

Minutes of the City Council Meeting
Jennings City Hall
February 26, 2018 - 7:00 pm

The two thousand three hundred seventh third meeting of the Jennings City Council was held on Monday, February 26, 2018 at 7 p.m. at Jennings City Hall.

REGULAR MEETING:

Mayor Austin called the council meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

ROLL CALL

Present:

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

Also present: Interim City Attorney, Sam Alton; City Clerk, Deletra Hudson; Deputy City Clerk, Kareen McNeal.

Mayor Austin began the meeting with a moment of silence for Theodore Wright, former Ward 2 Councilman, who passed away over the weekend.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Austin called for an approval of the agenda with a deletion of the presentation from St. Louis County Police Department- Employee Recognition, Presentation from the Corrections Department- Employee Recognition; and Approval of the Public Relations contract for Johnny Little of elittle Communications Group.

On the motion made by Councilman R. Epps, seconded by Councilwoman C. Epps, the Council voted all in favor to approve the agenda with a deletion of the presentation from St. Louis County Police Department- Employee Recognition, Presentation from the Corrections Department- Employee Recognition; and Approval of the Public Relations contract for Johnny Little of elittle Communications Group; none abstaining; Jones was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING OF January 22, 2018 and the Special Meeting on January 29, 2018

Councilwoman Roberts stated that she felt like a decision made that was not captured by the meeting minutes on the Special Meeting closed session on January 29, 2018.

Councilwoman Dugger said, that she did not see information about LAGERS where the City Attorney corrected the City Clerk, that LAGERS was not a determining body for federal part time requirements, because LAGERS is not a body that would determine, how we pay part time employees.

Sam Alton advised the council of what options they had, that they could vote to approve the minutes, abstain, or vote to table it and revisit it at the next meeting.

Councilwoman Dugger continued to say what she is still seeing, with the minutes issues, is that we are recording the minutes and they should be as accurate, and as close to accuracy as possible, because there is conversation happening. So, that information should be what's reflected in this document that stays with the city forever. Councilwoman Dugger went on to say, that is what she is saying in terms of talking about tabling or whatever, it's just that we keep saying that these minutes need to reflect; like today we did receive an email earlier in the day,

with a lot of corrections that she (Councilwoman Dugger) didn't know what corrections you all are making, but she did make some on her own. Councilwoman Dugger went on to say that this information was out for a month. She stated that we need to figure out a way to get the meeting minutes completed sooner, if we have not, have we been able to find out about the transcribing piece, because that was the first question about whether we could get that machine to transcribe this for us. Councilwoman Dugger added we have done this before as a Council, we've done this like twice a month. She asked Dianna Drake if she had an update for them; Councilwoman Dugger stated it's not going to help with today's minutes.

Dianna Drake, stated that everything that we are doing regarding the Tech Team about bringing in Board Docs, and the transcribing part of it will kick start around April 25th. Councilwoman Dugger stated that we would have two more months where we must do it this way. Ms. Drake replied yes because she has already talked to and set up training. She continued to say that she has to work with everyone on the council to make sure that they are present for that part of it so that we can start it. Councilwoman Dugger stated that as far as she was concerned on the motion that is already on the floor that we can just take the vote. Mr. Alton confirmed that she was referring to the motion to approve the meeting minutes.

Councilwoman Roberts stated that she wanted to know how to revisit the minutes from the special council meeting in the future, for the closed session on January 29, 2018. Mr. Alton stated again that you can vote to approve it, or you can abstain for this meeting. He continued to say in the future if the council votes to do it, we can start talking about Deletra recording; Mr. Alton added that not anyone individual can record in a closed meeting, that is a crime. He stated that's the way that it is, the way that the law is written right now is that in closed session the only thing really that you must make a record of is the vote, people who are there, and the decision that is made.

Councilwoman Roberts reiterated that is what she is saying; a decision was made, but it is not showing up, and that is problematic. Mr. Alton replied that she could make a motion to amend it to have that shown, to table it, abstain from the vote, or vote no.

Councilman R. Epps said, what he is trying to understand is that it says it was approved in closed session for personnel with the letters and numbers and that will tell you exactly what it is about. So, what he is trying to understand is that if they don't want the letter and number coding; they want the wording of what it was about in the minutes. Mr. Alton stated, what the vote was for and the vote can go in the minutes, there is no question about that, that is the way it is supposed to be.

On the motion made by Councilman R. Epps; seconded Councilman Wilson, the Council voted to approve the minutes by the following roll call vote of council members in favor: Stichnote, Wilson, R. Epps, C. Epps, Dugger, Anderson, Roberts opposed; none abstained; Jones was absent.

On the motion made by Councilwoman Roberts; seconded by Councilwoman Dugger the Council voted to amend the Special Council Meeting minutes for the closed session, for January 29, 2018, by adding the vote, and the nature of what we voted on as much as legally permitted, by the following roll call vote of council members in favor: Stichnote, Wilson, Dugger, Anderson, Roberts, R. Epps, C. Epps; none opposed; Jones was absent.

Mayor Austin added, that with the minutes we try to get your packet to you by Friday, so that you have Friday, Saturday, and Sunday to look over them. She stated that we reopen on Monday she is asking that if you have some questions to call the department head that it affects, the City Clerk, or herself (the Mayor). Councilwoman Dugger asked if there is a way, since we are looking at a whole month in front of when we get our packets that this can be dealt with earlier, instead of trying to deal with the minutes the day of the meeting. Councilwoman Dugger said, we do have a whole month that the City Clerk should be working on the minutes. Mr. Alton clarified that Councilwoman Dugger was talking about getting the minutes earlier, so that they can be reviewed sooner. Councilwoman Dugger continued saying the thing is that they are getting them on Friday to review everything and be prepared for today, but then you are saying that we still

need to call on Monday after we have gotten them on Friday or whatever, depending on schedules or what everyone is doing, but these minutes are already a month old as far as getting that information prepared. Mayor Austin replied, that unfortunately it takes the City Clerk almost a month, because all the minutes are word for word, that she is trying to capture, sometimes she has fifteen, sixteen, eighteen pages because of the conversations that are going on. It takes her unfortunately a long time to do the minutes. Mayor Austin stated that she is glad in a couple of months we are going into something different that will help. She continued to say that right now, she is asking if you all see something to give a friendly call to either the director or the City Clerk and she can correct it. Councilman R. Epps said, if you see something and you don't receive them until Friday we would still be right here were we are today. He asked is there any way that the minutes can be done before the package is put together. Deletra Hudson advised the minutes, with proof reading were finished today. Councilman R. Epps asked if there was anyway to get the minutes done three to four days prior to the Friday before a council meeting. Ms. Hudson respond that we can try to work harder, pushing other things in our department aside to speed up the process of getting the minutes done. Councilman R. Epps replied, thank you since some people have problems with the minutes, we need to try to accommodate them.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONERS, REMONSTRATIONS, COMPLAINTS AND REQUESTS:

1. Presentation from the Mayor- Employee Recognition

Mayor Austin stated that Monica Williams was unaware of receiving an employee recognition, she continued saying that Monica works in the finance department and has been doing an awesome job over the last few months trying to get bills paid, and doing a few extra things that are not in her job description, and whatever else she could do to keep the finance department going and moving right along. She wanted to let Ms. Williams know that we truly appreciate her. Mayor Austin read a certificate of recognition and presented it to Ms. Monica Williams. Ms. Williams thanked God, the Mayor, City Clerk, Deputy Clerk, and the entire Council panel, along with anyone else that was left out. Ms. Williams stated that since she has been with the City, everyone is a team player and seems to work well together. She said, this is one of the best positions that she has had in her career. She continued saying that she is excited and happy to be here, she added that it has been a lot of hard work and she is committed to doing what she needs to do to meet the deadlines that are in place for the city. Mayor Austin reiterated that Monica did not know why she was coming today. She thanked Ms. Williams again and stated once more that she is truly appreciated. Mayor Austin went on to say that the finance department is a very key department within our city, and Monica has helped in so many ways.

2. Presentation from Mayor – Retirement (Fire Department)

Mayor Austin called for Fire Chief Goldstein and Captain Steve Sexton. Mayor Austin stated that she thinks that this one was also a surprise. She thanked Captain Steve Sexton on thirty-nine (39) years of service as a firefighter for the City of Jennings, Missouri, and congratulated him on his retirement. Mayor Austin presented Captain Sexton with a plaque and added that Captain Sexton spent the last few years with the Riverview Fire Department (still servicing the City of Jennings). Mayor Austin added that Captain Sexton has been a Jennings resident for sixty-five (65) years. Chief Goldstein added that he would like to thank Captain Sexton, stating that he worked with him for two years, and that Steve gave his all every day to protect and serve the residents in this district. Chief Goldstein went on to say that Steve is going to be missed. Captain Sexton thanked the City of Jennings, stating that it was a long time ago when he started under Chief Wiese, who broke in the new guys right. Steve continued saying that is what made him stay, because he knew guys were being trained right. He thanked everyone again and stated that if he ever needed help when calling the building department, or councilmen they were willing to help, adding that he has never had a situation where someone refused to help him.

