with public safety in the schools through the Safe Schools Programs. She encouraged the Council and residents to consider doing a ride along to develop one on one personal relationships and to collaborate with the Police Department. She said she has been seeing a lot of the Family Dollar and Dollar General stores having problems with theft. She plans to meet with the representative of the stores to see what can be done to help with problems.

Mayor Austin plans to work on economic development and getting businesses back into the community. She said she has been in the community for 30 years and remembers when River Roads and Northland were vibrant. She wants to see the community come back and will do whatever it takes to sit down with the developers to let them know that there is something happening in Jennings and invite them to be a part of the growth.

She committed to working with developing affordable housing, providing housing education and home management training, working with property owners and giving workshops on the City ordinances. She said she has a lot of plans coming up. She has been working for the past three days building relationships and working with the staff, which is very important. She is committed to working with the staff because she believes if the staff is down, the production will be down. She said she is working on lifting morale to build a better community for all not just the residents, but, also for those who pass through our city. She is looking at the whole picture.

### **Monthly Reports**

On the motion made by Councilman R. Epps, second by Councilwoman Jones, the Council accepted the monthly reports.

### **Reports of Committees:**

Ways & Means: Councilwoman Dugger reported no meeting

Public Works – Councilwoman Anderson reported no meeting.

Building Committee –No meeting.

Park Committee – Councilwoman Jones reported no meeting. However, she said that the big pavilion at Lion's Park is expected to be open on May 15<sup>th</sup>. But some of the other things in the park may not be available until June.

Municipal League – Councilwoman Dugger made her report under the Council reports.

Planning Commission – Councilwoman Dugger reported no meeting.

Policy Committee – Councilwoman Jones reported no meeting.

Solid Waste Committee: Councilwoman C. Epps reported no meeting.



## **Public comments:**

### ***Presentation from St. Louis County Police Department - Employee Recognition***

In the absence of Captain Juan Cox, Sgt. Thomas Naughton presented Officer Wes McDonald with the Employee of the Month plaque for his outstanding initiative and efforts that began in late January – early February. Officer McDonald took it upon himself to research the increase in crime related to the sale and overdoses from heroin related activity in the City areas around Solway and Huiskamp Avenue. Officer McDonald created an action plan to address the problem, which became Operation Ocho, with the St. Louis County Drug Unit. This operation was created to combat the problem in the area during the times of February 21-April 6, 2017. With the help of the precinct officers and the drug unit, Operation Ocho seized 12 guns, 82 grams of heroin, 50 grams of marijuana, over \$5000 in cash, 20 arrest and a search warrant that lead to more guns and the arrest of the main dealers, who were convicted felons and documented gang members. Due to his efforts, Officer McDonald was presented a plaque, plus a Walmart gift card.

### ***Comments by the Public:***

***Yolonda Henderson of 8822 Sumter*** began her comments with extending congratulations to the Council. She reported complaints about the area of Shannon and Sharidge. There is a cluster of derelict homes in the area that have been in its current state for about two years. She also reported a memorial at Sharidge and Shannon that needs to come down. She said a tree will be planted in the memory of one of the students that was killed. She mentioned another memorial on Lucas & Hunt.

She asked how the house on Ada Wortley got demolished before the house on Eichler. She stated the Eichler house cannot be boarded up and residents are complaining. She asked Councilwoman Dugger how the other house got demolished first. She added safety should have been considered first and not whose street the derelict house was on.

She asked more questions about what was going on with the Kiwanis Club and the City of Jennings. She asked why the City Attorney was working with the Kiwanis Club. She addressed Councilwoman Dugger by asking if Ruler Food was still on the list to be built. She asked Councilwoman Dugger if she was receiving two paychecks for occupying both seats. She also stated that the City has a partnership with the PAL program, Mike Brown Foundation, Board Director (Yolonda Fountain Henderson), and the Superintendent of the Jennings School District to start a gardening club. Part of the project will be at the Gary Gore Elementary School location and all of the schools. She reported she is also the committeewoman of Norwood Township and there will be a Gala on May 13<sup>th</sup>. Councilwoman Dugger asked Yolonda Henderson to give her a call for a meeting.

