

**Minutes of the City Council Meeting
Jennings City Hall
January 22, 2018 - 7:00 pm**

The two thousand three hundred seventh first meeting of the Jennings City Council was held on Monday, January 22, 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
Councilwoman Miranda Jones	Councilman Rodney Epps
Councilman Terry Wilson	Councilwoman Carol Epps
Councilwoman Francine Dugger	

Also present: Interim City Attorney, Sam Alton, and City Clerk, Deletra Hudson.

Mayor Austin began the meeting with a moment of silence for the Director of Finance, Rise Johnson, who passed away.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman Jones, the Council voted all in favor to approve the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING OF December 22, 2017

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

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONERS, REMONSTRATIONS, COMPLAINTS AND REQUESTS:

1. Presentation from St. Louis County Police Department – Employee Recognition

Captain Cox presented the Officer of the Month Award for the month of December to Megan Lokey. During the month of December, Captain Cox said the department focuses on neighborhood and business patrol; not a lot of citations. Officer Lokey made 13 arrests and wrote 20 tickets. She has volunteered to help pass out toys for the past two Christmases and, does community engagement. Officer Lokey was presented with a gift certificate and plaque.

2. Presentation from Mayor – Retirement (Public Works)

Mayor Austin asked Bill Kaeshamer to join her at the podium to accept a proclamation on behalf of his retired employee, James Presswood. Mr. Presswood retired from the Public Works Department on January 12, 2018 with nine years of service.

3. Comments by public

Yolanda Fountain Henderson of 8822 Sumpter announced the Norwood Township Meeting will be on February 13th at Berkeley City Hall, 8425 Airport Road, at 7 p.m. The meetings will be the 2nd Tuesday of every month at the Berkeley City Hall. She asked Mayor Austin what was going to be done about the yellow lines that are not straight in the streets on Hord and Cozens. She said, she is sure it is throughout the City. She asked if the City paid for that. She said, those lines are crooked.

Ms. Henderson announced that Dr. Art McCoy has been chosen by St. Louis County Library to be the next recipient of the Frankie Freeman Inspiration Award. It will take place on February 3rd. She said, Ms. Frankie Freeman passed away.

She thanked Councilwoman Miranda Jones for assisting her with her concerns. She said, Councilman Stichnote did not help her at all.

Ms. Henderson asked if a traffic study could be done on Dorwood. She said, there are a lot of people coming down the wrong way. She said, she goes home that way and is met almost heads on with a lot of cars. Ms. Henderson said, that if the police department didn't go down the street, others wouldn't either. She said, between St. Cyr and Leamont in Ward 2. She asked Terry Wilson to assist her with the issue.

Percillia Jones, President of Jennings Community Committee, she refused to give her address based upon certain reasons. She said, because she did not give her address, or invited a certain individual to her house in almost ten years since she has been involved in the community, help get the community and people elected in office to where Jennings stands now. She said, she wanted to briefly talk about a new committee that has been recently organized. She said, she has already raised \$5,000 from business friends and, church organizations. She said, the main focus is going to be working with the Council people, because she is constantly still getting complaints stating that certain elected officials do not call them. Ms. Jones said, this new committee will definitely focus on working with the council people who are elected so that they can try to solve the issues before they go any further. She said, they will have Christmas parties, and BBQ's. Nothing, basically, will change. They are focusing on trying to make Jennings a better community.

She said, the reason why she doesn't want to give out her address is, like she stated, she didn't give her address to Councilman Allan Stichnote. She never invited him to her old house. She never gave him her address, none whatsoever. Ms. Jones said, she had been getting complaints all last year, and people have been calling her. She said, he has sent people to her oldest daughter's place of business to try to find out where she lay her head at, which is nobody's business. She said, she does not know where anyone stays but Mayor Pro-Tem Epps and Councilwoman Epps. She said, she will not continue to be stalked. Stalking is against the law. Ms. Jones stated that someone should have advised Councilman Stichnote of his legal advice, because she is not going to continue to be stalked, passing by her house. This is what her neighbors stated.

Sam responded and said, that the allegations being made are fairly serious. He asked her if she has ever called the police about any of them. She said certain police officers know about it, but she said she didn't know what was going on. Sam said, she was using legal terms with strong connotations. He said, if something is going on with anybody where they think they need to call the police; call the police. Otherwise, to get up in a public forum and make strong allegations like that, you have to be careful with that.

Ms. Jones said, she has already spoken to her attorney. She said, let's not play games. She said, people know what's going on.

Carl R. Kirkwood, Sr. of 8937 Lucerne Court said, he wanted to read an article to the Council which stated that in October 2015 ProPublica posted an article about all of the lawsuits filed by MSD to low income black residents of Jennings, and the surrounding areas. MSD was sued by the EPA, and State of Missouri in 2007, for violating the Clean Water Act of 1972. The courts approved the settlement with \$4.7 billion of work over the next 23 years to clean rivers, streams, and prevent sewer backups in homes and yards. In 2012, he reported the average monthly sewer bill was \$29. By 2017 the average bill has increased 155%. MSD was the one who dumped 500 million gallons of raw sewage into the local rivers, and streams over a 6-year period. He asked why the residents have to pay for MSD's mistakes. Why is MSD not sharing the \$4.7 billion to subcontract with black owned construction companies and is being sued by them? MSD stated that the sewer bills are based off water usage reported to them from the water company. Mr. Kirkwood asked why the sewer bill for a household of two is the same as a household of ten.

Mr. Kirkwood stated that Jennings and the surrounding communities need to band together and do something about the outrageous rates and behavior of MSD. Mr. Kirkwood said, he was recently made aware of a certain councilmember who gets campaign donations from MSD. He said, elections are coming up and he hopes everyone remembers that. He stated to the public that he urges all to take a look for themselves and, review the news articles regarding MSD. He said, he would leave a list of the websites from which he got his information.

Councilmembers' Reports

Councilwoman C. Epps reported the following complaints to the Public Works department: 6360 Laura – burnt couch and burnt tires, 5430 Helen – trash, 5416 Helen – high weeds, 5447 Helen – trash. She said, all of them have been reported before, but they are still getting calls on them.

Mayor Austin asked Mike if he had any updates on any of the streets given. If so she asked him to approach the mic. Mike responded 5416 Helen was sent a notice on January 9th and, forwarded to Public Works today for noncompliance. Mike said, that the same was done for 5430. He said, Mr. Kaeshamer probably doesn't have it yet. Mike was unaware of the 5447 Helen and 6360 Laura issues, but would have one of the inspectors look at it tomorrow.