3. Comments by public

Doris Green of 8630 Clifton Ave. She stated that she had an incident on February 14th at the Civic Center. Ms. Green said, that she thought that the Civic Center was open to the citizens of Jennings. She stated that she went there to get a copy made. She continued saying that when she went there, the front door was locked, and a lady told her that they were in the back. Ms. Green went on to say that she went to the back and asked, “who does she see to get a copy made?” Ms. Green added that the seniors were having a meal and it was about 12:30/1:00. Ms. Green said, one lady stood up and came toward her, so she stated that she would like to get a copy made. Ms. Green stated that the lady told her we are closed. Ms. Green said that the lady had a very nasty tone. Ms. Green went on saying that she asked what time will you reopen and was told not until tomorrow. Ms. Green stated that she looked at the lady and asked “tomorrow?”, and was told yes after we feed the seniors, then we will be eating. Ms. Green added to her account of events that the lady was chewing in her face while she was talking to her. Ms. Green said, as a citizen of Jennings I have a right to be able to come up there and make copies if I need it, unless it is a normal closed day. Ms. Green asked if she could just close whenever she wants to for the whole day. She added that she understands that they were feeding the seniors and they were in the back serving them. Ms. Green continued to say that the seniors are not going to be up there the whole day. Ms. Green stated that she was not sure who her supervisor is, her name is Iris and that someone needs to speak to this young lady. Ms. Green said that these are her tax dollars, and if she is coming to get a copy she should not be talked to like that. She went on to say that she knows a lot of the council members here and she doesn’t normally make complaints, but she did not appreciate being talked to like that. She said that she would like the council to talk to her about how to address citizens.

Councilman R. Epps responded with an apology to Ms. Green and advised her that the Mayor is her supervisor and will address the situation. Councilman R. Epps added that if Ms. Green would have called the Mayor she would have addressed it. Ms. Green replied that the Mayor was kind of aware of the situation, that she was leaving. Ms. Green said, that she did not go into detail with the Mayor.

Yolanda Fountain Henderson of 8822 Sumpter, handed out pictures to the council. Ms. Fountain Henderson said, that what she has come to complain about is that she is having problems getting things accomplished in the City of Jennings. She stated that she had a tree around the corner that finally got picked up after a year and a half. She said, that she was passing around pictures letting the Council know that Councilman Stichnote has had two trees cut down by the City of Jennings, one was from a storm. She added that she was talking to a resident and the resident said that they couldn’t believe that we had three trucks out of service to cut down one tree branch (which is shown in the pictures she passed around). Ms. Fountain Henderson continued to say that she received a call the other day from Mike Vilmer, saying that she received a complaint because her carport was not clean. She stated that she started laughing, because she already knows where the complaint came from. Ms. Fountain Henderson stated that she received a notice from her neighbor, Allan Stichnote was going to have her arrested. She added that something is going on that has nothing to do with him and that he needs to mind his own business. Ms. Fountain Henderson continued to say that last month Percilia Jones complained about stalking and that she feels like he is stalking her also. Another resident made a comment and Ms. Fountain Henderson addressed the comment from the floor. She added that a lot of this stuff is a violation, saying that things that happen in executive session we hear it out here before the sun rises. Ms. Fountain Henderson added to Mayor Austin that she has passed around pictures of the crooked yellow lines, that are now peeling. Ms. Fountain Henderson said, that Mayor Austin has told William Kasehamer (Bill) to care of that and he did not take care of that. She went on to say, that the tree finally got picked up on Shannon and Jennings. Ms. Fountain Henderson added to Captain Cox that she would be getting with him, because she thinks that she may have another drug house on her street. She said thank you and stated that when she is talking, she should have her three minutes.

Robert A. Cotton of 7119 Garesche Ave., said that is he is coming before the council with some good news. Over the past month and a half, he has turned in complaints about illegal dumping and that Police Officer Bakula has taken care of it. He has found some of the offenders, tickets

have been written and some of those people have gone to court. Mr. Cotton continued to say that Officer Bakula has followed up with landlords that own multiple properties, specifically on Dawson, and within a couple of days those where cleaned up. Mr. Cotton stated that he is asking the Council to ask St. Louis County to put in a recommendation for Officer of the Month for Officer Bakula for the month of March. Mr. Cotton went on to say at 7045 Garesche multiple notice have been put up on the property and that the owner of the property has multiple properties within the City of Jennings. Mr. Cotton is asking the council to make him clean that property. He is also asking that the Council not give him an occupancy permit within the City of Jennings until he cleaned up the ones that have the problems. He said, we should not have to live next door to that.

David Kuechenmeister of 2021 Hord Ave. stated that he has been a resident of Jennings for fifty-five (55) years and that he has known Steve forever. He said he was wondering if the council could pass some kind of resolution or stiffen the fines in Jennings like they have in the state. He read from a state poster regarding fines for littering. He added that it might work and the reason he is asking is because of the businesses on the south side of West Florissant. There is enough trash behind Sadie's Bar and Grill, and other places back there, to fill a very large dumpster with trash. Mr. Kuechenmeister continued on saying that there is a bunch of other trash on Lena Ave. near Janet Ave. He said, that Rodney Epps knows about it. Mr. Kuechenmeister added that it is getting really bad with the dumping.

Mr. Kuechenmeister said, that there is a corporation called Raineth Properties, that owns one hundred and five (105) homes in Jennings. They have back taxes that need to be paid for MSD on those homes. He said, if they are not paid by a month this year, those homes will be put up on the auction block for St. Louis County. He continued saying that they owe \$75,000,000.00 worth of taxes in the whole city. He said, that there are enough taxes that have not been paid on just the 105 homes to hire two more teachers for Jennings School District.

Councilman Epps replied that he has already talked to Mike Vilmer about the trash behind Sadie's, the trash on Janet, and is going through the process to have it removed. He continued to say the process is what makes us look like we are not getting anything done, but legally that is the way we have to do it. Mr. Kuechenmeister made an inaudible comment. Mr. Alton responded that the code has a general penalty for something like illegal dumping up to \$1,000.00. The trick is, like with everything else, catching them and knowing who does it. The general penalty is there. Mr. Alton added that it is rarely enforced to that amount, but if they get them and they get in the court system they will have a price to pay.

Allen McDonnell of 9314 Scottdale Ave. stated that he loves before the election with all the "cow pies" being thrown around when someone can't respond. He continued saying to Mr. Alton that he enjoyed his article in the Post-Dispatch and he thought it was very informative. Mr. McDonnell went on to say that in response to the taxes being owed on properties that there is nothing that anyone here can do, that is up to county government, because of all the multi-jurisdictions. He said, if you want something done try and get a hold of Hazel Erby.

Mr. McDonnell stated that his reason for coming up today was because, he sent an email as a heads up to Mr. Johnson about issues on Scottdale Ave for research. One on Huiskamp Ave at 8924 there is a trailer that has been filled with trash and garbage for years not days, or months but years. He stated that you've got to be blind in one eye and not be able to see out of the other to miss it. He continued to say going down Huiskamp Ave. at 9104, former Councilwoman Brown has a derelict car in her drive way. He said, that she must have been to a real low-end camouflage school because she has some garbage bags and a couple of lawn chairs covering up part of the damage in the front, it doesn't work. Mr. McDonnell said, around the corner at 2704 High Ridge Ave., in the rear, that is if you go down Huiskamp Ave. and High Ridge Ave. and don't throw your front end out of alignment with all of the potholes on the street. He went on saying that the house has been in terrible condition for years, Councilman Stichnote has done a lot to try and get the property closed down but he has not had any luck. Mr. McDonnell added that next door at 2708 High Ridge Ave., there is the same thing, wood framing for a house, junk all over the front yard, side road and rear of the property, also the individual that lives there is a registered sex

offender. He added that, finally, across the street, at 2715 High Ridge Ave., the house is owned by a nine-time convicted sex offender. Mr. McDonnell said, it is out and out trash, the owner must have gone to the same low-end camouflage school that Ms. Brown went to, because he has plywood covering the front of the fence, but he neglected to cover the side, so you can see all of the trash and the dump around there. Mr. McDonnell went on to say that he did check with the St. Louis County Tax Records and he doesn't even have a mailing address in Jennings any more. He has a mailing address in Troy, Missouri now. Mr. McDonnell went on to say that he knows Mr. Johnson inherited the mess; it is Mr. Johnsons department now. Mr. McDonnell stated that he thinks the people in Building Department before Mr. Johnson took over were asleep at the switch.

Samuel Phillips of 8405 Carl Ave asked, if it was possible to get "no parking here to the corner" signs on Carl Ave and West Florissant Ave. because, customers from Express are parking right on the corner, and the strip mall customers park right on the corner. He stated that someone's car is going to get rear ended. He said, his car has almost been rear ended several times. Mr. Phillips stated that the most important reason is if we have a fire up that hill or on Ada Ave. first responders won't even be able to turn that corner. He said, we would lose five to seven minutes going up to McLaren Ave, coming around Ada Ave. to get to the fire. So, we need to get these cars from parking right on the corner on both sides of the street.

Councilman Epps clarified that Mr. Phillips thinks that parking would be okay at Carl Ave and West Florissant Ave, it just needs to be about two to three car lengths from the corner. Mr. Phillips agreed. Councilman Epps stated that they should be able to get a sign up with an arrow saying, "no parking from here to the corner."

