



**Minutes of the City Council Regular Meeting  
Telemeeting Via Zoom Video  
June 22, 2020  
Regular Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.**

The two thousand four hundred and fourth meeting of the Jennings City Council was held on Monday, June 22, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom Video.

**A. PUBLIC HEARING**

**1. 2021 CDBG ALLOCATION.**

Mayor Austin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. She invited Schona McClellon, Director of Housing and Economic Development, to discuss the 2021 CDBG Allocation. Schona explained that the 2021 allocation is a grant for the amount of \$186,800 and the remaining 2019 reallocation of grant funds for the amount of \$44,019. She and her team recommended that the 2021 CDBG grant funds of \$186,800 be allocated to home improvement and demolition as an even split; and the 2018 CDBG grant funds of \$44,768.50 be allocated to the home improvement line.

Schona welcomed more discussion. Councilwoman Anderson asked Schona to explain what the home improvement funds would be used for. Schona explained that the funds are used for financial or technical assistance which focuses on repairs which are important to the safety, energy efficiency and accessibility of homes in Jennings and prevent future problems. She explained that eligibility requirements are the following: must be 18 years of age or older, they must have an income, must be legal owners and occupants of the property, current on real estate, state and local taxes, flood insurance is required for homes that reside in the hundred year flood plain. Awarding of the grant is on a first come-first serve basis with a current waiting list, which only requires one-time application.

Councilman Wilson asked if this was the program that residents go through St. Louis County. Schona replied that this program was administered through St. Louis County, and if a resident is eligible, they will be approved for \$5,000 for authorized home repairs paid directly to contractors from St. Louis County. Councilwoman Anderson thanked Schona.

Mayor Austin quoted data from 2019, in the last five years, seventy-five (75) homeowners received an average of \$5,000 which equated to \$375,000 that was spent within the Jennings community. At that time, St. Louis County had a waiting list for the CDBG grant of approximately sixteen (16) homeowners. Mayor Austin explained that was the reasoning behind reallocating the 2018 CDBG grant funds of \$44,768.50 to be combined with half of the 2021 CDBG grant funds to help with home improvements.

Mayor Austin opened the floor for public comments.

**Shirley Wayne, 5828 Janet Avenue**, said that she was a recipient of the program with St. Louis County last year. She said that if anyone in the Jennings community that was thinking about the program, she recommends the program and the process was a bit long but a process like this requires patience and documentation.

Mayor Austin asked if there were any other questions from councilmembers. Councilwoman Clower asked about the funds for demolitions and wondered where the homes are located that are on the demolition list. Mayor Austin said the homes up for demolition have not be identified for 2021 CDBG grant funds but there is a list from 2018-2019 where CDBG funds were used for homes all over the City of Jennings. Mayor Austin said the City has a large list and it is being pulled from as money becomes available.

## **2. PETITION AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JENNINGS, MISSOURI, APPROVING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT AND GRANTING SAME TO GENECA GOLDSBY TO OPERATE A HAIR SALON AT 1282 AND 1284 ST. CYR ROAD IN THE CITY OF JENNINGS, MISSOURI.**

Mayor Austin opened the petition at 7:00 p.m. with a reading of the conditional use permit. She asked those speaking for the petition to speak and asked if Ms. Goldsby was present. Deletra Hudson said that it did not look like she was in attendance of the meeting. Mayor Austin then asked if anyone would like to speak against the conditional use permit for Geneca Goldsby.

Mayor Austin asked Councilman Johnson if he had any information about the petition. Irvetta Williams, Economic Development Consultant, said she was at the Planning Commission meeting where the conditional use permit for Geneca Goldsby was discussed. She said the location is part of the Lewis and Clark professional building which is a storefront that are joined units. The Planning Commission recommended the approval of this conditional use permit for this public hearing.

Mayor Austin thanked Irvetta for her overview. She then asked if there were questions from City Councilmembers. There were no questions. Mayor Austin closed the public hearing.

### **B. SWEARING IN OF NEWLY ELECTED AND RE-ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS**

City Clerk, Deletra Hudson, sworn in the newly elected and reelected officials:

- 1. Ward 1: Allan Stichnote; Ward 2: Jane Brown; Ward 3: Phyllis Anderson; Ward 4: Lorraine Clower.**

### **C. REGULAR MEETING**

- 1. Call to Order-** The meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m.

- 2. Roll Call**

**Council members present:** Allan Stichnote, Miranda Jones, Terry Wilson, Jane Brown, Phyllis Anderson, Gary Johnson, Lorraine Clower, and Aja Owens.

**Council member(s) absent:** none.

**Also present:** Mayor Yolanda Austin; Deletra Hudson, City Clerk; Sam Alton, City Attorney.

- 3. Approval of the Agenda**

On the motion made by Councilwoman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Wilson, the Council approved the agenda for the meeting. All in favor, none opposed.

- 4. Approval of the minutes from the Regular Meeting of May 18, 2020.**

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman Jones, the Council approved the minutes from the Regular Meeting of May 18, 2020. All in favor, none opposed.