Councilman R. Epps said, he has a problem with people dumping. When the dumping is cleaned up, the people keep dumping. He asked if there is a way to free up two men once a month or every two weeks to go around the City to pick up debris. Mayor Austin responded that was being discussed. They could do it as long as it is not on private property. She said, it was discussed with the Public Works department.

Councilman Epps, thanked Jim (who wasn't present) for getting the trash reported on Garasche down to Wilborn. He said, the City needs to figure out a way, because the people are getting upset about the issue, and so is he. Councilman Epps said, he used to pick up trash when he had access to a truck. He would pay someone to help pick up the trash and they would take it to the yard and dump it themselves. He said, the City needs to find a way to address it because, the dumping isn't going to stop. He said, if we keep picking it up, people will keep dumping.

If the City frees up two men to ride and pick up the trash, the city will look better, and the council's phones will ring about something other than this. He said, we need to figure out something that will not put too much of a burden on the city.

Councilman Epps reported that a developer, A Caring Plus Foundation, was awarded a \$750,000 grant. They will do some development in the 4th Ward with the funds. He said, from Garesche down, there will be some sidewalks and street lighting in the 4th Ward.

Councilwoman Roberts began her report with wishing the public a Happy New Year and reading a quote. She reported that she and Councilwoman Anderson took three children to St. John

Neuman Apartments on December 29, 2017. They did poetry reading and, played the violin for the senior to extend appreciation for the seniors. They presented the participants with awards, and gift cards. The participants volunteered their time and, didn't know they were going to receive awards. The awardees were: Katelyn Conlee for poetry reading, John Carter for poetry, Yashua Amen for playing the violin. She said, they also played BINGO.

Councilwoman Roberts requested follow-up information on some requests and concerns that she received from residents. She said, she had dates of reports and some of the dates go back to October and the reports are still coming up. She reported: *7305 Esterbrook* – the complaint is about the steps. She said, she would like to have some conclusion on that issue. *7045 Garesche* complaint goes back to October. In December, there was an unfit for occupancy sign posted on the property. That is when it was brought to her attention. People are still occupying the premises at this location. She said, she has been in contact with the City Attorney, Sam, and Henry, trying to get a resolution on what the City is going to do. Councilwoman Roberts said, someone had removed the unfit for occupancy sign off the door. She wanted to know who removed the sign. Was it the City or the occupants? At this point, it is a nuisance. There is excessive trash and neighbors are complaining about rodents entering their home and having to have pest control companies come out. The residents need a resolution and explanation about what the City is doing to help take care of the issue. At 5322 Fletcher, the resident has a tree falling onto her property from the neighbor's yard. The resident has damage to her home from the tree. She has paid, a few times, to have the tree fixed and rectified. The resident said, someone came out, but there has not been a follow up about what is next. Councilwoman Roberts said, she received a message from Larry, Code Inspector, on 11/22/17 advising her that something was sent to the owner. Councilwoman Roberts said, she doesn't know what to tell the resident about what is next. 2586 Main has been reported three times by Councilwoman Roberts about the excessive trash at the residence. She said, the trash is now to the point where the bags have been busted and debris is over the road. She said, the it is the house that is boarded up on Main and McLaren. She said, she reported it on 12/18/17, 1/9/18, and 1/16/18. As of Saturday (1/20/18) the trash was still there. Councilwoman Roberts said, that has been enough time, if the time is seven days to file it with the owner to get this taken care of. 7201 Sapphire has been reported several times about debris being in the garage. There is a table in the garage area. The residents living in the adjacent homes, have their views blocked and it is a hazard to them when they are coming in and out of their homes. 5603 Sapphire has been reported multiple times about trash bags being in the rear of the home. 5507 Fair Ridge has trash in the back of the home, but it is facing the College side. There is a ditch in the back where trash is dumped. She said, she reported this before. At first, she had the incorrect address of 7200 College. Then she sent another email with the correction advising that the address is the rear of the home on Fair Ridge. She said, this is that same issue as the one on Main. The trash bags have been there so long that they are busted, and the debris is all throughout College. On 12/18/17 she reported at 2501 Shirley, there is a TV, and other debris lying in the garage area.

Councilwoman Roberts reported new complaints at 7111 and 7112 Florence, which are reports of excessive debris on the front and side of the homes.

Councilwoman Roberts said, she wanted to give credit to one of the residents who advised the group in the Ward 3 Meeting. The resident said, the more dilapidation and trash seen, increases the risk of crime. Councilwoman Roberts said, she did research from the Justice Department which showed that blighted, and deteriorating neighborhoods are associated with crime. One researcher, James Wilson, coined it the "Broken Windows Theory", which states that these types of problems should be the focus for improving the City. There is a correlation with dilapidation and crime.

She reported that there was some dumping on College. She was able to obtain some of the mail. When she obtained the mail, an officer came to assist with the matter and, advised that in the high dumping areas, to consider putting some game or trail cameras. She said she researched

the cameras and found that costs between \$20 to \$60. She said, she thinks it is an idea the City should consider focusing on some of the areas with a significant amount of illegal dumping. She said, she and Councilwoman Anderson will go through more of the details, in their Ward Meeting, about a "No Illegal Dumping" campaign or "No Dumping" campaign of how some of the dumping can be decreased and how to keep some of the neighborhoods safe, as well as the appearance nice. She thanked the St. Louis county police department for being prompt and helpful with advising and helping to take care of the trash. She was very appreciative of their support. She concluded her report by saying to the public to have a month full of love and love for our City.

City Attorney, Sam Alton, said they spoke about 7045 Garesche, he said to Mike Vilmer that they should try to determine if someone is living at the address, if they are legal owners of the property, and if they have a right to be living there. Then they will look at code sections 106, 107 and section 23 of the City codes to figure out which way to go with the property. He said, if it is a dangerous property, if it is unfit for habitation; they should do all of the notices. If anyone is living there, they will have a right to a hearing, there is a finding, then they will move forward with how to deal with the property. Or it can be declared an emergency by the inspector and be shut down. Sam said, first figure out who is living there. He said, with respect to 5426 Fletcher and the overhanging trees, Councilwoman Roberts informed Sam that this was a different address with a different issue with a tree. He said keep in mind that the City deals with trees that overhang on sidewalks and streets, but when there are trees on private property, between two neighbors, this is a civil dispute. The City should not get into the business of deciding what to tell people to do on their private property because we get into trouble with that. Sam said, with respect to the other overhanging tree issue, he sent the complainant a letter. The letter was sent on January 18th. It explained the code and, informed her what to do and what to expect. Everyone is a case by case issue and, they are difficult to deal with. He said, to Mr. Epps, because he received one of the letters about the tree, that he saw pictures of one of the trees. Sam said, the tree is back there but from what he could tell it isn't dangerous. He said that it is a civil thing. The tree is tall and alive, so they have to figure it out.