Lorraine Clower of 5446 Helen Ave., thanked Councilwoman Roberts for going outside of her ward zone to look at some of the complaints in the fourth ward. She stated that Councilwoman Roberts drove around with her and took pictures of some of the concerns with the trash dumping. Ms. Clower stated that she really appreciates Councilwoman Roberts and thanked her again. She went on to say that some of the complaints that she has about the trash were from about three months ago. She stated that she came to the City Hall meeting, that she has called, and talked to Councilman Epps. She said, she tried to call the Street Department and talk to the supervisor Bill, but she never got any return call. Ms. Clower stated that her concern is that when a resident comes to City Hall, or there is a call in what, is the process for the resident to know that the unfinished concern has been completed. She asked, if there is something that could be put in the meeting about the follow up on complaints that have been made, especially when the resident comes to council meetings, and has a concern. She asked can it be shown that the complaint has been looked into; instead of coming to the Council Meetings and doing the complaints over and over. She stated that we (residents) feel uncomfortable that the concerns are not being addressed. She acknowledged that it is a possibility that the complaints may have been addressed. Ms. Clower said, sometimes the resident would like to know in the meeting that the complaints have been addressed. Ms. Clower continued saying her complaint with the Streets Department supervisor Bill is that when you call the Street Department number there is always a voicemail, and she never gets a response.

Ms. Clower then asked, what is the city doing as far as advertising and getting developers to come through the 4th Ward. She asked what some of the things are that are being done to address the 4th Ward being rebuilt. She went onto say that she would like to know some of these concerns tonight. She stated that Councilman Epps made a good point this evening, what is the process for the resident to feel like they are being heard.

Mayor Austin responded, that she knows some complaints come in and some of the department heads follow up with the complaints. So, she needs to know specifically which complaints are not being addressed. Mayor Austin advised Ms. Clower that she can call her and give her the information. Ms. Clower stated that she did come to the meeting a month ago to tell "you" (the Council) about some of the concerns and they were not addressed. She stated that is when she went outside her ward and called Councilwoman Roberts. She stated that she is doing what she has been asked to do, but the process needs to be looked at internally. Ms. Clower said, she is

coming to the Council Meetings and speaking out, and calling, still nothing is being done. Ms. Clower stated that as far as Mr. Johnson goes, if she calls and ask to speak with him about any concern he is going to respond back, as well as Margie, and even Councilman Epps will call back, every now and then. She stated that she doesn't want to put anyone down. Mayor Austin interjected that the complaints should start in the Building Department, that is the process and then the complaints go out. Mayor Austin clarified that some complaints would start with the City Clerk and she decides what department is supposed to get the complaint, then it is logged in the building department where Mr. Johnson is the Director. Ms. Clower asked when people call in does the Mayor look on the call-in sheet and see if those complaints or concerns have been addressed. Ms. Clower said, that she has done all those steps, and it took Councilwoman Roberts for her to get a response. Ms. Clower stated that when she drove around with Councilwoman Roberts that some of the trash and debris had been picked up. Ms. Clower stated that it shouldn't have taken that long, and that she should not have to step outside the box to get her complaints addressed.

Mayor Austin gave the floor to Mr. Johnson, he stated that in 4th Ward currently, we do have a developer. The developer has two entities, the main entity is called A Caring Plus foundation. A Caring Plus Foundation has made application to the Federal Home Loan Bank to receive a grant to participate further in the housing rehabilitation program for the 4th ward. Mr. McKinney is the owner of A Caring Plus Foundation. He has recently received a grant from Federal Home Loan Bank in the amount of \$750,000.00 for the next two years. That money will be utilized for 4th ward redevelopment. The project, and plans are now in place and we will be moving forward with that. We hope to see, along with the repair program that he is already operating, the new constructions should start sometime this fiscal year.

Mr. Johnson stated while he is up here that he would like to address Mr. McDonnell. He apologized for not sending the response back. Mr. Johnson stated that it took him sometime to pull together the history of the information he requested, but Mr. Johnson does have it. He stated, that he would be willing to sit down with Mr. McDonnell and talk to him about his request and follow up on the addresses mentioned on High Ridge. Mr. Johnson stated that he does have some concerns about those, he has sent some notices back when he was a field inspector, he would like to see what happened, he knows at one-point some things did get cleaned up or cleared away, and apparently, he is back to doing what he has normally done. Mr. Johnson said, that if anyone has any issues to please contact the building department that they would be glad to get on it right way and, try to address these critical issues. He went on to say there is a lot out there, and that anyone in any ward knows what the four inspectors are faced with. He added that he gets out in the field and does complaints to assist as often as he can, of course it is a lot of work. Mr. Johnson is asking you all to be patient with us, work with us, if we don't answer the phones call us back, he guaranteed that no rude conversation would be had out of his department.

Mayor Austin added that she often drives through the fourth ward and makes calls to Bill, and his department has come and picked up some things that are on the easement. She added that if the things are in someone's house, or yard that we can not do that. Mayor Austin stated that she has personally called for him to go up and down Garesche and pick up some things in the 4th ward.

Monthly Departmental Reports

Mayor Austin called for approval of the monthly departmental reports.

On the motion made by Councilman Epps and seconded by Councilman Wilson, the Council voted to approve the monthly departmental reports by the following roll call vote of council members in favor: Stichnote, Wilson, Dugger, Anderson, Roberts, R. Epps, C. Epps; none opposed; none abstained; Jones was absent.

Councilmember's Reports

Councilman Stichnote said, that on February 14th he and the Mayor had a chance to meet with the seniors at the Rec Center for their luncheon. He said, they did a really good job with the cooking, everyone enjoyed it, and all the tables were full. Councilman Stichnote went on to say that April 8th the Jennings Do-Dads are having a card shoot next door starting at one o'clock, that's on a Sunday.

Councilman Stichnote stated to William Kaeshamer (Bill), on Cozens near Halls Ferry there is a large pot hole that is getting larger. He thanked Bill for taking care of the two houses on Shannon that got cleaned up.

Councilman Stichnote went on to say that he knows that everyone has seen on T.V. about the shooting in Florida. He said, a lot of people, cities, and states are concerned about school safety. He added that he has talked to Captain Cox about it, and Jennings School District is in good shape. Councilman Stichnote added that the crime stats are down from last year by 21.9%. Councilman Stichnote thanked Captain Cox.

Councilman Wilson thanked everyone for coming out. He said, that it is a nice crowd today. He said, that he had a good time on Super Bowl Sunday with the residents from River Roads Manor, Jennings Place, and other 2nd Ward residents. Councilman Wilson stated that it was a good fellowship and that they were able to give out some good information, they also had guest speakers, and donated prizes. He said, that it is always good to have a fellowship, not just a sit-down meeting. Councilman Wilson believed that some of the residents that attended Super Bowl Sunday were also at the council meeting. Councilman Wilson stated that he had some good feedback from the Super Bowl Sunday fellowship and he appreciates them showing up.

Councilman Wilson asked Bill if the Street Department had gone to the street he asked about last month, with all the dirt. Bill confirmed Councilman Wilson was referring to Bagley Ave. Councilman Wilson agreed that he was. Bill stated that the Street Department has contacted the contractor about and the issue was dealt with. Bill added that apparently, the contractor is not keeping up with it good enough. Councilman Wilson said that the dirt was pretty bad. Bill replied that he would talk to the contractor again. Councilman Wilson advised that he would appreciate that, since that was his only 2nd Ward complaint and it is a repeat. Councilman Wilson stated that he would announce the municipal league meeting with the municipal league report. He thanked everyone again for coming, and said to have a good St. Patrick's Day and Easter; adding to enjoy your holiday.

Councilwoman Dugger thanked the residents over in Jennings Place. She said, they put on an excellent Black History program. It was really interesting, because the Jennings Place 2nd phase and the Jennings Place 1st phase got together, and they worked well with each other and had a wonderful Black History program. Councilwoman Dugger added that she just finished eating the food from the event today, because she brought a plate home. She stated that it was wonderful to see that community working together, thriving, and enjoying where they live. Councilwoman Dugger continued to say to Mr. Johnson that she noticed in his report that for River Roads that there is talk of development. She asked Mr. Johnson to give more information on phase three, and to let the Council and residents know if phase three would still be senior living.