### **D. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONERS, REMONSTRATIONS, COMPLAINTS AND REQUESTS**

- 1. Comments by public. (Please sign in. Comments are limited to 3 minutes. See Decorum Ordinance.)**

*Shirley Wayne, 5828 Janet Avenue*, thanked Councilwoman Owens and Jim Maixner, Public Works Director, for their assistance with properties at 5825 Helen and 5829 Helen and cutting the grass at 5825 Janet Avenue. She asked Jim what the process is when property owners are notified of a property code violation.

Jim explained the process, he said once the complaint is filed into the MyGov system, a letter is then issued in which the property owner has seven (7) days to comply. An inspector will then go out to the property. If the property owner has not complied, then a citation will be issued. After that point, if there is nothing done, the City of Jennings will take action at that point. Jim explained that it is difficult for the City to take action on homes that are occupied due to the potential for confrontation between Public Works Laborers and property owners. Normally the City must enlist the help of the Police Department for their presence. Ms. Wayne and Mayor Austin thanked Jim for the information.

***Yolonda Henderson, (no address provided)***, reported there was tree across the street from her home and a tree limb has fallen. The residents nearby are trying to get the limb removed. She said her neighbor has had difficulty picking up the branches but moved it across the street. Ms. Henderson asked for help in removing it. She said that her mother removed Councilman Allan Stichnote's tree branches that were in the street because he refused to move those, and she recommended that her mother leave the branches alone.

Ms. Henderson said that workers have stopped working at Ellison and Solway, as you drive through that area, the roads are uneven and getting deeper and deeper. She said that the pipe replacement had already been completed and covered with rock, but it is getting worse. She asked about the anticipated date of opening Lions Park, there are alumni that would like to gather. She pointed out that some Councilpersons are not observing social distancing. City residents pay sales tax and Jennings needs to open up the park. Jim responded saying that the Mayor and Parks and Recreation Committee have been observing social distance and finding that social distance is not being complied with at Koeneman Park, that is why the upper lot is closed. He said they have decided that re-opening of parks should wait until perhaps July 17, 2020. Jim said that enforcement of the social distance rules is the responsibility of the Department of Health, which can be very hard to enforce. He said the City did not plant those trees on Sharidge. They are the property owner's responsibility to remove them. He said he will follow up with Ms. Henderson on the work at Ellison and Solway. Ms. Henderson asked if the house is vacant, who would be liable to cut the tree limb. Jim said if the property is vacant and Public Works gets notified through MyGov to cut the grass, they will remove the limb when they cut the grass.

Ms. Henderson asked about the signs placed on Halls Ferry and Cozens. She thought yard signs could not be posted thirty (30) days prior to an election.

***Monetta Lawson, 7324 Esterbrook***, asked what the process was to implementing speed bumps. She said she lives near Country Club Hills. They just installed new speed bumps but there is more traffic on Esterbrook and Albia at a high speed. Mayor Austin said that the City has been accumulating a list and it will be presented with the input from the Police Department at the following Building and Public Works Committee meeting.

Ms. Lawson mentioned that the stop sign at Albia and Esterbrook is missing. She said that the block in which she resides had an incident recently where a police shooting took place. This situation urged residents of the area to ask about speed bumps. Jim said he would check the ordinance to make sure there is a stop sign that is supposed to be at that location.

***David Green, no address provided***, said that at Switzer Avenue near Clifton and Jennings Station Road, he saw scrape marks on the road and patchwork. He asked if work was being done on the road. Mr. Green noted that the stretch of road from McLaran to W. Florissant is in deplorable condition. Jim informed Mr. Green that Public Works is working on completing the pavement on Switzer that week. Due to budget reasons and rainy weather, the road work had been segmented but he promised to Mr. Green that a crew will be seen up there the following day.

***Marietta Beck, 5476 Hodiamont***, congratulated the newly and re-elected City Councilmembers. She asked for an update on the situation at 5426 and 5430 Hodiamont. She had recently observed two tow trucks and vehicles still parked in the backyard. She also asked about the trash dumping along Garesche Avenue and Theodore Avenue. Ms. Beck thought that the 5300-5400 block of Hodiamont was up for repair, which still has not happened. She asked about the shot-spotter coverage in the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward. She wondered if it was not centrally located since Jennings was a total of 3.7 miles and the shot-spotter covers one to two miles. She asked if other municipalities benefit from it and are they contributing to the cost of the shot-spotter. Mayor Austin asked Jim to address street-related questions.

Jim informed Ms. Beck that the City is looking at repairs to Garesche Avenue with the use of CDBG funds. Unfortunately, Hodiament was not included on the repair list. He said he did notice a need for patchwork to be done on that street. Jim said he would follow up with Ms. Beck and Officer Bakula regarding the vehicles at 5426 and 5430 Hodiament.

Capt. Law said the shot-spotter program was funded completely by St. Louis County. He said no other municipalities contribute for those services. Right now, Jennings does have a little over a square mile with shot-spotter. The cost is approximately \$60,000 to \$80,000, per mile, per year for shot spotter. He said that they do not have the funds to encompass Jennings at this point. Mayor Austin asked if he had a response to what Ms. Beck said about the vehicles at 5426 and 5430 Hodiament. Capt. Law informed Ms. Beck that presently, the Jennings precinct has tagged eighty-five (85) cars in approximately the last month and a half. Ten (10) vehicles were towed and seventy-five (75) vehicle issues have been resolved. The other ten (10) that have not been resolved; A couple of them are from that location. Mayor Austin asked if Capt. Law was already on top of the situation. Capt. Law confirmed that he was.