Councilwoman Roberts said, she wants to have an answer for this resident. She asked Sam what is needed for her to get something concrete about what she should do about the tree. Sam said to tell her that if the tree involves her property and the neighbor's property, it is a civil dispute. She is allowed to cut down anything that is overhanging on her property and, not ask any questions about it. Everything else, she would have to send a letter to the neighbor notifying the neighbor of what is going on and to try to get the neighbor to deal with it. Sam said, it is a lot and he can provide Roberts with an email. He said, if the tree is dead and falls on her yard, the neighbor is liable, but it is going to be hard to get the city involved with private property.

Councilwoman Anderson said, that the State Rep said the City needs to consider modifying the City's nuisance ordinance. Sam said, he saw that information. He said, that gets into whether the City of Jennings wants to get into getting on private property to determine whether we want to clean it up. He said, maybe it is something to discuss in the future.

Councilwoman Jones said, it was brought to the Policy Committee and that will be something that could be addressed there.

Councilman Epps referenced Councilwoman Roberts suggestion to look into cameras. He asked if the City was liable if we place cameras and record people who don't want to be filmed. Sam said, not if it is in public and is a safety concern. He said, the City is allowed to place cameras, but you wouldn't want to place them on private property or facing inside people's houses.

Councilwoman Anderson wished the public a Happy New Year. She expressed a concern regarding the termination process of the City. She said, when the recommendation comes to the Council, she would like to see the whole personnel file. She said, she spoke with Sam, City Attorney, who said that was ok to do. Councilwoman Anderson asked the Council, Mayor, Sam

if there needs to be a policy or vote to make that happen. Sam asked if she was referencing the termination of the employee. She said, when the Council has to vote on the termination, she would like to see the employee file. Sam said, as a Council member who makes decisions with respect to employment, they have the right to see an employee file (not make copies or take information out), it is all closed. If you want that to be a part of your decision-making process, you are permitted to do that. She asked if it is a policy or requires a vote. Sam said, it is not a policy. As employers of individuals working at the City, you have a right to the file. He said, you don't have to vote on it. Sam said, if you want to change the policy with respect to termination of employees and work that language into the policy, that would go to the Policy Committee to review it.

Councilwoman Anderson expressed a concern with Corrections. She asked Lt. Neal if he had all of his needs for his department. He reported he was short one officer. She asked if the night shift officers were rotating to the lobby from 10 pm – 6 am. He responded that when the Desk Sergeant leaves at 10 pm, the front lobby door is secured with a camera. There is a button to be pushed by those wanting to enter the building to alert the booking officer. He said, the booking and Correction staffs walks through the building three to four times throughout the night. But if anyone needs to enter the station, they are able to talk to the booking officer.

Councilwoman Anderson said, when they last spoke, they wanted someone to rotate to the desk between 10 pm – 6am. Lt. Neal said it would be hard to put an officer there. She clarified that it was not requested to put one officer, she said rotate the officers. Lt. Neal said he could look into that. He said he doesn't see why there needs to be an officer sitting there because in order for someone to get in the building, they have to be buzzed in.

Councilwoman Anderson said, she would want the citizens to be let in immediately. Lt. Neal said, it would be immediately. As soon as they push the button, there is an officer answering and, seeing them on camera. When they are buzzed in, they are met in the front lobby by the officer. She said, she would like to see an officer sitting there between 10 pm and 6 am, rotating up.

Mayor Austin asked if they can see some documentation over the last 30 days to see who came and went over the time. Lt. Neal said, he doesn't know how that can be done. The camera system is not a recording system. He said, they could put up a log sheet to track the activity between 10 pm – 6 am over the next 30 days. Lt. Neal said, the officers can log who they let in or talk to and that will give them the documentation.

Councilwoman Anderson asked how the department was moving with getting the officers their Hep A shots. Lt. Neal said, he was waiting to get information from Deletra. They have been working on the process. He said, the problem with Hep A shots is that it is a costly shot. Councilwoman Anderson asked how long it would take to be in compliance. He said, the last he knew was Deletra and Kareen had talked to someone at Walgreens to schedule times to rotate the officers into Walgreens.

Councilwoman Anderson reported that on Saturday, there was a Ward 3 meeting. One of the residents sent a letter to be read. She thanked the Ward 3 Council for hosting the meeting and suggested that an expectation be set for the Public Works and Building Department to develop a plan to clean up the City and lay out a deadline for the plan, along with consequences for not following through. The resident stated that it was important for the departments to come up with a solution that would be best for all involved, based upon successful campaigns to stop illegal dumping. She thinks both department heads should be informed of their responsibility to keeping the City safe and clean. She requested a plan to address illegal dumping and, littering. She asked that at a minimum the plan address the following: 1. prevention and, what assistance is available to families behind on their bills to prevent service disruption. 2. Is it possible to hold property owners responsible for renters who don't pay for trash collection. How much would it cost for the City to pay for residential trash collection? What revenue could be generated to

cover the cost. Could it be offered for certain households, if so what would be the eligibility criteria. What ideas do they have to prevent littering and illegal dumping? What resources would be needed to implement the ideas? What barriers exist to prevent the implementation of the ideas? What are possible solutions? How do departments current report areas prone to dumping and littering? What proactive approach could the City take that rely solely on citizen complaints? How can signs, trail cameras and, other warnings be used to deter people from littering and dumping? Is the current fine an effective deterrent? What would be their estimated collection rate? How much would it cost in staff's time or other internal costs to enforce fine collection and demonstrate the current fee structure and collection process will generate enough revenue to at least cover the cost of collections. The letter continued with assuming that some people will be unable to pay a fee of any amount, what other enforcement tactics do they recommend. How do they ensure whatever strategy is developed, the focus is on cleaning up the city, not on punishing people? The goal is not to see how much money we can collect, or how many people can be pushed out of their homes. The focus should always be on what support we can offer to help people meeting their responsibilities and keep up their properties without engaging in littering and illegal dumping. How do we set the stage for those to leave if they are not willing to be good neighbors? It shouldn't take months to resolve these issues. The department heads should also propose amendments to ordinances that would allow them to expediate cases that poses significant threats to public health or safety. When people in charge are nontransparent, it makes people think they are hiding something, which leads to potential corruption.