Mr. Johnson stated that phase three at Jennings Place is on the table to be developed. He stated that it would still be senior living. Mr. Johnson said, however the concept this time around is to build more of the smaller villas, the six-plex buildings. He added that the plan this time around is to increase the number of villas. Mr. Johnson said, that is what is on the drawing board right now. Councilwoman Dugger asked Mr. Johnson if he knew how many of the six-plexus would be built, how many more residents could that hold. She stated that there is a waiting list of around six hundred or more people. Mr. Johnson replied, that it is an extremely high demand, he thinks that they are going to look at attempting to do about ten of the six-plex villas. Councilwoman Dugger confirmed that he is saying ten six-plexus. Mr. Johnson confirmed, stating that he thinks so, plus the three story. Councilwoman Dugger asked if that was still going to be done as well. Mr. Johnson agreed. Councilwoman Dugger said, ok that would still be the large building, and ten more of the villas. Councilwoman Dugger said that phase one is larger than phase two and asked

how many residents for phase three. Mr. Johnson, responded that they are all the same size, the same number of units in each building. Councilwoman Dugger stated, that she thought that they said that was different, and asked how many is in the big building. Mr. Johnson said, that he believes it to be fifty-four. Councilwoman Dugger said, so you are still talking about maybe one hundred and ten more people. Mr. Johnson confirmed. Councilwoman Dugger, commented that we can't narrow that list down anymore, that she was just saying that there are 600 people out there waiting and we are just talking about maybe one hundred and ten more families trying to get into that complex. Mr. Johnson responded, saying there is a strong demand, but those funds usually come through the Missouri Housing Development Corporation that's a tax and it is being kind of dried up right now. Councilwoman Dugger stated that she appreciated that because you know how rumors get around and they usually are kind of crooked and broken so she appreciates Mr. Johnson giving that information. She thanked Mr. Johnson, and then advised him that he is still on her list.

Councilwoman Dugger continued to say that what is going on is that we have been talking awhile about the fencing issue surrounding the Urban League. She acknowledged that Mr. Johnson was not at last weeks meeting, Councilwoman Dugger, stated that prior to that we had, had a meeting and Mr. Johnson was going to meet with the people at Urban League. She stated that Mike did not know at last months meeting what happened. Mr. Johnson, responded that they are currently seeking funding to get the fence done, it is the Urban Leagues proposal to put up a new section of fencing. Mr. Johnson stated that they have to submit that through their channels within the Urban League to get that done, and we will be notified immediately upon approval on whether or not they are going to receive funding to do the fence. They did repair the damaged section. Mr. Johnson said, there was also a question about the side-lighting. Councilwoman Dugger responded with yes. Mr. Johnson went on to say that he talked to the owners about the side-lighting. He said that the owners were going to make the repairs to the lights themselves, which meant renting a lift to get up to the lights, and change out the bulbs, and now the new bulbs and the old lights are not working together, so they contacted Ameren. He went on to say that he had an email-text this morning saying that they will be replacing all the light fixtures in the rear parking lot, Ameren is going to come out and do it and they are going to pay the monthly bill. Councilwoman Dugger responded, saying that you are waiting on their proposal on how they are going to get their funding for the complete fencing, Mr. Johnson agreed and stated, for Urban League. Councilwoman Dugger stated that whatever is repaired is not done correctly that she looked at it again today. Mr. Johnson agreed and said that it is a patch. Councilwoman Dugger replied that it is problematic. Mr. Johnson advised her that it is a fifteen to twenty-year-old fence. Councilwoman Dugger added that there are some pieces of it, where they call it the dog ears, then the other pieces, and missing pieces right in the same section. Councilwoman Dugger asked Mr. Johnson to keep her informed on when that is actually going to happen, because we have been working on that for a while. Mr. Johnson stated, yes as soon as he knows and asked if there is anything else. Councilwoman Dugger responded that is it on you.

She went on to say that on March 24, 2018 is the Easter Egg Hunt that Kiwanis, the City Civic Center and a lot of other commissions and organizations including the Jennings Alumni Association are pulling together, and she thinks that it is absolutely awesome that we are coming together to do this Easter Egg Hunt. Councilwoman Dugger stated that when she talked to Iris the other day that she was hoping that she could call a meeting together of all the groups so that everybody would know exactly what's going on. Councilwoman Dugger went on to say that she talked to the police, and fire and they are interested in joining in to make sure that this is a wonderful event so, if you have children, you know children, or have children on your block make sure that you tell them we are preparing a big function. The first part of it starts with Easter Breakfast with the bunny at the Civic Center and the next part goes to the park so we are looking forward to that and all of the organizations that are within the City that are coming together and working on that, so that is an awesome thing.

Councilwoman Dugger said, Mayor you just mentioned today in regard to the minutes that if we get them and we have any problems that we should contact you all and let you know what the problems are so that you can correct them. She continued to say so we meet last month and I sent out an email to you and to the Council requesting several things so I am a little perplexed

and that you asked us to call and I did reach out to get some information that I have not heard back from you on, basically the request to you and cc to the council has to do with information regarding the financial information about the after school program that was closed down by the state back in November. She stated that she wanted to know how long the fees were being collected, please verify the fee amount, where were the funds being deposited, how were expenses for the program paid for, meaning did the City or is the City paying out any money and out of what bank account, who was responsible for the financial transactions with the account, what budget line item from the recreation department shows the financial activity for the program, and any other pertinent financial information regarding the program. She also made a request for the council to receive a report from finance of all the businesses in Jennings who are delinquent with their taxes, both to us the city and the state. She stated she asked a couple of weeks ago that this be presented to the council prior to the council meeting, so that they would have time to review. Councilwoman Dugger continued saying that of course she wanted it in writing, that she didn't want to have to individually, eight of them walk into the finance department and request to look at that. She stated that she does know that that report is available because that is something that she worked on before because we were having some issues. Mayor Austin asked Councilwoman Dugger which report is available. Councilwoman Dugger responded the delinquent taxes piece that is available. Councilwoman Dugger added that she is not just asking for herself she is asking that the council get it, so they can understand what is going on with that. She stated that she also wanted to know; she called up because she was getting a lot of request for the newsletter. She stated that she talked to our clerk Teresa about it after finally getting her to return her call. Councilwoman Dugger went on to say that Teresa advised her that there was going to be some changes made to it, but she was wondering in the letter that she sent to the Mayor whether or not she could inform the council about what changes, because of course what prompted her is that they were asked months ago to turn in their reports for the newsletter and at the end of her report it says have a good summer, have a good fall, so if we haven't sent out the newsletter then I need to change that last sentence. Councilwoman Dugger reiterated that is what prompted her to call she then stated that she nor the council has received any information on what we are doing with the newsletter. Councilwoman Dugger said, that basically Teresa advised her that the Mayor was going in a different direction with the Council Reports, so she just wanted to make sure that the council was aware and how we are spending tax dollars to pay for whatever we were going to be doing. Councilwoman Dugger reiterated again, that she sent this information out and per the Mayors request again today is that you want us to call you. She stated that she did make sure the Mayor had it in writing. Councilwoman Dugger stated that she did not even receive an "ok I have received your email." She continued saying, that she is sure that the Mayor got it because she had the Clerk resend it. She concluded this portion of her report saying that we will wait to see what is going on with that.

Mayor Austin responded for clarity, that she received an email that went to all of the council and she is not going to respond to an email that goes to everyone. Sam Alton stated that this will also be addressed in closed session but, obviously when we start talking about emails being sent to a number of council members talking about city business, then you have to get into it, and it becomes a meeting, and you have to have an agenda, and so on and so forth, but the email will be addressed in closed session. Councilwoman Dugger stated that she wanted to clarify that she sent the email and simply cc'd the council, the request was to get the information to the council not via the email. Councilwoman Dugger added that you could have put that information in a report as requested in our boxes. There was no request for you to communicate; she stated that she understands very well, that you do not communicate through email with more than three council members because that would be considered a public meeting. Councilwoman Dugger stated that since she sent the email she did not receive a response saying received your email, on a separate email request, or answer. Councilwoman Dugger advised Sam Alton that she gets what he is saying but this is not a closed session request, this has nothing to do with personnel, this has nothing to do with legal, and this has nothing to do with real-estate the request that she made. She continued saying this simply is a request so that the public and the council knows how tax payer money is being allocated, and being used, that is what this request is, this is not a closed session request. Sam Alton replied that what you are asking about implicates matters that would be discussed in legal he stated again that he would explain that in closed session too.

Councilwoman Dugger asked if he was saying that the Mayor couldn't respond to her. Mr. Alton reiterated that he will tell her in closed session. Mayor Austin started to respond to the other item. Councilwoman Dugger said, excuse me Mayor and addressed Mr. Alton again asking him if you knew that why he didn't respond to her. She said that he has talked to her on the phone about stuff. Mr. Alton responded that he has he stated the he didn't respond, because nothing came of the email that he saw, and he intended to talk about it tonight to everybody. Councilwoman Dugger responded, no why didn't you let me know that there was an issue that we would possibly even need to talk about in closed session. Mr. Alton stated that is not something that he would normally call someone and inform them of. Councilwoman Dugger disagreed stating that it is because they have talked about those things before. Mr. Alton advised her that he has not talked about that email specifically, but they will talk about it tonight.

Mayor Austin addressed the issue with the funds in the Civic Center. She stated that we are still working on that and that will be given to everyone. She continued to say the second item with the delinquent taxes at this point right now it is not a priority for the Finance Department, she stated that we have been looking at the one that Councilwoman Dugger did in the past, the one that the Finance Director gave her probably around November or December. So, we talked about it with our attorney on how we can address those people who have delinquent taxes. When we finalize all of that, that will be given to the council.