***Sharon Stewart of 8332 Osborn Drive*** reported that she is representing Osborn. She said she has been in the city for 31 years. She said she is fighting Country Club Hills about getting the potholes filled and the grass cut going uphill into Country Club Hills. She said Jennings has previously filled some of the potholes in Country Club Hills. She has tried to contact Country Club Hills about their problem. Ms. Stewart is asking Jennings to get involved with deterring traffic from coming down the hill of W. Florissant. There is a gas station being built on the hill. She believes there will be more traffic coming into the area. The residents don't want the traffic in their neighborhood. She asked for assistance on where the residents can go and what they can do.

***Shirley Wayne of 5828 Janet Avenue*** expressed concerns about a pothole on Janet and W. Florissant. She said she called the Street Department about a month ago but nothing has happened with repairing the pothole. She asked Ward 4 councilmembers to have quarterly or Town Hall meetings with the people in Ward 4 to inform the people as to what is going on in the Ward. Councilman Epps replied that they could hold Ward meetings at their barber shop as often as the people like. He added that the people who are concerned will call and come to the meetings. Councilman Epps in the past said the meeting would be scheduled and people tend not to show up. He reiterated that he is open to having the meetings. Ms. Wayne asked if there



could be a mailer sent out to inform the people about the meeting. Councilman Epps agreed to do a mailer. He invited Mrs. Wayne to call him to inform him of the proposed times for the meeting (i.e. monthly, every three months, etc.).

**Vera Wolf of 5330 Hamilton Avenue** had a complaint about a property at 5328 Hamilton. She said the property has been vacant about 25 years. She reported that the property is being used for dumping. She brought pictures to share with the Council. Ms. Wolf said every time she calls, she is told the house will be on the demolition list next year or the City doesn't have funds for the demolition. She said she has people wanting to rent her apartment. She said she had five people to rent from her but they can't live there because there are snakes and rats coming from the vacant house. She reported that she received a letter from the City informing her to clean up behind her property within seven days or be summoned to court and face a \$1000 fine. She doesn't think it is fair because she can't keep tenants in the property due to the derelict property at 5328 Hamilton. She said she has a nice house. She keeps her property clean. Mayor Austin committed to meeting with the Department Heads to address the issue. Councilman Epps asked if the staff can check to see if the property is on the demo list.

**Percillia Jones of 5515 Janet** expressed her excitement for the new mayor. She said she is looking forward to a lot of things getting done for the City. She congratulated the newly elected and re-elected councilmembers. She stated that she has previously heard the complaints regarding Ward 4, but she knows the Councilmembers for Ward 4 have been working on addressing the problems. She said she has been involved (in the City) for about seven years. She said she used to pay the neighborhood boys to help get the worded out to get people to attend the Neighborhood Watch Meetings. She said the people will not know what is going on if they don't attend the Neighborhood Watch meetings or Council Meetings. She said that's how she learned and has been able to do the things that she has accomplished by forming committees. She said she started the Watch Dog committee to watch how elected officials run the City. She said she formed the Neighborhood Watch Committee to support St. Louis County Police Department. She recommended that the public get with their council representative to get things done. She stressed there are ways to get involved.

**Robert Cotton Sr. of 7119 Garesche** congratulated the Mayor and other members of the Council. He stated that he had been promised, over seven years ago, that 7123 Garesche would be torn down after it caught fire. He reported that there were several meetings regarding tearing down the structure: January 22, 2015 and May 24, 2016, but the house is still standing. The front door is open. He asked when the house was going to be torn down. He said he has been told it was on the list. He stated that Councilwoman Dugger said, when she was Mayor Pro Tem, that the bank would be demolished before there was any new construction at River Roads. He said the roof is being added to the new construction, and the bank is still standing. He asked when the bank will be demolished. He also complained about the missing railing at Jennings Station Road and Idlewild. He said nobody knows who has the right-of-way and who is responsible. St. Louis County expanded the road but can't give an answer as to who is responsible for replacing the rail. He also asked when Sapphire Park was going to be cleaned.

Mr. Cotton said the PAL Program is starting a new garden at Gary Gore Elementary School. The ground breaking will be May 1<sup>st</sup>. He said he is looking forward to working with St. Louis County PAL Program.