Councilwoman Anderson stated she is helping to improve the community for a better tomorrow.

Mayor Austin requested a copy of the letter.

Councilwoman Dugger said, one of the residents is still complaining about the Urban League fence. This is the resident who brought it to her four years ago. She said, apparently Henry said that there has been some replacement done but it looks like two different companies did it. There are two different materials there. There was a cut off point on the repairs. She asked Mike Vilmer for an update. Councilwoman Dugger said, the last time they met at Public Works, Henry was going to be meeting with the group.

Mike responded that his last conversation with Director Johnson was that certain sections had been replaced. He thinks one of the issues is that there are two separate parcels of land. There is land behind the Urban League and, land that runs towards Halls Ferry & Walgreens. He said, Mr. Johnson said he is making efforts to develop a plan to get the entire fencing replaced. It is 20 years old and past its lifetime. Mike said, he doesn't have any information regarding dates.

Councilwoman Dugger said, the attempt was going to be a meeting last month. Mike said, he was unaware of that. She said, after the Public Works meeting, there was going to be a meeting with the Urban League. She asked if someone would follow up and give her a call. She said, she also asked him about the double fencing around the whole area. Between the fences, weeds are growing. The residents are complaining about that. She believes that would be an easy fix. She said, Bill worked with a chemical that was used for the 70 and Jennings Station Road area to take down some of the weeds so they wouldn't grow back as easily. She suggested looking into what that was to try to take down the weeds between the fences, that is not harmful to pets.

Councilwoman Dugger said, she has been meeting with the Clergy for a year. The Clergy Coalition is made up of all of the churches, non-denominational, who have been meeting monthly. Before the holiday break, they discussed trying to adopt families in needs that lived next to their churches. They are still in the process of how to work through that situation and, help those of us who are right here. That's a good thing. She invited those who had ideas of how you would like the churches to help or would like to help, with that. She said, you are welcome to attend those meetings every third Thursday at 6 pm at City Hall. They also had a guest, Rebecca Zoll, President of the North County Incorporated, gave the coalition a brief synopsis of what they do.

Mainly the focus is with all of the businesses that are in the North County area. She gave good numbers in terms of what kind of money has actually been taken into the North County area. Over a billion dollars has come into the area. Councilwoman Dugger said, that they still want more businesses to come into the North County area. She also addressed the church piece in terms of how businesses can partner with the churches and, see what they can do. There are talks about how some of the businesses can possibly help the churches with some of the homeless issues. There was a guest a couple of months ago, from the school district to discuss the homeless issue that we have in Jennings. The churches are trying to see what they can do. That's what they are meeting about on a monthly basis.

Councilwoman Dugger said, the other thing that is concerning her is that last month it was brought to their attention that there was an afterschool program, being run by the Civic Center, that didn't come to the floor for the Council to approve. Consequently, the way the council found out about it was that the State of Missouri came and, closed it because it was not licensed. They were trying to have a discussion about that. She said, she decided she would try to find out what happened because, it didn't come to the council. She said, she did a Sunshine Law request for the Council. She said, she had documentation that came to her from the State that tells, in detail, what happened and, why it was closed. She said, anything that we can do good for children, is good, but we must follow a procedure. The procedure that the State says that anytime you are caring for more than four children, a license is required. Councilwoman Dugger said, her concern was not only the license, but of the background checks of the people who are over the care of the children. The City is responsible for liability insurance. She said, there is a flyer that says we were charging per week. The licensing piece doesn't have anything to do with that. She said, before we lost our Finance Director she asked her was the City getting anything from the program in any line item. The Finance Director reported that there was nothing coming in that they know of, that the Council would be aware of. She said, she also talked to the insurance broker to find out whether or not the City was carrying this particular program. The broker said, they were not aware of it. She said, her concern is not only that the City did not follow protocol, in terms of the Council being aware. She said, there may be some of the council members who knew exactly what was going on, but the way the system works for the City, that procedure was not dealt with. Councilwoman Dugger said, the attorney may have known, she doesn't know who knew. The thing is that the Council did not approve it, which is part of the licensing requirement. They had not discussed any of that. She said, you will see in the documentation where the Civic Center is located, there is a map of sexual predators that actually live close to our Civic Center. We were in danger there. We all received a copy of a letter from a concerned parent that the children were being driven from school to the Civic Center with no seatbelts on while in the City cars. She said, you can see where we were in a big issue. She said, to Sam, she is sure he understands that this is a major problem that could definitely put us in jeopardy. She said, the Mayor is aware of it because of the comments that she made. It is not like she doesn't know that this is going on and, it has actually been going on since August. The State did come and, shut it down in November. She said, she had the documentation that shows that the State did an unannounced visit to the program. She said, for those who want the documentation, she definitely has it and, you are welcome to it.

She said, there was a question about who reported this program to the State. She said, she asked the State who called. The documentation says anonymous. She said, she wanted it in the record that we have a problem and, the Council will be talking further about what we should do about this problem.

Councilman Wilson greeted the public and wished them a Happy New Year. He acknowledged a guest in the audience by the name of Deborah Vinson. She is a part of the Neighborhood Leadership Fellows Program. The program is a nine-week leadership program through UMSL. One of the tasks is to sit in on one of the Council meetings. Councilman Wilson said, that Deborah could provide more information about the program because, they will be doing another cohort of the program after her cohort is over.

Councilman Wilson asked Bill about cleaning up the mud and dirt on Bagley with the sweeper or, blast some water. He said, he received about four complaints on that area. The residents are complaining because dirt is getting on their clean cars.

He asked what steps need to be taken to get No Littering signs posted. Mayor Austin responded that he should let Bill know the location.

Councilman Wilson said, the St. Louis Youth jobs is hiring. They are accepting youth ages 18-24 who are not enrolled in school. The pay is \$9 per hour. The program will train them and placement in different areas. The Jennings area qualifies for the program. Councilman Wilson said, he would have copies to share and, he will send some out as well.

He also announced the Midwest Cyber Center, who focus on the workforce development in the area of cyber security. They are accepting applications for training in cyber security. Applicants must have a high school diploma. They are paid \$15 per hour while they go through the training. At the end of the training, the participants receive a certification which certifies them for certain technology jobs in cyber security. He said, he has the information and added that there is a youth component with the program. The youth component starts middle and high school students off into that pathway.

Councilwoman Jones extended condolences to the family of Rise' Johnson. She said, she knows it has been a trying week for the employees. The employees have handled the loss well and, pushed forward, especially Joann and, the people in the office. Councilwoman Jones said, Joann has been a rock for the city for a long time. She said, to the staff that if there is anything that they need from the Council, please let them know because they are here for the staff.