Mayor Austin continued her response to Councilwoman Dugger advising her that we have been trying to do the newsletter for the last few months. She stated that she believes that she explained that to the council, that the person that does the newsletter has been working on the finance situation that we have going on in there, which she feels is/was more important. Mayor Austin went on saying a newsletter should be coming out in about two and half weeks. She stated that we are going to do 1,000 copies which would be approximately \$1,300.00. Mayor Austin added what we are going to do is post them in City Hall and some of the stores and we are going to have it posted online. She stated that she has asked people with emails to give us their emails and they could receive it that way. Mayor Austin said, that she looked at the quantity last year and it was 6,561 books made, at a total of \$2,971.00 and after speaking with some of the people a lot of them came back, so that was postage that was wasted which is why I made a decision to go with 1,000 this time. Mayor Austin advised as far as changing the format, after speaking with the person who does it I believe in the past each administration had their own format so what I am doing this year as far as wards, and having a lot of conversation and going back to you all to write something else I am posting what happened per ward, what improvements, if there is something in the Building Department, in the Street Department, so you will see pictures of that, if there is new development or businesses you will see that within your ward so that is the twist I am doing differently for this newsletter.

Councilwoman Dugger asked Mr. Alton was any of the Mayors response legal because that is simply what I was asking that it be sent out to us. She stated that she is still confused. Mayor Austin started to respond, Councilwoman Dugger interjected a simple respectful acknowledgement of the email first of all could have been done. Councilwoman Dugger added that this whole notion to find out whether or not we need to communicate via email with everybody and responding and that whole thing has nothing to do with it, the response is basically what I could have gotten two weeks ago. Councilwoman Dugger said, that if you are asking us to respond, or come in and get the information why is that the Mayor is not allowed to do that. Mr. Alton respond that he is not saying that the Mayor is not allowed to do it, depending on what the topic is, depending on how the email is worded, but again under the circumstances he wants to talk about that in closed session. Councilwoman Dugger interjected saying the things the Mayor just discussed are those closed session issues. Mr. Alton responded no. Councilwoman Dugger advised that is what she needed the response for.

Councilwoman Anderson, started by saying good evening to everyone. She stated that there was a third ward meeting on Saturday February 17, 2018, herself and Councilwoman Roberts. She stated that they had some questions. To Captain Cox they were complaining about the ordinance 32-9 Playing in the street of any kind, they want to know can this be enforced whenever they call. Residents are saying that they called the police, and the police say they can't do anything about

it. Captain Cox replied that they can enforce it, he stated that they like to give them warnings first, kids playing in the street, but if it continues to be a nuisance then the officer will probably talk to the parents and try and get it corrected that way. Councilwoman Anderson stated that the next question is, what is the protocol for stolen cars being towed if you can get in touch with the owner. Captain Cox responded what we do when we recover a stolen auto we have it towed for it to be processed because we want to make the arrest with the carjacking's and car thefts that is one thing that we are up in is the motor vehicle thefts this year, we are already up to 19 and we are in the second month so we would like for those to be processed. Councilwoman Anderson asked since the car is stolen is the owner then subject to paying the tow fee. Captain Cox stated that he has nothing to do with the tow fees, if the owner is contacted and they want to pick their car up we are not going to deny the vehicle owner to get their vehicle, that's not what we do. He added if they refuse to prosecute then we are out of there anyway so that is not our decision. Councilwoman Anderson asked so, what is the protocol do you call them and ask them to pick up or do you take it in to process. Captain Cox said, that their process is to take it in, if we recover a stolen auto we have it towed it goes to the lot. Councilwoman Anderson asked is this the police lot. Captain Cox stated that STS is the tow company we utilize here in the City of Jennings. Councilwoman Anderson asked, why the owner is responsible for paying because you all wanted to tow it to process it. Captain Cox stated he knows what she is talking about, but they have zero to do with that. He stated that he is guessing it is an insurance deal because St. Louis County Police Department doesn't get any of that money when the vehicles are towed. He added that we simply are towing the vehicle to complete the investigation, the car was stolen by somebody, we try to get physical evidence from that vehicle so that we can complete our investigation as far as the vehicle being towed that is not a police issue, as far as going to the lot and asking for fees. Councilwoman Anderson asked when you say process you are talking about fingerprints. Captain Cox responded yes. Councilwoman Anderson said, can't they fingerprint on the scene. Captain Cox advised, at times if they are available but a lot of times they are out working a burglary, homicide, so on and so forth, the car is towed and then the ID detectives (crime scene detectives) then go to the tow lot to process the vehicle. Councilwoman stated, so if you guys are busy and my car is stolen you are going to tow it to get it processed and I have to pay to get my car. Captain Cox stated we are not going to leave the car out there if it's a stolen auto. Councilwoman Anderson interjected no if you call me. She asked isn't it protocol to call the people and say we found your car. Captain Cox said yes and if they say the are coming to get the car and they can get there in a reasonable amount of time then obviously the officer is going to allow that. Sgt. Perez interjected that is if it is stolen out of Jennings, he continued to say if we have a stolen car that is stolen out of St. Louis City for instance that is their decision if they are going to process that car so nine times out of ten we are going to notify them and tell them we recovered your stolen auto, and they are going to instruct us to tow that vehicle, and they will notify the victim of the stolen auto. Sgt. Perez continued saying that if we have a victim in Jennings of a stolen auto that our officers are going to come across sure we can call them and say I am at West Florissant and Jennings Station with your stolen auto it's going to take our crime scene four hours to get here to process it, do you just want to come pick it up and not worry about processing that car we will release it to them, but if we have a car that is stolen out of South County we can't have that officer sit two to three hours waiting on a victim to come pick up their car because that would take that officer out of service. Captain Cox added that is a case management issue, if it is not our case and they want to handle it a different way then that's on them. Captain Cox added that he read a report today that a car was stolen out of St. Louis City we found it in Jennings, St. Louis called and said hey the person is calling to come pick their car up and they came and picked their car up. Councilwoman Anderson stated that is what she is accustomed to so there must have been some other circumstance involved in that but if you find my car and you call me and I will come pick up my car I don't want you to tow my car if it is operable. Captain Cox agreed.

Councilwoman Anderson stated to Mr. Johnson when home owners move into the Third Ward that she and Councilwoman Roberts would like for him to notify them so that they can welcome them. She went on to say as part of a renters move in, you know we want to get to know everybody all of the renters as well as homeowners, but definitely the renters.

Councilwoman Anderson said, to Mr. Bill that they are getting complaints that the residents are calling up to the Public Works and the phone is not being answered. She asked Bill since complaints come through the building department, you all don't answer the phone? Bill advised she should be answering the phone, he stated that they have an administrative assistant now.

Councilwoman Roberts started by saying good evening it is good to see everyone she opened with a quote saying that "We must accept infinite disappointment, but we must never lose infinite hope." -Martin Luther King Jr. she stated that she wanted to give a quote by him because it is black history month and she wanted to acknowledge all of the people who paved the way for us to be here and in this segregated space and share this time and having some freedoms that we have today.

Councilwoman Roberts stated that she wanted to talk more about the renter's outreach Councilwoman Anderson talked about with Mr. Johnson. She stated that when we had our third ward meeting we talked about many complaints people complaining about the renters in the area, and we said that they are here, renters are here so what is the solution. So, we talked about how we wanted to do some activities that would be more like renters outreach, so the reason and the rational being asking for people who move into the Third Ward and apply for occupancy permits we wanted to greet them, not only the renters but if they are home owners we would greet them, but we wanted to have a way to say welcome to Jennings period, and welcome to the 3rd Ward so, if they are renters, give them information about things we are doing. One thing about people, if they have a sense of belonging, if they feel like they know someone, that typically encourages someone to have a sense of accountability we know its not like a silver bullet but definitely want to try some ways some outreach so people have a sense of belonging to help with things like littering, to help people keep their properties up. We wanted to try that for that reason.

Councilwoman Roberts stated that she wanted to thank St. Louis County, specifically Sgt. Perez who has been in contact with her over the last few weeks with the illegal dumping campaign that we want to try, a plan which would include cameras, and other things that we are trying to address other issues in the area. She stated that we do have a tentative date that maybe Wednesday. She said that they are still deciding when they are going to meet, but that meeting would include Detective Fasson and she didn't know if anyone else was included. Sgt. Perez stated that he reached out to John from Courts and he brought to the table some really excellent ideas on what he thought, he gave his opinion on somethings, Sgt. Perez added that he was going to bring that to the table and hopefully John would be able to meet with them as well and share some of his ideas and we will go from there. Sgt. Perez went on to say it is definitely something that we need to tackle that it is an epidemic in the city, he stated that he is looking forward to getting started. Councilwoman Roberts thanked him again for the correspondence and the all-around being transparent about what is happening throughout the communications.

Councilwoman Roberts said, she has a question for Henry and it is not rhetorical she does want to know, she knows when she sends complaints that they follow up via email or they will leave something in her box. She would like a more organized way of communication, she would like to know if it is possible to have a standing time to meet or talk to him on the phone, so if she has this folder that he gave her then she knows that Larry sent her something a follow up. Councilwoman Roberts said that she appreciates that, she thinks this a good initial way to say this is what we are doing, but then the follow up for this. She went on saying that she will get the initial complaints and they say ok we have done this and then there is a next step and so what's next. She said so if we could have an arranged time where maybe perhaps we talk monthly for about thirty minutes and she can go through a list, like she called him that one time. Councilwoman Roberts asked if Mr. Johnson remembered the time when she called him and went through a list and was able to ask what's going on with 12345 Main and he told her that it was in this status. She stated that gave her the ability to contact Bill with the properties that she was told were set for abatement and then they were able to do that. Councilwoman Roberts said, that she is trying to get some kind of systematic way to follow up after Mr. Johnsons follow ups. She asked again if they could arrange a time for like thirty minutes for her to run through a list and ask what is going on with this property and go from there. Mr. Johnson responded absolutely.