He reported that there are several houses on Osborn that are vacant and have overgrown grass. There is a house on the corner of Osborn and Kinamore with overgrown grass that hasn't been cut in two years. He said he reported to the Building Department, Margie Brown, a list of 16 addresses, of which 15 were on Garesche. Mr. Cotton requested another copy of the policy that stated the Council should not respond to public comments. He stated that the Council hears the complaints but the people don't hear back from the City. He said he was seeking answers.



**Legal Business**

*A. Approval of an ordinance amending ordinance #2415- Meetings of the City Council*

First Reading - on the motion by Councilman Stichnote, second by Councilman R. Epps for:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2415, § 1, ARTICLE II. CITY COUNCIL, DIVISION 1. GENERALLY, SECTION 2-17. MEETINGS. OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE CITY OF JENNINGS, STATE OF MISSOURI, DATED SEPTEMBER 26, 2016.

Second Reading - Bill #2493 - on the motion by Councilman R. Epps, second by Councilwoman Dugger. The bill was approved to become Ordinance #2440 by the following roll call vote: voting in favor were Councilmembers Stichnote, Jones, Dugger, Wilson, Anderson, Roberts, R. Epps, C. Epps; none voting against nor abstaining.

*B. Approval of an ordinance amending ordinance #2416 - Order of Business for City council meetings*

First Reading - on the motion by Councilman Stichnote, second by Councilman R. Epps for:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2416, 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 SEPTEMBER 26, 2016.

Councilwoman Dugger raised the question asking who introduced the bill. Mayor Austin responded that she introduced the bill. Councilwoman Dugger asked where the Council will give their reports. It was pointed out that there was an amended copy left at the Councilmembers' seats that outlined where the Reports of the Council will appear on the agenda. Councilwoman Dugger acknowledged receipt of the amendment. She expressed concern that the citizens wanted the Council to report to them at the meetings.

Mayor Austin informed the City Attorney that she read the agenda items out of order, but allowed her to proceed with reading item B before item A.

Second Reading - Bill #2492 - on the motion by Councilman R. Epps, second by Councilman Stichnote. The bill was approved to become Ordinance #2439 by the following roll call vote: voting in favor were Councilmembers Stichnote, Jones, Dugger, Wilson, Anderson, Roberts, R. Epps, C. Epps; none voting against nor abstaining.

Mayor Austin explained to the residents that the Council approved changing the Council meetings from two per month to one per month on the fourth Mondays at 7 pm.

**New Business**

*A. Election of President Pro Tem*

On the motion made by Councilman Stichnote, seconded by Councilwoman Jones the Council appointed and approved voting in favor for Councilman Rodney Epps as President Pro Tem of the City Council.

*B. Committee Appointments*

Standing committee:

**Ways and Means Committee**

Rodney Epps, Chairman  
Terry Wilson  
Phyllis Anderson  
Miranda Jones

**Building Committee**

Miranda Jones, Chairman  
Francine Dugger  
Julia Roberts  
Rodney Epps



**Park Committee**

Allan Stichnote, Chairman  
Terry Wilson  
Julia Roberts  
Carol Epps

**Public Works Committee**

Phyllis Anderson, Chairman  
Francine Dugger  
Allan Stichnote  
Carol Epps

**Policy and Ordinance Committee**

Miranda Jones, Chairman  
Terry Wilson  
Phyllis Anderson  
Rodney Epps

**Solid Waste Committee**

Carol Epps, Chairman  
Francine Dugger  
Julia Roberts  
Allan Stichnote

**COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES:**

To Municipal League – Terry Wilson  
To Plan Commission – Allan Stichnote (must be approved by City Council vote)  
To the Beautification Committee – Francine Dugger  
To the Equal Opportunity Committee – Carol Epps

Councilwoman Dugger stated they (the City) had not previously worked with the Beautification Committee. She asked Mayor Austin if she had something in mind to be worked on under the Beautification Committee. Mayor Austin responded that she had seen Councilwoman Dugger's house and said she did some beautiful flowers in her yard. Mayor Austin explained that Councilwoman Dugger could work with the committee to beautify the City. Mayor said that at one time, different houses across the city were selected. Mayor Austin told Councilwoman Dugger she would be working with the committee. Councilwoman Dugger said the City didn't do anything with the Beautification Committee last year. She asked who represented the committee. Councilman R. Epps explained that the Beautification Committee was the City Gardens group. Mayor Austin said she want to expand the committee. She asked the committee to work together as a team to come up with some other ideas.