She thanked the public for attending. Councilwoman Jones thanked Mr. Allen McDonnell and Ms. Yolonda Fountain Henderson for always being in attendance. She announced that the Ward 1 meeting that was scheduled for the past weekend was postponed. They wanted to pay respect and, allow people who wanted to attend the funeral of Frankie Freeman the opportunity to attend. There were a lot of things going on, which also included the Women's March. So, they decided that they would find a date where there wasn't going to be so much conflict and, they can get the word out about the meeting. Councilwoman Jones said, there are a lot of things they need to discuss. She and Councilman Stichnote discussed having signs in the neighborhoods that announce the Ward Meetings. She said, if it is announced in the Council Meeting, Mr. McDonnell and Ms. Fountain-Henderson are the only two at the meetings. They put it on the marquee, but that doesn't help people who are not driving down Jennings Station Road.

Councilwoman Jones said, she had a concern about the lines in the streets being crooked. She said, the City needs to go back and look at the contract and talk to the people who did the work. She said, the City needs to talk to them about the quality of the work and make sure that we go on record and not get that same type of quality of work going forward. She said, it is quite wavy. She has never seen it done like that before. She said, that needs to be addressed.

Councilwoman Jones announced there was a fire near the Koenenman Place apartments. She said, she wanted to make sure the families know they can get working smoke alarms from the Riverview Fire District. Now that it is cold, people are using all kinds of different heating elements to heat their apartments. She suggested contacting the fire department to see if we can do something to make sure the Jennings Residents know that Fire detectors are available.

She stated that there is a Flu epidemic going around. There has been report of about 40,000 cases in the State of Missouri. We want to make sure people are being cautious about that.

Councilwoman Jones said, the School District is trying a new method on Cozens of putting cones in the streets to keep people from turning. She asked to see how they think it is going. The cones

do not eliminate the problem that you can't travel down Cozens during dismissal time. She said, to Capt. Cox that she knows he did a traffic study on people not turning left, but she asked if a traffic study could be done for a no parking zone, so that the side of the streets is where cars pull opposed to in the middle of the street only during dismissal time for about 20 minutes. She said, on Cozens, the block between Shannon and the school, the residents can't get to their houses during that time.

Mayor Austin asked Captain Cox to get with the Superintendent to see what can be done.

Captain Cox said, several traffic studies were done. The did post no parking signs. He said, there isn't much more to be done.

Councilwoman Jones said, a principal years ago tried to reverse the route by using the back lot. She suggested talking through it.

She thanked Ms. Shirley for sending encouraging letters and, calling with positive messages. She extended her personal appreciation for the positivity that she brings to the city.

Councilman Stichnote reported 2503 and 2511 Shannon to Bill and Mike Vilmer. He said to Yolanda Fountain Henderson that he believes this is the one she talked about a month or so ago. He said, he checked it out. In the system it says its has been taken care of. It is possible that it was, but it needs to be done again. There is a lot of trash and tires. It needs to be cleaned up. He asked the two departments to work together to get it done.

Councilman Stichnote reported the police stats. There were 20 crimes in December. He explained the reason it was so high is because 12 of them were larcenies (probably caused from the shopping center). Ward 2 was 16 with 5 larcenies, Ward 3 was 16 with 7 larcenies, Ward 4 was 22 with 8 larcenies. Ward 1 had the largest number of larcenies.

Councilman Stichnote stated a few months ago the Mayor published a flier. He said, he was reading through it today and yesterday. He invited the public to pick one up and review it for themselves to see what they think has been done. He said, he thinks almost everything on it has been done. He thanked the Mayor for a fine job. He said, Mayor Austin has hired 27 qualified employees since she became Mayor. He said, the staff is doing an excellent job.

Monthly Department Reports

Mayor asked for the approval of the monthly department reports. On the motion made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman Jones, the Council voted in favor to approve the monthly reports; none opposing nor abstaining; Councilwoman C. Epps was absent.

Committee Reports

Ways & Means – Councilman R. Epps reported the committee met Wednesday, January 3rd at 7 p.m. He stated who was present at the meeting. The committee discussed the funding of the Board Docs system (paperless system for the Council and the Clerk). The original discussion was that the funds would come from Capital Improvement, but the reoccurring annual fee is not Capital Improvement eligible. The computer hardware and initial non-reoccurring set up costs are eligible through Capital Improvement. Councilman Wilson asked if the annual fee could be paid monthly. The City Clerk responded that monthly payments are not an option. The Finance Director explained to the committee that she had funds available in the Finance Department's budget that could be used for the first annual fee payment of \$10,000. The Accounting and Data Processing line item could be used. She said, she was going to purchase some registers for the Finance and Building Department with the funds but, will not make the purchase this year.

However, the City will have to find another source for the remaining years. Councilwoman Jones asked Rise' if the registers could be purchased from Capital Improvement. Rise' responded that the City hadn't done that in the past but, couldn't see why they couldn't be purchased out of the fund. Rise' informed the committee that the city is projected to receive approximately \$700,000 from Proposition P. Those funds are planned to be used to free up \$700,000 from the police budget to be added to the general revenue. She added those funds could be used to pay for the Board Docs system.

Chairman Epps received information from Dianna Drake on the Tech Team about purchasing computers for the system from Acumen. The cost will be about \$11,000. Councilwoman Jones questioned the type of Surface computer being purchased and the cost. Based upon her own experience, she paid approximately \$449 for the Surface computers with a keyboard. The City Clerk responded that at a previous meeting Dianna provided the committee a report of the types of laptops and the cost of each, which included the Surface Pro and the Dell Latitude. She explained that Dianna originally proposed the Surface Pro but, was considering the Dell Latitude to reduce cost by eliminating the need for the Verizon account to be connected to the Surface Pro. Chairman Epps asked Councilwoman Jones and Councilman Wilson to get with Dianna to select the laptop and bring a recommendation to the committee for approval.

Also discussed was the Finance Variance Report for the period ending in November. The Finance Director provided the report and the City should have been at 66% of the budget spent. The committee reviewed the report and looked for red flags on line items over 67% spent.

Chairman Epps asked the Finance Director if there were any departments ready to present their budgets to the committee for review. The Director responded that the Public Works Department was almost ready, but she wanted to discuss their budget with them first.