Councilwoman Roberts asked what the process is for Public Works and Building stating that she is curious to know if they are driving down the street and they see an issue, for example a pothole or trash, whatever the issue maybe. She asked do they report those things? She stated that she knows that it may work different from Building than it does for Public Works, but we just wanted to know how the departments are reporting things that they are also seeing as they ride around the city. Bill responded that Public Works gets responses or notifications from the Building Department Inspectors that there is a pothole at such and such a location, they also let them know if there is dumping at a site. He stated that they give them a pretty good heads up on things and that there is communication between the departments. Councilwoman Roberts stated that her question is if an employee from Public Works is riding down the street and they see trash at lets say 123 Main are they making reports to the Building Department saying there is trash at 123 Main, does Public Works actually make reports to the Building Department she stated that she knows the inspectors are making reports when they see things in the field, she added that she is assuming they are, but she wants to know if Public Works employees are making reports when they see issues. Bill responded that they are. Councilwoman Roberts asked Mr. Johnson if that was a fair assumption of what happens with the inspectors, if the inspectors see things they come back and put it in to the system. Mr. Johnson replied that they don't necessarily have to come back they have tablets with them that they can enter the information to the website. Mr. Johnson went on to say that they get things a variety of ways, inspectors have an obligation when they are driving to an inspection or going to their area that they are assigned to patrol, for example if he is driving through Ward 1 and see somethings, he is making notes and calling the inspector so that it can go in the system. Councilwoman Roberts stated that she hears that the Building Department has an obligation but wants to know if Public Works has an obligation or is it discretionary. Mr. Johnson stated that Bill is the Director and he says his people do, do that, and along with our inspection staff and the other complaints we receive we get complaints from them and notifications of things that we need to enter into the system. He stated that he doesn't know how often they see stuff and are reporting it. His assumption is that they are generally on their way to take care of an issue or address an issue, where the inspectors are required. Councilwoman Roberts asked with the inspectors, is it a part of an assignment how does that look in terms of a work week for an inspector to actually be in the field making reports. Mr. Johnson advised that each inspector is assigned an area, regular assigned periods where they do inspections for the housing program. He said, again that each inspector is given a daily assignment to go do either residential inspections, they may do two or three of those, and they are assigned to a ward or an area. Mr. Johnson went on to say right now we are understaffed so we have two inspectors doubling up on areas, since that is the case anywhere they go any inspector already knows whatever you see you make a note and find out if it is in the system, if it is not in the system the inspector should be putting it in the system, or giving it to the inspector who is over that area so that they can put it in the system. Mr. Johnson continued to say since that's the case anywhere they go, any inspector already knows whatever you see you make a note and find out if it is in the system, if it is not in the system the inspector that has that area if you are driving through someone else's area you tell them so that they can make sure it is in the system, you can call it back in to the office clerk, permits clerk, Margie, or Taundra can put it in to the system we try and cover the bases with wherever we go whatever we see we make a notation of it if we don't actually physically stop and enter it then at some point during the course of that day what you see should go into the system so that we can follow up on it. Mr. Johnson stated it should be mentioned that there is a legal process for everything that we do, because just for example, if he is driving past Joe's house and he sees ten bags at the curb at his house, its close enough where Mr. Johnson is going to call Joe first and tell him that he has ten bags of trash outside his house, or send him a notice. Mr. Johnson went onto say that he can't just send it to Bill for them to go clean it up, because Joe has legal right to due process, if it is an occupied property and he fails to remove the ten bags and doesn't take care of it then he would be issued a ticket, that ticket on average takes four to six weeks for him to get a court date, and when he goes to court that doesn't mean that it is going to be picked up that day. Mr. Johnson said, that if we get to the point where we are we are sending him a ticket the assumption is that he is not going to clean it up and that is why we wrote the ticket. Mr. Johnson went on saying that he was going to explain to someone there tonight that had complained about a property that it is in court. He stated that it took forty-five days from when the complaint was made for it to get to

court, and once its in court the court date isn't until the 27th of March, that looks like two months where we didn't do anything, but the notice went out, the response was made, there may be hundreds of those cases, it may be two or three months. He stated, that we are looking at a new process that has been discussed with legal, that even on occupied properties, if you fail to comply we can go in and clean it up and put a lien on the property. Councilwoman Roberts stated that it would be helpful to have a chart or some kind of guide to help us understand the process. She said, that she knew for the grass cutting you had to give a seven-day notice, but for certain things it seems like they need to go to court. She stated that it would be helpful to know how many days do you have for a notice for trash removal and if there is no response then what happens next? She would like time frames for different issues that are happening around the city, like grass cutting, trash removal, what are the processes on being able to address those issues. Mr. Alton interjected and said that he will send Councilwoman Roberts the information, he went on to say that generally speaking everything comes with a ten day notice whatever the case may be, and then if that notice goes unabated and they don't do anything then, the housing department will go back and write them a citation, then that court date will be maybe 30 days out, they will appear in court just like Mr. Johnson said, they will either have it abated or plead not guilty and they will get a new court date or set it for trial and if they want to they can send it to St. Louis county and then you are talking a whole new set of time lines. Mr. Alton stated that no one here has any control over the time lines except the Judge in our court and then once it goes to the County then there is no control over it at all because it is up to a different Judge in the Circuit Court. Mr. Johnson added that it has been his idea and they are working meeting with the councilmembers of each ward and discussing and talking about the efforts in the wards and meet with the people in the wards to, to talk about some of the issues, he said, that is on the table but he is waiting on the department to be fully staffed.

Councilwoman Roberts stated that she wanted to follow up about 7045 Garesche Ave, she asked for any update that Mr. Johnson may have. Mr. Johnson responded that he personally went to 7045 Garesche Ave, along with Sgt. Perez and several other officers, the owner of the property who we felt was less than a Steller landlord was arrested he was charged, some of the other properties; Officer Bakula has been a Godsend, he really goes above and beyond with trying to assist us with these troubled properties, he went by the other properties of that particular owner and wrote several other citations and tickets have been issued against the owner for flagrant violations of moving people in without an occupancy inspection. Mr. Johnson stated that the properties are actually unfit, the occupant that was in the property has been removed from the property, we posted the property, it is currently waiting to go to court, the property currently should be unoccupied and secured by the owner. He went on to say that the owner did get released on bond. Mr. Johnson stated they will be following up on it to make sure that it doesn't reoccur. Councilwoman Roberts thanked Mr. Johnson for tonight and all the work that he has been helping her with.

Councilwoman Roberts stated that she does have two complaints 5561 Sapphire Ave she knows they sent out some notices about mattresses in the backyard they have actually moved the mattresses from the backyard to the front yard at the curb area. Mr. Johnson stated that the enforcement arm is at work they had them clean it up and advised them that they can come to City Hall to get some stickers to pick up large trash items once a week. Councilwoman Roberts stated that she saw them last Wednesday and she didn't say anything because she knew trash in that area was either Thursday or Friday, she stated that today they are still there.

Councilwoman Roberts said, at 2701 the trash in the rear, she said that she was sent an update but needed clarification because there was just a check mark by it. She stated that she will send Mr. Johnson an email to get clarification on that one.

Councilwoman Roberts advised, that she does have questions for Public Works. She stated that she reads the monthly reports and it is bulleted like three to four things. She stated that she is just really trying to see the nature of the work. Councilwoman Roberts stated that her one question is how many employees does Public Works have? Bill responded 17. Councilwoman Roberts stated that when she reads some of the things; she then read from Public Works monthly report. She asked how the seventeen employees are being strategically placed as far as work

load, she added that we just saw pictures of multiple employees; she stated that she is not there so she is not making any assumptions on how much needs to be done, but she thinks in terms of transparency when looking at the list its like a few items per week, so her question is how are the 17 split up or delegated to assignments for maximum efficiency? Bill replied that was addressed in the Public Works committee meeting and the request was to have a daily accomplishment list. Bill added that, the list has been started so next months will be at least four pages.

Councilwoman Roberts asked about street cleaning, saying she knows in the city there are signs that we are going to street clean don't have your car here while we are street cleaning she stated that here she doesn't see those signs. Councilwoman Roberts asked how as a city are we maximizing the amount of streets that we are able to clean by giving occupants, or residents fair enough timeframes to have their cars out of the streets, so that the streets can be cleaned on those days, and not a part is missing because there is a car there. Bill responded that it is on the website we have what days the sweepers are in each ward. Bill said that he is not going to say that it goes out there everyday because now we have a vacuum broom and it requires the use of water the one we had before was a mechanical broom it did not require water so if it is below freezing its not going anywhere. Councilwoman Roberts clarified what she is hearing is that the way that owners are notified that there is going to be street cleaning is they have to look at the website to ascertain that information. Bill confirmed and said that Monday is Ward 1, Tuesday is Ward 2, Wednesday is Ward 3, Thursday is Ward 4, and Friday is saved for the business district. Councilwoman Roberts stated that she thinks that is something for us to think about in terms of the City, that if we have street cleaning and the residents are only able to know by website, that is going to miss a lot of residents in terms of being able to know to move their car. She stated that is something that she thinks that we should think about communicating with people, what days street cleaning is going to take place so that the streets can be cleaned thoroughly.