#### **4. Councilmember's Reports (Reports are limited to 10 minutes. See Decorum Ordinance)**

*Councilwoman Jones* greeted everyone. She said she missed the community being together. She talked about the unrest in our country and the movement around Black Lives Matter, comparing today to 2014.

Councilwoman Jones said she had been calling the Police Department every other night because she had been hearing fireworks, and it had been difficult to determine if the sound is fireworks or shootings. Councilwoman Jones said that shot spotter does not cover all of Jennings. With firework activity, it has been difficult for residents to call Police about shots fired. She asked Capt. Law if the police were able to discern the difference between fireworks and shots being fired. She begged for more police presence in the area because of the fireworks, gun shots and speeding. She knows the speed bumps or humps will be discussed in committee meetings in the future. She is concerned about the speeding especially around school zones. Drivers are flying up and down Cozens and Shannon. They are not complying to speed limits, and they are also going through stop signs. She addressed the constituents that have called about the speeding. She said something must be done about the speeding. Councilwoman Jones said a recommendation could be more police presence and in key areas, but at this point, something must be done.

Councilwoman Jones welcomed the newly elected Councilpersons and expressed her excitement in working together, and to the re-elected Councilpersons, she desires for the City Council to "take 20/20". There is so much going on outside of the Jennings community, that inside the community the Council must work together to ensure that they are doing their best for the best interest of the City. It warms her heart as she passes by the new Sievers Park and see the kids out there, although they should not be in the fountains swimming. It makes her happy to see them enjoying it. She spoke of the beauty of the fountain and the kids having something to do. She saw a couple out there that looked so in love at the fountain, enjoying it. Having things like that speaks to the fact that more is needed for the children of Jennings. She said they need a pool because they think that is the community pool at this point.

Councilwoman Jones believes that Jennings is headed in the right direction and thanks everyone for all the hard work that the City does. She said Jim takes her calls and she apologized to Jim. Jim said that is why he is here. She again thanked the whole City of Jennings team for looking out for the residents. She said that she knows that Public Works was out responding to storm damage and she would like to discuss in the future what needs to happen if the City incurs more storm damage and help residents understand how the process works.

Councilwoman Jones said to newly elected officials, if they need anything to give her a call. She thanked Mayor Austin, Sam Alton (City Attorney), Deletra Hudson (City Clerk) and the whole team for working straight through this pandemic and keeping the City of Jennings moving in the right direction.

Mayor Austin thanked Councilwoman Jones for her report, and she asked Capt. Law to speak in regard to the upcoming July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday. Capt. Law said that residents should call them on July 4<sup>th</sup>. He plans to have more officers on staff that evening to help with that high call time period. The Police Department experiences over two hundred (200) calls for service just for fireworks in just

a two-hour period and four officers on duty. They will not be able to get to every single one of those calls. Mayor Austin asked leading up to the holiday, now until then, residents should continue to keep calling. Capt. Law advised the residents to keep calling. Councilwoman Jones said that she was not too concerned with the July 4<sup>th</sup>. She said if officers are patrolling the area they will know where the disturbances are coming from. She offered to ride with patrolling officers to help point out those problem areas and those residents need to know that fireworks are illegal. Capt. Law understands what she is saying and if she does have time, he asked her to come ride along with patrolling officers in her Ward. The priority list is to preserve life first, property, and then calls like calls regarding fireworks. Capt. Law said Jennings precinct would love for Councilwoman Jones to come along to respond to those calls and show her what goes on during the evenings.

**Councilman Stichnote** greeted everyone. He welcomed the new Councilmembers and Councilwoman Anderson back. He thanked those who worked his campaign for re-election. He promised to continue to take care of the residents of Ward 1 like he did in the past. Councilman Stichnote thanked Jim for taking care of the storm-related tree limbs. He knows there was one that fell on a car which Jim cut a portion off so drivers could get through. Jim and Harold covered the whole City in response to the storm event.

Councilman Stichnote echoed Councilwoman Jones in regard to fireworks being used all night long in Ward 1. He reported getting calls about Meadowlark, Gillette and Huiskamp about drug activity. He suggested the response from the Police Department drug unit. He knows that crime is up all over the City and shared the number of calls: Ward 1 had 40; Ward 2 had 51; Ward 3 had 4; and Ward 4 had 32.

Mayor Austin thanked him for his report.

**Councilwoman Brown** thanked Mayor Austin and greeted everyone. She said thank you and welcomed the re-elected Councilmembers, as well as the newly elected Councilmember. She was honored to participate as a member of the City Council on behalf of the residents in Ward 2. She is really looking forward to working together with everyone to continue the upward and onward progress that is already been set in motion. Councilwoman Brown was very much encouraged with everything that been started already. She thanked Mayor Austin for her careful, watchful eye and caring for the resident during the COVID-19 pandemic. She said the Mayor had continually made resources available, testing sites, providing supplies, and being concerned about transportation for Jennings senior residents to testing sites.

Councilwoman Brown gave much thanks to the Neighborhood Watch, Officer McCrary, and Sgt. Lopez, as well as other officers for providing meals and supplies to first responders. She had received grateful feedback from residents and the officers are so much appreciated.