The committee also met on January 22nd at 6 p.m. The committee again addressed the Board Docs system. On a motion made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman Anderson, the committee approved the acceptance of the bids and, making a recommendation to the Council. The committee decided that the one time set up fee of \$1,000 will be paid out of Capital Improvement budget and the \$10,000 annual fee would be paid out of General Revenue. The committee also decided to take the one-time purchase cost of the Dell Latitude \$8,745. The purchase of the hardware will come from the Capital Improvement budget.

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilman Epps, the Council approved the recommendation of the committee.

Chairman Epps informed the Council that the committee reviewed the Courts and City Clerk's budget at the meeting. He reports that towards the end of the fiscal year, all of the department budgets will be totaled, discussed on the Council floor, and voted on.

He reported the next meeting will be Monday at 6:30 p.m. and every Monday until the budget is completed.

Public Works Committee – Councilwoman Anderson reported there was a meeting on January 10th at 6:30 p.m. She stated who was present at the meeting. Mr. Kaeshamer and Mr. Johnson provided their job descriptions. She asked Mr. Johnson to explain the process. He advised that all complaints start in the Building Department. She asked Mr. Johnson how the two departments were related. Mr. Johnson stated that the departments overlap when it comes to health and safety.

The next meeting will be Thursday, February 1st at 6:00 p.m.

Building Committee - Councilwoman Jones reported a meeting on Tuesday, January 16th at 6:00 p.m. Councilwoman Jones read the duties of the Building Committee. She stated who was present at the meeting. The committee discussed the demolition of the Old Firehouse, 8714 - 8716, 8730 Jennings Station Road. The committee was updated on the demolition process of the structures. The demolitions have to go through certain phases, which included asbestos and things of that nature. The City is in a Phase 1. Mr. Johnson is checking with the EPA on the status of the Phase 2 assessment to see if we can get the property removed so that it can become apart of Sievers Parks, which is a project of the Park Commission. The City is going through the remediation of the Old Firehouse.

The committee discussed 7232 and 7236 W. Florissant, which is located on the corner of W. Florissant and Apricot. There is a vacant lot. There was a structure that was demolished a few years ago as an emergency because it collapsed in the middle to the street. There is a company interested in purchasing the lots. But in order for them to purchase it, they want to make sure that the City will make it available to them to consider purchasing it. They wanted to put it on the list so that the City could approve moving forward with exploring making that property available for the neighboring company to acquire that land. The staff is doing the research to see if that is something the City should make available. She said, this will be discussed more in closed session under real estate. There is no recommendation at this point.

Park Committee – Councilman Stichnote reported a meeting on Wednesday, January 10th at 5:30 p.m. He reported who was present at the meeting. The committee discussed the \$420,000 grant award for Koeneman Park Improvements. The City will be adding two sets of bleachers, three tiers high with a rail. They will be added behind the new basketball court upon the grassy part. The committee discussed moving the old basketball hoop from Koeneman Park to Lion's Park at the end.

Ken Keitel will be getting started on the Siever's Park Planning Grant.

Councilwoman Stichnote reported \$424,465.21 in the bank account plus the average of \$30,000 per month that comes in a Park Sales Tax.

Municipal League – Councilman Wilson reported a meeting will be held on January 25th at 6:30 p.m. at Manchester City hall.

Planning Commission – Councilman Stichnote reported there was no meeting.

Policy Committee - Councilwoman Jones reported there was a meeting on January 16th at 7 p.m. She reported those who were present at the meeting. She thanked Deletra Hudson for the hard work of getting the policies to the Policy Committee. The committee addressed the adding a progressive discipline procedure to the Employee Discipline Policy. There are verbal, written, and final warning steps, along with recommendations for termination. Mayor Austin noted under the appeal process that illegal behavior is not subject to progressive discipline. Such behavior may be reported to local law enforcement authorities. The committee discussed ensuring that making changes to the progressive discipline procedures didn't change Missouri being an at-will state. The committee passed a motion made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilman Epps recommending the approval of the employee discipline policy after the review from the City Attorney. Councilwoman Jones confirmed with Sam that he reviewed the policy.

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilman R. Epps the Council approved the recommendation from the Policy Committee to approve the revised Employee Discipline Policy.

Councilwoman Jones said, the committee discussed an ordinance about signs. The City had an ordinance that was presented to the Council a few meetings ago. She said, she thought there was

some confusion about campaign signs, their size and them being in a residential area vs commercial area. The Chair said, the ordinance will come back before the Council in February to get it clear. The goal is for people to have it cleared by the next election. They do not want people to have big signs in residential areas. The goal is for them to be more in the commercial areas. She said, she also thinks the codes were mixed up when the previous ordinance came forth.

Councilwoman Jones said, the committee took a lot of time reviewing the Koenenman, Lions, and Sievers Park Pavilion and Picnic Applications. The committee wants to make sure the language was similar. The applications had not been reviewed in a while. It was discovered that some of the policies were not in line with City ordinances. She informed the public that there are 25 rules on the applications. Councilwoman Jones reviewed the proposed changes to the application, which included the rules, fees, fines, cancellation policy. The committee will continue working on the application revisions before bringing it to the Council for approval.

Councilwoman Jones stated that the committee will review the application for rental of City facilities and make recommendations to the Council in February, along with amending the ordinance for properly closing businesses, when and how. The amended ordinance is removing the information about padlocking on buildings where taxes are owed to the city. The City Attorney has worked on amending the ordinance. Mr. Johnson stated that the enforcement side of the ordinance is where the question arises. It was stated that the City could issue letters, tickets and summons. The City Clerk informed the committee that the City Attorney is changing the last bullet in section one and section two, which said what section one should be. The committee passed the motion by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman Anderson to recommend to the City Council passing a new ordinance regarding the City Collector and enforcement of payment of City taxes. Councilwoman Jones asked Sam for assistance on how the motion should be made. Sam said, with respect to whatever it is that the City does with the ordinance, that it is in line with the State of Missouri. Anything that the State of Missouri can do to collect its taxes, the City of Jennings can do to collect its taxes. Councilwoman Jones said, the Council will address this in the ordinance on the agenda for approval tonight.

The committee also discussed: Sick Leave Policy, Employee Handbook, blue tarps on the roof, one day liquor license, and landlord taxes will be discussed at the February meeting. The committee did receive the letter from Mary Brock, which was discussed in Councilwoman Anderson's report and, the City's legal counsel responded. She did send the letter to the Policy committee to see if the nuisance laws can be changed to help her with the tree situation. The committee recommended that the City Attorney send an official response. That was sent.

Solid Waste Committee – Chair Councilwoman C. Epps reported no meeting.