Councilwoman Roberts said to Sam Alton she wants to make sure that this is closed verses open. She asked if we have elected officials that need to pay taxes how is that dealt with. Mr. Alton responded that information is available on the St. Louis County Property website, so arguably that is public, it is not implicating anything legal it is public knowledge, he stated that he would have to think about it, but he does not think that it is closed. Mr. Alton stated that is politics that is open, he added that any violation of maintenance code a notice goes out giving them not less than 24 hours but up to 30 days to abate it, and if they don't then they get a ticket after that, and then it's in the court system that is a violation of any section of the property maintenance code. Councilwoman Roberts asked if they get 30 days. Mr. Alton replied that they get not less than 24 hours but up to 30 days, he stated the bottom line is they get up to 30 days, he said that he had said 10 before but it is 30 days. Mr. Alton went on saying that once it is in the court system it can go on for months. Councilwoman Roberts stated that with transparency purposes that she knows that it is important taxes are spent for various things that we need in the City and she thinks for elected officials they should be current on their taxes, she stated that she has this, but she is not sure if it is being disputed but she knows that Councilman R. Epps and Councilwoman C. Epps have real-estate property taxes for 2016 and 2017. Councilman R. Epps advised that it was being disputed. Councilwoman Roberts said, for transparency purposes she thinks that it is important for everyone to be held accountable in terms of what we are supposed to do. So, she did want to bring that attention. Councilwoman Roberts stated that is her report and said that it was good to see everyone and have a wonderful month.

Councilman R. Epps stated that we are dealing with trash like we where dealing with grass. He said, we are going to have both trash and grass together real soon. Councilman R. Epps said that dealing with the trash there are two things that are happening, you have illegal dumping, and trash on people's property. He added with the trash on people's property that's where the legal part comes in, you really can't go on their property and remove the wash machine, lawn mower, or any other junk they may have around there. Councilman Wilson stated that he is asking the City again something that he thinks is feasible to do. He stated that they city has temporary and regular workers with Public Works, he would like to free up two workers one day a month and have them pick up the trash. He said, the dumping is not going to stop. Councilman Epps went on to say the people that are leaving trash on their property, where we can't go up there and take it off all we can do is cite them. He said, when they are cited we see that might end up being

two months. He said, since we have the man power lets take two of the workers one day a month and let them ride around the area and clean some of this trash up. Councilman R. Epps stated that he asked the Mayor about his plan earlier. He thinks his plan is something that the City can do, it won't put a total dent in the trash problem, but the City won't have the mess that the City currently has. He stated that he doesn't know how the Council feels about his plan, but the Council has to do something. He said, the dumping is not going to stop, his plan won't get rid of all of the trash, but it will clear up some of this mess that the City has. Councilman R. Epps stated that he is asking the Mayor and the City Council again to think about his plan and let it happen, one day a month won't kill the City manpower wise, but it could make this City a nicer place to live in. He said, hopefully next month we have a plan in place because if we get this grass with the trash its just going to be a total mess. Councilman R. Epps said, as fast as people are calling the Councilmembers to report anything the Councilmembers are calling it in. Councilman R. Epps stated that as soon as he hangs up the phone from the barber shop from people calling in to report something, he is calling Jim, Henry, Marge and they are calling, and it is still not enough, because the process is to slow. He went on to say unless we can legally speed up the process which he doesn't think we can, we need to help out and try and clean up around here a little bit.

Councilwoman C. Epps said, that she was going to thank Jim because there was a really bad accident at Janet and West Florissant a couple of weeks ago. She stated that she doesn't know if you all heard it but at about two or three o'clock in the morning. She wanted to thank Jim for getting up the debris, but he is not here.

Committee Reports

Mayor Austin gave the floor to Chairman R. Epps for the Ways and Means Committee report. Chairman Epps stated that he is the Chair of the committee along with committee members Councilwoman Jones, Councilman Wilson, and Councilwoman Anderson. He stated that the Mayor, City Clerk, Deletra Hudson, and Deputy City Clerk, Kareen McNeal, are at the committee meetings. Chairman Epps stated that the committee has been meeting every week. He read the meeting minutes from January 29th, February 12th, February 20th and February 26th.

Mayor Austin gave the floor to Chairwoman Anderson for the Public Works report. Chairwoman Anderson stated that the Public Works Committee meeting was held on February 1st. She said, that present was herself the Chairwoman, Mayor Austin, Councilwoman C. Epps, Councilman Stichnote, Councilwoman Dugger, Deletra Hudson, and William (Bill) Kashamer, the meeting was called to order at 6:02. Chairwoman Anderson said, they discussed trash being picked up at Main and McLaren (at that time the trash had been picked up). Public Works will be working with business regarding trash in front of their establishments, no littering signs will be put up in hot spots throughout Jennings, not just in the 3rd Ward, cameras will be put up in various places, where illegal dumping is going on when we get everything set up, and Public Works will be keeping a daily log of what they are doing. Chairwoman Anderson asked Bill if he could email the daily logs weekly to her. She said, that way when they are getting, complaints it will be easy for her to say where they are with it, it won't look like they don't know what is going on.

Building Committee Chairwoman Jones was absent no report was given.

Parks Committee Chairman Stichnote reported that there was no meeting.

Municipal League Councilman Wilson reported that the next Municipal League meeting is March 22nd at 6:30 pm at the Eagan Civic Center in Florissant, Missouri

Planning Commission Councilman Stichnote reported that there was no meeting

Policy Committee Chairwoman Jones arrived at 9:02 pm and advised there was no Policy Committee Meeting.

Solid Waste Committee Councilwoman C. Epps reported that there was no meeting

Beautification Councilwoman Dugger stated that there was no meeting

Youth and Senior Commission it was stated that the representatives for those commissions left.

Legal Business

Mayor Austin stated an ordinance of the City of Jennings, Missouri, repealing and replacing section one of Ordinance number 2271 pertaining to compensation of certain municipal employees and step/longevity increase in compensation.

Mayor Austin asked for a motion for the first reading Councilman R. Epps made a motion for the first reading seconded by Councilman Wilson. Councilwoman Dugger stated that she has a question. She asked if could be explained to the tax-payers, herself and the council why we are looking into this. Councilwoman Dugger stated that the City faced this issue about a year or so ago, and she needs to know. She stated what they found before was an employee who is now retired is the only one who had that 15-year longevity in their salary. She continued to say no one else had it but it was showed that they had been paid that amount of money. She asked that it be explained why we are adding it now. Mayor Austin responded that this was one of the recommendations from the auditor that it was done, but not actually put in to an ordinance and that is why we are doing it, so that it can be done right. Councilwoman Dugger stated that it was done but it was done for one employee, so those employees that are now here for twenty years will we back pay them their fifteen years? She reiterated that it was just one person and we didn't have it as an ordinance it was not the City's law for the fifteen years, but that one employee did get it and the Ways and Means committee was aware of that. Councilwoman Dugger said, if you are asking for this now, and you say your trying to make it right, will those people that did not get it before because only one person got it. She stated that she just wants to make sure that the council understands that. Mayor Austin replied that according to the findings of the City Clerk they have not seen anyone else that was supposed to get the increase. Mayor Austin asked if Councilwoman Dugger knew of someone else during her term that was supposed to get the increase but did not. Councilwoman Dugger asked Mayor Austin does she have employees that have been here more than 15 years. Mayor Austin responded yes. Councilwoman Dugger asked Mayor Austin does she have employees that have been here 20 years. Mayor Austin responded yes. Councilwoman Dugger stated that ones that have been here 20 years were not paid the 15-year increase but there was one employee that was paid the 15-year increase and that is not something that we had in place. Councilwoman Jones asked if it is possible to talk about this in closed session so that the employee names can be used. She asked Mr. Alton if that was legal. Mr. Alton advised Councilwoman Jones that it was, just make a motion to amend the agenda to discuss this in closed legal session.

Councilwoman Dugger made a motion to amend this agenda and discuss this ordinance in closed session which was seconded by Councilman Wilson. Councilman Epps stated that there was already a motion and a second on the floor that needs to be rescinded or addressed. Mayor Austin agreed and gave a recap of what took place. Mr. Alton stated that whoever made the motion would need to rescind the motion if that is what they want to do. Councilman R. Epps stated that you can vote on this and still deal with it in closed session. Mr. Alton agreed. There was overlapping conversation. Mayor Austin called for roll call

On the motion for the first reading made by Councilman R. Epps and seconded by Councilman Wilson. There was the following roll call vote in favor; Stichnote; opposed; Jones, Wilson, Dugger, Anderson, Roberts, R. Epps, C. Epps; none were absent or abstained.