Councilwoman Brown gave sincere thanks and appreciation to City of Jennings Department Heads and their staff for stepping up to this unplanned challenge with a remarkable show of strength and commitment to provide services to the Jennings community. She remarked on the grass cutting and shrubbery removal work done at River Roads; it made a noticeable difference and she thanked them.

Councilwoman Brown said it was very heartwarming to see how everyone has demonstrated team spirit to make things run as smoothly as possible as the community is being served during this time. As she met with residents during her campaign, she found the overall concern that was shared with her was the speeding in the Jennings area. She had personally made calls about the issue of speeding, gun shots and expressed her concern. She was told by the dispatcher that there would be an officer dispatched to respond to the call. She again thanked everyone for the hard work, and she looks forward to working with City Council and support the City of Jennings.

**Councilman Wilson** greeted everyone and remarked on the number of people joining on the City Council Meeting call. He gave a big congratulations to the Jennings High School Class of 2020 and asked the community to continue to encourage young people to do great things moving forward.

Councilman Wilson acknowledged the officers for protecting Jennings Businesses during the unrest that has been going on. He reported that Jennings has not experienced what has been seen on television. He is grateful for that and for Jennings businesses.

Councilman Wilson reported he has been busy doing other things on various committees outside of City Council. Recently, he was appointed to serve on the Board of Directors for the Municipal League and will also serve on the Missouri Municipal League, Finance and Taxation Policy Committee. He attended his first meeting virtually and will be sharing the information regarding Sales Tax Bills that has been debating at Jefferson City, Missouri during this past session. He explained the Wayfair Bill, dealing with Internet Sales Tax. Jennings has not passed the Use Tax so the City of Jennings will not benefit from the bill. Councilman Wilson suggested having a couple of townhall meetings to educate the community on the Use Tax because the typical response to the word 'tax' scares residents away. He explained that Use Tax is already being collected state-wide and county-wide, but the City of Jennings is not benefitting from it at a local level. He recalled the Use Tax being on the ballot last year, which did not pass. He thinks that properly educating the Jennings constituents, the community would have a better understanding of everything. Councilman Wilson said he had been learning even more being on those state committees. They discussed over eighteen (18) policy considerations that the Municipal League wants to support. He promised to draft a summary which may be more digestible and sharing that with the City Council and the Jennings community.

Councilman Wilson told Jim that he was appreciated. He knows he receives a lot of phone calls and told him to keep up the good work. For the community listening, he mentioned the vacant positions that must be filled with the City of Jennings and asked the community to get the word out about Public Works positions and other available positions. He urged the community to continue to be safe and continue to look after each other. He asked Mayor Austin if the representative from Republic Services was on the call. Mayor Austin said no. He knows the people are suffering some difficulties with the new trash service provider, but he remarked on the smoothness of the transition in the area near him. He encouraged the community, if they have complaints about the new service, to please do not hesitate to contact their Councilmembers and City Hall to inform Republic Services to improve their services. He said it was good to see everyone and he could not wait to get back to seeing everyone in person.

**Councilwoman Anderson** greeted everyone. She said she missed everyone and cannot wait get back together again. She thanked the citizens of Ward 3 for trusting her again, she looks forward to serving Jennings for another term. She congratulated other re-elected and newly Councilmembers.

Councilwoman Anderson announced the upcoming Building and Public Works Committee meeting on July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. She said Ms. Lawson forgot to ask about paving on Albia Terrace in 2020. Jim said that Albia Terrace was not on the budget for the 2020 year. He said they will have to revisit the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan to see where that could be addressed. Councilwoman Anderson thanked him for answering City calls. She liked the way he handled the grass cutting. She asked if he had gotten back with St. Louis County about their part of the hill on Lucas and Hunt Road and Hord Avenue. Jim said no and he noticed that St. Louis County did a lousy job with paving Lucas and Hunt Road, he promised to follow up the following day and to let her know what transpires.

Councilwoman Anderson asked Lt. Geasley about his department training during COVID-19. Lt. Geasley said regular trainings goes through CorrectionsOne, primarily online, which he has setup a program that sends out two to four lessons each month to City of Jennings Corrections Department employees. He said they are still receiving their training.

Councilwoman Anderson said that Dianna Drake, Special Services Coordinator, asked if she had anything, she would like to add to the City of Jennings newsletter. She asked Dianna to add this: "This global pandemic has forced us to be alone together, obediently isolated to stay biologically insulated, meaning protected. Even though we are all affected, none of us want to be infected. So, stay safe, be kind and be wise." She wished everyone a good night and thanked everyone for showing up.

**Councilman Johnson** greeted everyone. He congratulated the newly elected officials and re-elected officials. He remarked on the support for everyone during this time and it was heartwarming to see other officials providing resources to make things happen for the residents of Jennings. He was thankful he was in a position to help distribute some of those resources and he wanted to acknowledge all the support going around during this time.

Councilman Johnson said that like Councilman Wilson, he has been busy representing the City of Jennings throughout the County and the City. One recent accomplishment. Is that he was elected as a Missouri State Delegate to the State Convention as a Democrat. It was a great experience. The convention had an online meeting due to COVID-19 that lasted six (6) hours. He witnessed Councilman Wilson take a bid at the National Delegate Seat, which he did not mention that he was elected at large. It was great to witness and experience that along with Councilman Wilson.