Beautification Committee - Councilwoman Dugger reported no meeting. Councilwoman Dugger reminded the Mayor that last month, according to the minutes, they talked about there had not been any meetings and she was going to talk about it later. She said, we are a month later and she doesn't know where we are. Councilwoman Dugger asked Mayor Austin if she would consider that committee working with Public Works to see what they can come up with due to all of the reports about trash and dumping. Mayor Austin told Councilwoman Dugger that she is the chairman so feel free to invite them after she talks with the committee.

Youth Commission – Earl Green reported that the Youth Commission did not meet, but they will have a Game Night this Friday, January 26th from 6 – 8:30 p.m. for all youth. He invited them to the Recreation Center. Councilwoman C. Epps asked what Game Night was. Earl explained that it is a date created by the Youth Commission where the kids play games, like card games. Another thing to keep the youth in Jennings occupied. She asked the age. Earl responded that ages are from kindergarten to high school.

Senior Commission – Mayor Austin announced there was no meeting but, one of the Senior Commission members (Ms. Williams) lost her son in a hit and run accident on Sunday morning on Goodfellow off of Natural Bridge. Mayor Austin asked for prayers for Ms. Williams. His name was Tommy Williams. He lived with Ms. Williams. He did a lot in the community, as far as helping the seniors with cutting their grass and washing their cars. There are no arrangements at the time. She will get information out after talking to Ms. Williams.

Legal Business

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

BILL #2518 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JENNINGS, MISSOURI, REPEALING CERTAIN PORTIONS OF ARTICLE III DIVISION 5 SECTION 21-43 OF THE JENNINGS CODE OF ORDINANCES REGARDING THE CITY COLLECTOR AND ENFORCEMENT OF PAYMENT OF CITY TAXES.

On the question by Councilwoman Dugger, she said, she thinks she understands what Sam is trying to do with making sure that they have their hearing. The one question she wanted to know was what would be the specific steps taken and how long would the City allow delinquency before action is taken. She also stated that the Council has never seen what the City has in Finance in delinquent accounts. She said, the one that has brought this to everyone's attention is the one that has been egregiously delinquent for years, not only with the City of Jennings but with the State. She asked is there a way for the Council get a list. She suggested maybe Ways and Means could look at it first, but the Council needs to see how delinquent some of the accounts are. She said, she also wants to be cautious about those that are so delinquent. When you start to say we are not going to do this or that to them, then they continue to be delinquent. She said, they had worked on that once before. The people who come in late trying to pay their taxes are usually guilty of owing the City the type of money that they owe. This is her concern, whether or not they could see that before deciding they are going to repeal something that they really don't know enough about.

Sam replied that all of the same deadlines that were in code section 21-43 stay; due in full by June 30th. If not paid, they are deemed delinquent and assessed a late fee of 10%. He said all of the same deadlines are there. The only thing that changes is removing the one sentence, which is the last sentence of paragraph five, "and or placing a padlock on the taxpayer's business facility". He said that has been replaced with allowing the City to do anything that is done by the State of Missouri. He said he understands that everybody wanting to see who owes what and, who is delinquent. What he said, is that every other portion of the code, this code section will be enforced as it has in the past. If it comes to the point where nothing is working, no late fees are working, placing a lien on the property does not work, then he will get a phone call from the treasurer of the City saying let's call the State of Missouri and see how far we can go with that business. He said, he can produce a memo with respect to each property letting us know how far we can go and what we can do, and then we do it.

Councilwoman Dugger said, to clear up the piece about padlocking. The Building Department and the Fire Department, before, had had the authority to do that. She asked if this is changing their authority to do that, because those are the ones who actually bring that forward.

Sam replied, if they had the authority as results of taxes, to padlock a door, then it changes their ability to do it.

Second reading – On the motion made by Councilman R. Epp, seconded Councilwoman Anderson

The bill was approved to become Ordinance # 2465 by the following roll call vote: voting in favor were council members: Stichnote, Jones, Wilson, Dugger, Anderson, Roberts, R. Epps, C. Epps none absent, opposing, nor abstaining.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - There was no unfinished business

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of the request from Jennings School District to install a gate at the south rear of Jennings Junior High School exiting onto Lynnwood.

Mayor Austin asked if everyone saw the request. Councilwoman Dugger asked if this needs to go through the Planning Commission. Mayor Austin responded that it did not because they were putting the gate up on their property. Councilwoman Dugger said, residents have to go through some permit process if they want to build, why not the School District. Mayor Austin asked Mike Vilmer if he knows about it.

Mike responded with the School District isn't building anything. It is a gate. He shared photos. They are requesting to put a gate on their own property, which will allow access of vehicles during the school times to exit.

Councilwoman Dugger asked why they needed the City's approval if it is their property. Mike said, if there is going to be more traffic flow along Lynnwood Avenue at those particular times of day. Mayor Austin said, they are trying to alleviate some of the traffic on Cozens. So, they are going to wrap around on the side where the College Prep is, go down the side of the Jr. High and go down the back where the field is and go out. Mike agreed that was his understanding.

Councilwoman Dugger said, there is no objection to them doing what they need to do for traffic. The question is when there is something being built, a permit is issued or whatever is necessary, drawings are presented, and if you are asking for the City's approval, it normally goes through Planning, then the Council gets the recommendation from Planning. She said, to all of a sudden get something because it is their property, we have private property owners present, but they have to go through the process, along with any other new business that comes in who is getting ready to build, they go through the process.

Mike said, it is his understanding that they are not building anything. They are asking for the City's permission to allow them to route traffic, remove the barricades, and allow traffic to exit onto Lynnwood Avenue.

Sam read the Planning Commission section 27-17. Arguably it is a close call. Will the addition of a gate on their property affect traffic, that might be something you want to think about but it is not required as something the Planning Commission will look at.

Councilwoman Dugger asked why does it need the Council's approval. Sam and Councilwoman Jones stated that it appears to be a matter of consideration and a good faith gesture.

Councilwoman Jones said, they are letting the City know that the gate will be open and closed at times when they are not doing the dismissal. She said, they explained in the correspondence that it would be accessing the street.

Councilwoman Dugger said, that wasn't written that's why she questioned it.

Sam said, the Planning Commission makes recommendation relative to the Council (sect 27-29) with respect to motor bus service, car routes, but it doesn't say anything specific to request like this to the Council.

On the motion made by Councilwoman C. Epps, seconded by Councilwoman Jones, the Council approved the request of the Jennings School District.

2. Approval of the monthly bills for payment

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman Dugger, the Council voted in favor to approve the payment of the monthly bills.