On the motion made by Councilwoman Dugger and seconded by Councilwoman Jones to discuss this ordinance in closed session by the following vote; Stichnote, Jones, Wilson, Dugger, Anderson, Roberts, R. Epps, C. Epps; none opposed; none were absent or abstained.

Mayor Austin stated that we have no unfinished business and we would be moving on to new business. The approval of the appointment of Judge Duepner for a four-year term due to expire in 2022. Councilwoman C. Epps made the motion, which was seconded by Councilman Wilson. Councilwoman Dugger stated that she has a question, that there is some discussion that needs to be had about this. She asked if he is an employee. Mr. Alton stated that he would be a part

time employee. Councilwoman Dugger responded that we normally discuss employee business in closed session. She stated that she would also like to take this to closed session because there are some questions. Mr. Alton stated that if you are going to discuss the particulars of the Judge or his employment, then yes it would go to closed session. If you are just going to vote to renew his term, that would be why it is in open. He stated that it is up to you all, but again you have a motion on the floor. Councilwoman Jones stated that she thought the terms had been dropped but was advised that according to state statute it is still there. Mr. Alton stated that it was also in our code.

On the Motion made by Councilwoman C. Epps and seconded by Councilman Wilson, council voted to appointment Judge Duepner for a four-year term due to expire in 2022 by the following roll call vote; Stichnote, Wilson, R. Epps, C. Epps, in favor; Jones, Dugger, Anderson, Roberts opposed; none were absent or abstained; Mayor Austin voted in favor of the appointment of Judge Duepner for a four-year term to break the tie.

Mayor Austin moved to the approval of the appointment of Gary Johnson to the Planning Commission. Councilman R. Epps made the motion to appoint Gary Johnson to the Planning Commission which was seconded by Councilman Wilson. Councilwoman Dugger said, that she had a question. She stated that she would like Mr. Gary Johnson to come up and give a little bit of his background because it looks like the City is entering into some development possibilities and that the planning commission is key to that. Along with that, they are a recommending body to the City. Gary Johnson stated that he was a graduate of Harris Stowe State University with a degree in Urban Planning. His education background is in Urban Planning, stratification, urban renewal, and even space. He stated that he owns a few properties that he is renovating and things like that. Councilwoman Dugger asked if that entailed reading the blue prints, and zoning. Mr. Gary Johnson responded its like redevelopment, and using resources throughout the community, coming up with plans to use space, things like that. She asked if he was familiar with the architectural drawings. Mr. Gary Johnson advised that he is not an architect. Councilwoman Dugger asked if he is familiar with how to follow along, read, and understand planning and zoning, and where to reference the codification on how to walk through that process. Mr. Gary Johnson advised again that he is not an architect. Councilwoman Dugger stated that there are some processes that are involved in planning with the Planning Commission, which they will hopefully train you on, but they haven't in the past. She stated that she wanted to know what his background was and what he was bringing to the City that can help us. Mr. Gary Johnson stated that he is bringing innovative ideas as far as 21st century technology skills. He is bringing thoughts from a younger generation. Councilwoman Jones expressed her excitement. Mr. Gary Johnson stated that currently he is a history teacher and is looking to transform out of that, but his degree is in Urban Planning. Councilwoman Dugger stated that is good, because he is young and having that kind of background, and foresight, and vision is what we are hoping to bring into the city and that is what she wanted to know.

On the motion made by Councilman R. Epps and seconded by Councilman Wilson the council voted to appoint Gary Johnson to the Planning Committee by the following roll call vote; Stichnote, Jones, Wilson, Dugger, Anderson, Roberts, R. Epps, C. Epps; none opposed; none were absent or abstained

Mayor Austin moved to the approval of the monthly bills, on the motion made by Councilman R. Epps and seconded by Councilwoman C. Epps the monthly bills where approved by the following roll call vote; Stichnote, Jones, Wilson, Anderson, Roberts, R. Epps, C. Epps; none opposed; none were absent; Dugger abstained

The Council voted on the motion made by Councilwoman C. Epps and seconded by Councilwoman Jones for closed session, legal, real-estate and personnel (RSMO 610:021-1,2,3) by the following roll call vote; Stichnote, Jones, Dugger, Anderson, Roberts, R. Epps, C. Epps; none opposed; Wilson was absent; none abstained

Mayors Report

Mayor Austin thanked the councilmembers who are listening to the concerns of the residents and trying to make solutions for those concerns. She went on to say that they had a Business Watch meeting and maybe 23 business that came on that Friday. They talked about a lot of safety issues, things that they were doing that other business could possibly do. They talked about security issues and solutions, along with the lighting that maybe around their buildings. Some talked about cameras. There was someone there to talk to the business about security and cameras if they need them. The businesses were also given two signs, to put in their windows. One of the signs says, "The Business Watch". The businesses that have cameras also got a sign that says, "You are being watched". The signs were given out in the hopes to prevent some of bad or illegal things from happening. Mayor Austin stated that she wanted to mention again Mr. Theodore Wright, who has been a resident in the City of Jennings for 44 years, passed over the weekend his visitation will be on Wednesday February 28th at Ozella Fosters Funeral Home located at 3619 Finney from 3:00 until 7:00. Mayor Austin advised Councilman R. Epps that they would talk further with Bill about having someone to do the pickup. She is sure that it would be possible to have some one go through once a month to pick up the trash. Mayor Austin stated they are noticing that there is a lot of dumping. She just wanted the residents to know that they are working hard again, not just in the fourth ward, there are problems in all the wards. She said, they are trying to address that also.

Mayor Austin called for a five-minute break before closed session.

Closed Session:

Closed Session – Legal, Personnel (RSMO 610:021-1, 3)

After a brief recess, the City Council members were all present and met in closed session. Also present were the Interim City Attorney, Sam Alton, City Clerk, Deletra Hudson, and Deputy City Clerk, Kareen McNeal.

The following actions were taken:

PERSONNEL

Hire Temporary Recreation Center Director

On the Motion made by Councilwoman Jones and seconded by Councilman R. Epps the City Council approved the recommendation of Mayor Austin to hire Willie Brandon as the Temporary Recreation Director for the Civic Center at the annual rate of \$41,223.00 (\$21.14 per hour). The recommendation was approved by the following roll call vote: Stichnote, Jones, Wilson, Dugger, Anderson, Roberts, R. Epps, C. Epps; none absent, voting against, or abstaining; on further discussion the Temporary Recreation Center Director will be an Independent Contactor/at-will employee, while the City conducts a search for a search for a permanent director, pending the background check, drug test of Mr. Brandon.

Hire part-time Site Monitors

On the motion made by Councilwoman Dugger and seconded by Councilman R. Epps the City Council approved the recommendation of Mary Austin to hire Anthony Baker Sr., Lawrence Thomas, and Jasmine Richardson as part time Site Monitors with Caleb Bostic, Daija Glover, MyKinzi Roy, and Antonio McNeal as alternate hires. The recommendation was approved by the following roll call vote: Stichnote, Jones, Wilson, Dugger, Anderson, Roberts, R. Epps, C. Epps; none absent, voting against, or abstaining

Hire Economic Development Specialist

On the motion made by Councilman R. Epps and seconded by Councilwoman C. Epps the City Council approved the recommendation of Henry Johnson, Director of Housing and Economic Development, and Mayor Austin to hire Myra Randle for the position of Economic Specialist. The recommendation was approved by the following roll call vote: Stichnote, Jones, Wilson, R. Epps, C. Epps; none absent; Dugger, Anderson, Roberts, voting against; none abstaining

Legal

Option Agreement to Purchase Communications Easement

Sam Alton reviewed the option agreement to purchase easement. He advised the council that he is still working on the agreement.

Hochschild, Bloom & Company LLP to do a Special Audit

On the Motion made by Councilwoman Dugger and seconded by Councilwoman Jones the council approved the hiring of Hochschild, Bloom & Company LLP to do a special audit on the After-School Program at a rate of not more than \$100.00 per hour not to exceed 32 hours. The audit would start from the start of the After-School Program. The recommendation was approved by the following roll call vote: Jones, Wilson, Dugger, Anderson, Roberts; none absent; Stichnote, R. Epps, C. Epps, voting against; none abstaining

At 11:08 pm on the motion made by Councilwoman Jones and seconded by Councilman Wilson the Council returned to open session.

Legal Business

1. First reading- On the motion made by Councilwoman Jones and seconded by Councilman R. Epps:

Bill #2520 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JENNINGS, MISSOURI, REPEALING AND REPLACING SECTION ONE OF ORDINANCE NUMBER 2271 PERTAINING TO COMPENSATION OF CERTAIN MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES AND STEP/LONGEVITY INCREASE IN COMPENSATION.

Second reading-On the motion made by Councilwoman Jones and seconded by Councilman Wilson the bill was approved to become Ordinance # 2466 by the following roll call vote: voting in favor were Stichnote, Jones, Wilson, Dugger, Anderson, Roberts, R. Epps, C. Epps; none opposed; none absent; none abstained.

On the motion made by Councilwoman Jones and seconded by Councilman R. Epps the council voted in favor of adjourning the council meeting at 11:10 pm on February 26, 2018.

Attest:


Mayor, Yolanda Austin


Karen McNeal, Deputy City Clerk