Councilman Johnson said he has been busy keeping up to date on Jennings Census 2020 count. He believed the City could improve in their responses. If full representation could be made by all residents of Jennings, there could be an increase in those numbers. JETS (J-Town Food Market at the Jennings Educational Training School on West Florissant) has been distributing food every Friday. The Census Committee was present to hand out Census bags and informing people of the importance of the Census is to a municipality like Jennings. The committee was also at the Jennings High School commencement parade where they distributed almost two hundred (200) bags, including some supplies for 2020 graduates. He announced that graduates are eighteen (18) years old are eligible to vote and participate in the Census. He believed it was very important that they got out and engaged those students. He said the commencement parade approximately 150-200 cars participating.

Councilman Johnson said in collaboration with the Ferguson Community Neighborhood Association, Ward 3 had been able to distribute produce boxes to the senior residents at St. John Neumann Senior Residence. They have been active for the previous two weeks. Those boxes were also distributed near College Avenue at Dawson and will continue to be there every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. He said the box contains fresh produce of approximately 25 pounds. He said the upcoming week, they will be at 5320 College Avenue at 10:30 a.m. in collaboration with the Southeast Ferguson Community Organization, all are welcome. He appreciates the organization involved.

Councilman Johnson said he recently joined the Community Engagement Task Force, which was created and designed by UMSL (St. Louis) Regional Data Alliance who distributes the procedures and processes for institutions and provide resources to engage the community.

Councilman Johnson echoed Councilwoman Jones' comments regarding to public safety. He referenced his residence on the south end of Jennings, Ward 3 has been experiencing fireworks, speeding and gun shots. He looked forward to attending a police policy meeting the following day with everything going on, calls for change in policies, finding out what resources are needed for community policing and reevaluating public safety contracts. When discussing community policing, one must consider the make-up and design of the department. Councilman Johnson recalled issues with the make-up and demographics of the previous police force versus the demographics of the community.

Councilman Johnson thanked everyone for supporting each other during this time. He echoed what Councilwoman Anderson said, by encouraging everyone be safe and take care of each other.

Councilwoman Anderson asked if anyone could join in on the meeting about public safety. Councilman Johnson said that he would forward her the email so that she may sign up. Councilwoman Anderson asked if it was not hosted by St. Louis County. He replied that it was hosted by an organization and would make sure she received the information. Councilwoman Anderson thanked Councilman Johnson.

**Councilwoman Owens** began her report with a quote by Margaret Mead. She congratulated the re-elected and newly elected officials. She also congratulated the Class of 2020 Jennings High School graduates. She remarked on the parade in their honor and said it was great to see a turn out to honor the graduates during the COVID-19 pandemic. Councilwoman Owens thanked Councilman Johnson for the food distribution on Wednesdays for the senior residents.

Councilwoman Owens participated in a virtual town hall meeting sponsored by the St. Louis Chapter of the NAACP. She remarked that it was a good experience to participate in.

Councilwoman Owens reported being a part of the food distribution every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Metropolitan Church at 5300 Helen Avenue, which is also open to the Jennings

community, particularly for children. Appetite for Humanity has been donating food with a focus on kids who are not currently participating in summer camps. The goal is to ensure during the Summer of 2020, that there are breakfast and lunch options to help parents. There are food boxes available to the community every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Councilwoman Owens asked the public to keep families in need in mind and encourage them to come out to the distributions. If they do not have transportation or unable to come, a volunteer may be able to deliver a box to them. She estimates that this will continue for the next nine (9) to ten (10) weeks throughout the summer. Councilwoman Owens mentioned that it was hard to hear her last meeting, she shared that she had a couple of grants for Ward 4, particularly to help families that need basic needs met and young children during the pandemic. She asked for feedback regarding families in need so that assistance may be offered.

Councilwoman Owens was aware that City of Jennings buildings have reopened, but she asked if the Civic Center was available to be rented again. Mayor Austin advised that the Civic Center is not available to be rented but as soon as the City will expand to that, she will inform her. Councilwoman Owens thanked her because residents had asked about that.

Councilwoman Owens said that her uncle had been distributing Sunday dinners to the Jennings community since the Easter holiday. She reported that for Mother's Day they also distributed dinners and special gifts. For the Father's Day holiday, they celebrated fathers with a special dinner. She wished a happy Father's Day to all the fathers on the call. Councilwoman Owens said it was great to see everyone come together. She said a lot of people came out to volunteer. She gave special thanks to New Life Church because their congregation is always helpful. They are always ready to volunteer and donate. They hosted a Jennings Kid Day. There were so many resources: food, clothes, and household items. They were able to bless a lot of people by always showing up and praying for the entire City of Jennings. Councilwoman Owens also acknowledged Metropolitan Church because for approximately thirty (30) or more years of service, they have always been about the community and making sure the residents are taken care of. She echoed what the other City Councilmembers have said about coming together, especially during the pandemic. She looked forward to working with the new members of the City Council as well as everyone else. She told Councilwoman Clower that there is a lot of shaping up to do in Ward 4, it was good to have her on board. Jennings still sends their love to Mr. Epps for all the work he is done. Councilwoman Owens said that her sister and herself produced a children's book all about what children would like to be when they grow up. She gave Councilman Epps a shout out in the book to pay homage to him and others in the barber profession.