Mayor Austin reminded everyone to take their responsibility to these committees seriously, by attending meetings and attending to any other responsibilities you may have concerning your assignment to a committee. If you will be unable to attend a meeting, please contact the City Clerk as soon as possible. She asked the chairs to schedule meetings, be active and come to the Council meetings with reports each month.

***Approval of the Planning Commission appointment***

On the motion made by Councilman R. Epps, seconded by Councilwoman Dugger, the City Council all voted in favor of approving Allan Stichnote to be appointed to the Planning Commission.

***Approval of the Planning Commission appointment***

On the motion made by Councilwoman Dugger, seconded by Councilwoman Anderson, the City Council all voted in favor of the approval the appointment of Tom Franz to the Jennings Station Road Community Improvement District (CID) Board of Directors.

Mayor Austin explained to the Council that the appointment was previously prepared to be presented at the previous meeting based upon the recommendation of the Director of Housing and Economic Development, since the meeting was not held, the item was carried over.

***Approval of the bills for payment***

On the motion by Councilwoman Dugger, second by Councilman R. Epps, the Council voted all in favor to approve the payment of the bills.

***Motion for Closed Session Personnel (RSMO 610:021-3)***

Motion for a closed session was made by Councilwoman Anderson second by Councilman R. Epps. The council approved holding a closed session for personnel (RSMO 610:021-3) by the



following roll call vote: Councilmembers Stichnote, Jones, Dugger, Wilson, Anderson, Roberts, R. Epps, C. Epps; no one voting against or abstaining.

#### **Closing Remarks by Mayor**

Mayor Austin thanked the people for coming to the meeting. She asked that they let their neighbors know things are happening in the City of Jennings and the Council needs their input.

She announced 10 minute break and invited the people to refreshments.

#### **Closed Session**

After a brief recess, the City Council met in closed session. The following actions were taken.

On the motion by Councilwoman Jones, seconded by Councilman Rodney Epps, the City Council voted all in favor to hire Mr. John Carpenter as a full time Code Inspector for the City of Jennings.

On the motion by Councilman Rodney Epps, seconded by Councilwoman Jones, the City Council voted all in favor to hire Mrs. Estelle Bruce as a part time Code Inspector for the City of Jennings.

On the motion by Councilwoman Jones, seconded by Councilman R. Epps, the City Council voted all in favor to hire Brian Pickett Lewis as a Bus Driver for the Recreation Department pending the results of the pre-employment screening background and drug tests.


On the motion by Councilwoman Carol Epps, seconded by Councilwoman Dugger, the City Council voted all in favor to hire Evan Brington as a Site Monitor for the Recreation Department.

On the motion made by Councilwoman C. Epps, seconded by Councilwoman Anderson, the City Council approved the termination of the Public Relations contract with Evolution Communications Group, LLC owned by John Parker with a 30 day notice effective April 30, 2017 by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Stichnote, Jones, Wilson, Anderson, Roberts, R. Epps, C. Epps; Councilwoman Dugger voting against; no one abstaining.

On the motion made by Councilwoman Jones, seconded by Councilwoman Dugger, the City Council voted all in favor to accept the resignation of Kimberly Smith, Director of Housing and Economic Development effective April 21, 2017.

On the motion made by Councilman R. Epps, seconded by Councilman Stichnote, the City Council approved to appoint Henry Johnson as the Interim Director of Housing and Economic Development by a roll call vote: Councilmembers Stichnote, Jones, Dugger, Wilson, Anderson, Roberts, R. Epps, C. Epps; no one voting against or abstaining.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm on a motion by Councilwoman Jones, second by Councilwoman C. Epps.

  
Mayor Yolanda Austin

Attest:

  
City Clerk