Sam, City Attorney, asked to revisit the issue with the gate. He asked Mike Vilmer how the gate would affect traffic. Mike said, there would be some increase in traffic flow along Lynnwood Avenue, which is the street that they are proposing to direct the traffic flow. Sam clarified that this is a City street within the City of Jennings. Mike said, it is essentially a dead-end street. Sam read a section of the Planning Commission codes. He said, it was the same section that he read earlier under section "E". He said, the part that causes him concern is the part that references people living on the street. Mike said, there are six houses on the street. Sam said, what should happen is that the School District needs to put together a study with respect to the increase in traffic, bring it to the Planning Commission and let them decide whether it affects the safety or welfare of the neighborhood. Sam said, as we sit now, we don't know the affects of the traffic on the neighborhood. If cars are going to be lining up and down the street, that might be something to take into consideration for the neighborhood. Mike asked if he meant the Board. Sam said, and the Commission and Board with respect to if they want the gate there if it will increase traffic. Mike asked if the School District should put together the study. Sam confirmed that they should bring it to the Planning Commission who should make a recommendation to the Council.

Councilwoman Jones said, this goes back to what was being discussed earlier. The flow on Cozens is so heavy. She said, she doesn't know if that is something that can be done in conjunction with St. Louis county. As it stands, she said, she would like to keep the motion that the City allows them to install the gate. Sam said, you can keep the motion to allow them to do it pending the recommendation of the Planning Commission.

Sam said, he would have the motion be to pull back on allowing the gate and have them present a study to the Planning Commission and, have their recommendation for the Council to make a decision. Mike asked Sam for clarity on whether the School District should do the study or, will the police department be involved. Sam said, it wouldn't hurt to have the police department involved, but whatever will satisfy the commission. It will probably be sufficient for the School District to do the study and present it to the Commission

On the motion made by Councilwoman Roberts, seconded by Councilwoman Anderson, the Council voted to rescind the motion that was made to allow the installation of a gate at south rear of the Jennings Junior High School exiting onto Lynnwood.

Councilman Stichnote asked if the City or School District could write a letter to each resident to see if they have a problem with it. Sam said, there is nothing to prevent that. Councilman Stichnote asked Mike if that could be done. Mayor Austin said, they were going to talk to the six owners there. Councilman Stichnote said that's good. Councilman R. Epps said, that would be the way to do it because they don't know if it will be a problem until it is done. He said, ask them. If they say they wouldn't have a problem with it and it ends up being a problem, the City would have asked. Mike said, the School District would want to determine the type of study, evidence and materials to be presented to the Planning Commission.

3. Motion for closed session legal, real estate and personnel (RSMO 610:021-1, 2, 3)

On the motion made by Councilwoman Roberts, seconded by Councilwoman Jones, the City Council voted to approve the motion for closed session legal, real estate and personnel (RSMO 610:021- 1, 2, 3) by roll call vote of the following councilmembers: Stichnote, Jones, Wilson, Dugger, Anderson, Roberts, E. Epps, C. Epps; none absent, voting against nor abstaining.

Mayor's report

Mayor Austin thanked the department heads for working hard on getting their budgets done and the Council Chairs for meeting with their committees, especially the Policy Committee who has looked at outdated policies that the City has had throughout the years. No one has been looking at them. The Policy Committee is reviewing them closely, trying to make decisions to correct them.

Mayor Austin announced that if anyone has cards for Ms. Johnson, please leave them with Deletra, City Clerk. The funeral will be this Saturday and Mayor Austin will take the cards. She thanked the residents who had started giving cards.

The School District will be having a health and wellness fair on January 30th 4-6:30 p.m. at the Gary Gore Center.

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

- On the motion made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman Jones, the City Council approved the recommendation of Henry Johnson, Director of Housing and Economic Development, to hire Mike Vilmer as the Deputy Building Commissioner by the roll call vote of the following council members: Stichnote, Jones, Wilson, Dugger, Anderson, Roberts, R. Epps, C. Epps; none absent; none opposing; none abstaining.
- On the motion made by Councilwoman Jones, seconded by Councilman Wilson, the City Council approved the recommendation of Lt. Neal to promote Brad Maassen to the position of Sergeant by the roll call vote of the following council members: Stichnote, Jones, Wilson, Dugger, Anderson, Roberts, R. Epps, C. Epps; none absent; none opposing; none abstaining.
- On the motion made by Councilman R. Epps, seconded by Councilman Stichnote, the City Council approved the recommendation of Mayor Austin to hire Cheryl Balke as a temporary part time employee to assist with the budget process and be paid at the rate of \$33 per hour for 20 hours per pay period from January 23 - May 31, 2018. The recommendation was approved by the roll call vote of the following council members: Stichnote, Wilson, R. Epps, C. Epps; Dugger and Anderson opposing; Jones and Roberts abstaining; none absent.

- On the motion made by Councilman R. Epps, seconded by Councilman Wilson, the City Council approved the recommendation of Earl Green, Recreation Dept. Director to terminate Vanessa Grady. The recommendation was approved by the roll call vote of the following council members: Stichnote, Jones, Wilson, Dugger, Anderson, Roberts, R. Epps, C. Epps; none opposing, abstaining, nor absent.
- On the motion made by Councilwoman Phyllis Anderson, seconded by Councilwoman Julia Roberts, the City Council approved the termination of Earl Green, Recreation Dept. Director, by the roll call vote of the following council members: Jones, Dugger, Anderson, Roberts, R. Epps, C. Epps; none absent, Stichnote opposing, Wilson abstaining.
- On the motion made by Councilwoman C. Epps, seconded by Councilwoman Miranda Jones, the City Council approved that all Civic Center employees be drug tested on January 23, 2018 by the roll call vote of the following council members: Stichnote, Jones, Wilson, Dugger, Anderson, Roberts, R. Epps, C. Epps; none absent; none opposing; none abstaining.
- On the motion made by Councilwoman Miranda Jones, seconded by Councilwoman Phyllis Anderson, the City Council approved the termination of any Civic Center employee who fails the mandatory drug test by the roll call vote of the following council members: Stichnote, Jones, Wilson, Dugger, Anderson, Roberts, R. Epps, C. Epps; none absent; none opposing; none abstaining.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 p.m. on the motion made by Councilwoman C. Epps, seconded by Councilwoman Jones. The council voted to approve the motion by the following roll call vote: Stichnote, Jones, Wilson, Dugger, Anderson, Roberts, R. Epps, C. Epps; none opposing, none absent nor abstaining.

Attest:


Deletra Hudson, City Clerk


Mayor, Yolanda Austin