**Councilwoman Clower** thanked everyone on the City Council for calling and welcoming her as Councilperson. Councilwoman Clower echoed Councilwoman Owens. She is aware of the work needed in Ward 4. She looked forward to working with her and each of the Councilpersons as well, as a whole.

As she was running for Councilperson, many of the residents' concerns were the vacant homes, high grass and dumping in the streets. Councilwoman Clower has already been in talks with Jim regarding the dumping. She thanked him for it. She reported on resident concerns in regard to speeding. She asked for an update regarding the issue of speeding and inquired about getting speed bumps on Helen Avenue. She also reported a lot of fireworks being used on the 5400 block of Janet Avenue each night and in the rest of Ward 4.

Councilwoman Clower gave a shout out to Deletra Hudson, City Clerk, for making her feel comfortable as a part of the City Council. She reported that her goals for Ward 4 are to be in loop with houses that need to be torn down. She is hopeful to get a list particularly eight (8) homes on Helen Avenue that need to be torn down and another six (6) houses on Gillette. She asked what the criteria was for these houses to come down. Mayor Austin asked Councilwoman Clower to email those addresses to her so she may check to see if they were already on an on-going list for demolition or the list for auctioned properties. Councilwoman Clower asked about three auctioned homes that were purchased in Ward 4. She reported nothing has been done with them for approximately a year. That have been boarded up with high grass. Mayor Austin asked for those addresses because there is a process of things that must be done before work can begin to an auction-acquired home. Mayor Austin said she will

ask Myra Randle, Economic Development Specialist, to look into the auctioned homes. Councilwoman Clower informed Jim that there is trash debris on Garesche and Janet. She asked for a status because she is receiving resident phone calls and asked for a timeframe for cleanup. Jim said he did see another mattress dumped near where the old junkyard was on Hodiamont and Garesche. He knew that Ward 4 was overdue on grass cutting. He thanked the Building Department for helping Public Works identify 101 locations to cut, which should not take too long for Public Works to address. He anticipated taking care of the trash dumped off Garesche and Janet that week. She thanked Public Works for cutting the grass.

Councilwoman Clower thanked everyone that had welcomed her, she looked forward to working together. She is truly thankful, especially the people that voted for her. She told the residents of Ward 4 to keep reaching out to her and she will do the best that she can to help build-up Ward 4 again.

## **5. MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Austin thanked all the Department Heads who have been doing a great job during this time and trying to keep up with things. She reported the previous week City Hall was opened until 2 p.m. Everyone must enter with a mask. Every department is open but not fully staffed. She said there are some City employees that are working from home to continue to practice social distancing. The City has made provisions, like the use of plexiglass in various offices but the City is concerned about the numbers that are rising in COVID-19 cases and paying attention to the data, hence, why the City of Jennings only has one park opened at this time. Mayor Austin said that they are observing what other parks are doing in St. Louis County. Park facilities will not be opened at this time. When they do, she will make sure that Jim has someone to clean it every one to two hours. She said those are some things that the City is still working on.

Mayor Austin thanked the City Councilmembers who have been working closely with the City. She welcomed the newly elected Councilmembers and those returning. She recognized accomplishments of staff and City Council: Deletra Hudson, City Clerk, who has been appointed as Treasurer to the Missouri City Clerk and Finance Officer Association in the Eastern Division, Councilman Terry Wilson who was chosen as the at-large delegate for the Democratic National Convention held in August of 2020 in Milwaukee, WI. She said it was great to have someone from Jennings who will be a delegate at the National Convention. She reported that he was also appointed to the Municipal League Metropolitan St. Louis Board.

Mayor Austin thanked Capt. Law and all the Jennings precinct Officers, who have been doing a great job of trying to keep protestors out of the City of Jennings. Capt. Law sent extra police officers to assist him with that. She reported that Councilwoman Miranda Jones had been selected to be the Chief Operation Officer of the Better Family Life and the City of Jennings is so proud of her representing the City. She congratulated her for being re-elected to the Jennings School Board and newly elected board member, Councilwoman Phyllis Anderson. Mayor Austin informed the public that Jennings had a group of Council people who are concerned and not just sitting and talking about issues but are actually sitting at that table and being a voice of change within the community. Mayor Austin recognized Myra Randle, Economic Development Specialist, and the committee who has been working very hard with Census 2020 to get the word out to ensure that residents of Jennings are completing their Census forms. Mayor Austin reminded Councilmembers to get the word out to residents within their wards. She reported that as of the previous week of June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the percentage was 48.2% of residents who have completed the form and when the Mayor received the count that Monday morning from Myra, the number had not changed. Mayor Austin said there is still a lot to be done.

Mayor Austin reported the Spring 2020 Jennings Newsletter is online, only 200 were ordered because the Summer 2020 edition is currently in creation. Summer 2020 edition will cover March, April, May, and June. The Spring 2020 edition covers January to February, now online showing activities and pictures.

Mayor Austin reported a phone blast which had been added to the City's resources. She asked everyone to give their telephone numbers to Deletra. She will be sure to add it to the phone blast so that they will receive messages from the City. She reminded Councilmembers that if they have residents that would like to be added to the phone blast, be sure to get those telephone numbers with the permission of their residents to Deletra.

Mayor Austin said that as others said earlier, the graduation parade was something different and totally out of the box. It was a great turn out. The Jennings School District Board members and the Superintendent came up with that idea to ensure that the young people were able to celebrate for graduation.

Mayor Austin said that as Councilwoman Owens reported, New Life Church on McLaran Avenue has been a great contributor with trying to keep residents informed. Mayor Austin delivered one hundred (100) Census bags to them on Saturday and they were able to distribute them.

She reported that the City was moving forward. The Chase Bank in Buzz Westfall Plaza is coming along. In Ward 4, people may see new houses being constructed on Garesche Avenue and Wilborn Drive. Mayor Austin reported that soon residents will be hearing from the City regarding meetings for public feedback in regard to the new City Hall and Recreation Center. Mayor Austin report that approximately three (3) businesses were affected by protestors in Ferguson: one at the Circle, one at Solway and one at West Florissant. Those business owners were able to apply for a small business grant that may assist in the improvements they needed to make. She reported that information was sent to small businesses for the Small Business Relief Grant that was available through St. Louis County and approximately eighteen (18) businesses applied, thanks to Stephanie Crayton, Accounts Receivable Clerk in the Finance Department. She conducted follow-up calls with them to make business owners comfortable and reassure them about the grant. Those business owners did apply, and they should be hearing something by mid-July to see if they have received up to \$15,000 in funds for their businesses. Councilwoman Owens asked if it was too late for other Jennings businesses to apply. Mayor Austin replied it was too late.

#### **D. MONTHLY DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman Anderson, the Council approved the monthly department reports. All in favor, none opposed.

#### **E. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

##### ***1. Ways and Means & Public Safety Committee –***

Councilman Wilson reported there was a meeting conducted on June 22, 2020 at 6 p.m. All members were present. He said two items were discussed, the first was Economic Development Consultant Contract for Irvetta Williams, which would be voted on later in this meeting, and an informational update regarding the purchase of two-way radios for Corrections Department. He reported that Lt. Geasley gave the committee a presentation on the replacement of a few radios, which fell under the threshold for City Council approval.

Councilman Wilson advised that another Ways & Means Committee meeting may be scheduled after the discussion of speed bumps with the Public Works & Building Committee.

##### ***2. Public Works & Building Committee –*** Councilwoman Jones reported there was no meeting.

##### ***3. Parks & Recreation Committee –*** Councilman Stichnote reported there was no meeting.

##### ***4. Policy and Ordinance Committee –*** Councilwoman Jones reported there was no meeting.

***5. Municipal League –*** Councilman Wilson reported there was a meeting two weeks prior in which they discussed the installation of the new Board members: Ruth Springer, Mayor of Olivette, to position of President, Terry Briggs of Bridgeton as Vice President, Darlene Bell of Moline Acres as Finance Chair and three new Board members including himself, Cara Spencer from the City of St. Louis, and Mark Harder who is a St. Louis County Councilmember, and Tim Lowry, Mayor of Florissant.

Councilman Wilson reported the training for newly elected officials will be released by Deletra. He was unsure if it would be done virtually or an in-person option, but he encouraged the new City Councilmembers to take advantage of that training. He recommended himself as a liaison for them to the Municipal League for those upcoming and online trainings. Councilman Wilson said the trainings are open to past City Councilmembers or those previously elected. They are a good refresher for them as well.

## **6. Planning Commission –**

Councilman Johnson reported a meeting was held on June 4, 2020 where they heard a petition for a Conditional Use Permit to operate a hair salon at 1282 and 1284 St. Cyr Road for Geneca Goldsby, who was present, provided information about her business and her intentions of occupying that space. With all questions answered, the Planning Commission voted and passed to recommend a Conditional Use Permit to the City Council.

Councilwoman Anderson inquired if the meeting was conducted virtually. Councilman Johnson replied that it was.

**7. Youth Commission** – No reports provided.

**8. Senior Commission** – No reports provided.

Councilman Wilson gave a shout out to the Youth Commission for the decorations for the Graduation 2020 parade. He said they did a good job of supporting the graduating seniors from Jennings High School.

## **F. LEGAL BUSINESS (Proposed Ordinances)**

### **1. AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JENNINGS, MISSOURI, APPROVING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT AND GRANTING SAME TO GENECA GOLDSBY TO OPERATE A HAIR SALON AT 1282 AND 1284 ST. CYR ROAD IN THE CITY OF JENNINGS, MISSOURI.**

There was a motion for the first reading made by Councilwoman Jones, seconded by Councilman Wilson for Bill #2611. Sam did the first reading of the ordinance. On the motion made by Councilwoman Anderson, seconded by Councilwoman Jones for the second reading, Sam did the second reading of the ordinance.

Bill #2611 became Ordinance #2550 by the following roll call vote of the councilmembers, voting in favor: Allan Stichnote, Miranda Jones, Terry Wilson, Jane Brown, Phyllis Anderson, Gary Johnson, Lorraine Clower, and Aja Owens; none opposing.

### **2. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF JENNINGS THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT FOR THE “WEST FLORISSANT CORRIDOR REDEVELOPMENT AREA” BETWEEN THE CITIES OF DELLWOOD, FERGUSON AND JENNINGS.**

There was a motion for the first reading made by Councilwoman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Wilson for Bill #2612. Sam did the first reading of the ordinance. On the motion made by Councilwoman Jones, seconded by Councilwoman Anderson for the second reading, Sam did the second reading of the ordinance.

Bill #2612 became Ordinance #2551 by the following roll call vote of the councilmembers, voting in favor: Allan Stichnote, Miranda Jones, Terry Wilson, Jane Brown, Phyllis Anderson, Gary Johnson, Lorraine Clower, and Aja Owens; none opposing.

## **G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – none.**

## **H. NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Approval of the appointment of the President Pro Tem.**

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman Anderson, the Council approved the appointment of Councilwoman Miranda Jones as President Pro Tem. All in favor, none opposed.

### **2. Approval of the Standing Committees.**

On the motion made by Councilwoman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Wilson, the Council approved the 2020-2021 Standing Committee appointments as such: Chairman Terry Wilson, Councilwoman Jones, Councilwoman Anderson, and Councilwoman Clower to the Ways and Means & Public Safety Committee; Chairwoman Phyllis Anderson, Councilwoman Jones, Councilwoman Brown and Councilwoman Clower to the Building and Public Works Committee; Chairman Allan Stichnote, Councilwoman Brown, Councilman Johnson and Councilwoman Owens to the Parks and Recreation Committee; Chairwoman Miranda Jones, Councilman Wilson, Councilman Johnson and Councilwoman Owens to the Policy and Ordinance Committee. All in favor, none opposed.

***3. Approval of the appointment of the Council Representative to the Planning Commission.***

On the motion made by Councilwoman Jones, seconded by Councilwoman Anderson, the Council approved the appointment of Councilman Gary Johnson to the Planning Commission. All in favor, none opposed.

***4. Approval of the appointment to the Senior Commissioner.***

On the motion made by Councilwoman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Stichnote, the Council approved the re-appointment and term expiration of Linda Eikerenkoetter to the Senior Commission. Her term will expire April 2023. All in favor, none opposed.

***5. Approval of the appointment of the Council Representative to the Municipal League.***

On the motion made by Councilwoman Jones, seconded by Councilwoman Anderson, the Council approved the appointment of Terry Wilson to represent Jennings in the Municipal League. All in favor, none opposed.

***6. Approval of the 2021 CDBG Allocation and 2018 & 2019 Re-Allocation.***

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman Anderson, the Council approved the 2021 CDBG Allocation in the amount of \$186,800 and the 2018 Re-allocation of \$44768.50 & 2019 Re-allocation of \$44,019. All in favor, none opposed.

***7. Approval of Special Event Permit – Norwood Country Club.***

On the motion made by Councilwoman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Stichnote, the Council approved the Special Event Permit for Norwood Country Club for a fireworks display on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020. All in favor, none opposed.

***8. Approval of the resolutions from Allan's Isle.***

On the motion made by Councilwoman Anderson, seconded by Councilwoman Jones, the Council approved the resolution for Councilman Allan Stichnote Isle in Koeneman Park. All in favor, none opposed.

***9. Approval of the resolutions from Rodney Epp's Hamilton Park.***

On the motion made by Councilwoman Anderson, seconded by Councilwoman Jones, the Council approved the resolution renaming Hamilton Park as Councilman Rodney Epps' Park. All in favor, none opposed.

***10. Approval of the Economic Development Contract.***

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman Jones, the Council approved the month-to-month Economic Development Consultant contract for Irvetta Williams. All in favor, none opposed.

***11. Approval of the monthly bills for payment.***

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman Anderson, the Council approved the monthly bills for payment. All in favor, none opposed.

#### **I. MAYOR'S CLOSING REMARKS**

Mayor Austin thanked everyone who participated in the City of Jennings June City Council Meeting via Telemeeting. She appreciated everyone for taking the time to come out and reminded everyone to check the City of Jennings website for updates and the Jennings Newsletter as well as continue to be safe.

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

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman Anderson, the City Council voted by the following roll call vote for a closed session for Legal and Personnel (RSMO 610:021-1,3). Councilmembers voting in favor of the session were the following: Allan Stichnote, Miranda Jones, Terry Wilson, Jane Brown, Phyllis Anderson, Gary Johnson, Lorraine Clower, and Aja Owens; none opposing.

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

#### **LEGAL**

After a brief recess, the City Attorney discussed with the City Council a legal issue.

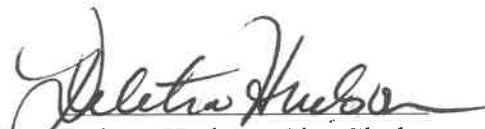
#### **K. ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion made by Councilwoman Anderson, seconded by Councilwoman Jones, the City Council voted in favor by the roll call votes of the following councilmembers to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m.: Allan Stichnote, Jane Brown, Miranda Jones, Terry Wilson, Phyllis Anderson, Gary Johnson, Lorraine Clower and Aja Owens; none opposing.

Approved:

  
Yolanda Austin, Mayor

Attest:

  
Deletra Hudson, City Clerk

