



**Minutes of the City Council Regular Meeting  
Telemeeting Via Zoom Video  
November 23, 2020  
Regular Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.**

The two thousand four hundred and eleventh meeting of the Jennings City Council was held on Monday, November 23, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom Video.

**A. PUBLIC HEARING**

**1. PETITION TO VACATE A PAPER STREET KNOWN AS “NETTIE AVENUE” EXTENDING FROM THE CURRENT DEAD END OF HAMILTON AVENUE TO THE LOUISA FOODS PROPERTY LINE. Petitioners: John Lark, architect, and Tom Baldetti, owner of Louisa Foods.**

Mayor Austin opened the public hearing for those speaking for the petition. Tom Baldetti said that Louisa Foods purchased a lot some years ago with a road that goes through the property, running east and west, and the petition is to include the road as a part of the property. He said that the road had never been used as a street with grass growing along with it. Sam said that paper streets appear on a county map, but this paper street had never been used as a street.

Mayor Austin asked for anyone speaking against the petition. Councilwoman Anderson said she received a call regarding the location, not the street, and asked at what point should she speak on the issue. Mayor said it will be discussed in legal business. She closed the petition.

**B. REGULAR MEETING**

**1. Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order at 7:05 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; and Sam Alton, City Attorney.

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

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

**4. Approval of the minutes from the Regular Meeting of October 26, 2020.**

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman Brown, the City Council approved the minutes from the Regular Meeting of October 26, 2020. All in favor; none opposed.

**5. Approval of the minutes from the Special Meeting of November 9, 2020.**

On the motion made by Councilwoman Brown, seconded by Councilwoman Jones, the City Council approved the minutes from the Special Meeting of November 9, 2020. All in favor; none opposed.

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

### **1. Presentation by St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney, Wesley Bell**

Mayor Austin invited St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney, Wesley Bell to speak. Mr. Bell greeted everyone, saying it would be better to speak in person, but he was hopeful that the meeting would be in person in the future. He said that the St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney's Office views municipalities as partners and he believed in open communication. He said that he valued all the work that the City is doing. Mr. Bell said that the purpose of him speaking was like a State of the Union address for the Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

Mr. Bell said that serious and violent offenders are being prosecuted and the Prosecuting Attorney's Office has been assisting low-level and non-violent offenders to get help and treatment. He said that low-level offenders can graduate to violent crimes over time and without help. He said that they are committing a large effort to address those individuals at a lower level, and it has been bearing fruit.

Mr. Bell said that about two hundred (200) low-level offenders have been treated in diversion programs or alternative courts, which was low. In counties like Kansas City, they were treating about 60% more people than in St. Louis County, and counties like the Missouri Bootheel were also treating more people. Both areas have smaller demographics than St. Louis County. The Prosecuting Attorney's Office has made it a priority to help with treatment. He was proud to say that, with the help of community partners, they are treating people and helping people get the resources they need. Mr. Bell said that there have been about 1,100 people who have had successful diversions and several people that have benefitted from the pre-trial diversion program with about a 5% re-offense rate. He said that he has seen in Federal Government programs that had large, robust services with low recidivism rates. He believed that the system needed reform to help low-level offenders because it is the right thing to do and save taxpayer money, approximately \$5,000-\$10,000 per offender, rather than applying incarceration.

Mr. Bell said that when comparing statistics in Jennings from April 2018 to April 2019, there has been a lower rate of crimes by 17%. He said that the Prosecuting Attorney's Office will continue to help with trying to bring down the rate of violent crimes. He said that Jennings School District was instrumental in bringing down the rate of violent crimes by implementing programs to educate youth, helping homeless students, and a school-based health clinic to get the resources they need. Mr. Bell said that there is a correlation between these resources and the lowered crime rates. He said that by implementing these programs and resources, the City of Jennings is helping the Prosecuting Attorney's Office do their job. He said he was open to returning to Jennings in the future.

### **2. Comments by the public. (Please sign in. Comments are limited to 3 minutes. See Decorum Ordinance.)**

*David Green, 8630 Clifton Avenue*, greeted everyone and thanked the City Council for allowing him to speak. He asked Mayor Austin what's going on about something he saw on the St. Louis news regarding St. Louis City Police merging with the North County Police force.

Capt. Law of St. Louis County Police Department said there will be no merging with St. Louis City Police. They are working together for better communication to help alleviate crossing crime from St. Louis City and Jennings.

*Yolonda Henderson, 8822 Sumter Drive*, greeted everyone. She reported a couple of lights out. First, at 9224 Leamont Drive and that the house may also be vacant. Second, on Shannonaire Drive there was a light flickering off and on. Ms. Henderson said that at 2418 Sharidge Drive the grass needed to be cut. She asked about the MSD (Missouri Sewer District) lot and the pothole on Sharidge. Jim said that they filled the pothole with slurry and cold patch, and he looked at it that morning. Ms. Henderson recognized Margie Brown for helping an elderly resident who had a sewer back up issue.

Ms. Henderson asked if a traffic study could be performed near the intersection of Robley Drive and Darnell Place. She said that it was dangerous, and she was almost hit two times. She asked

about the barricades around the City. Ms. Henderson also asked if the Fire Department was notified of the barricades going up. Mayor Austin said yes, Fire Department, EMS, Jennings School District, Alderwoman, and residents were sent letters. Mayor Austin asked Schona McClellon, Director of Housing and Economic Development, about the address she gave last time on 2418 Sharidge Drive. Jim Maixner, Public Works Director, said he investigated the property in MyGov, and it was addressed. Schona confirmed that it was put in the system.

**Grace Harvey, Riverview Fire Protection District Director, 2329 Dotley Avenue**, thanked everyone for the invite to speak at the City Council Meeting. She said that she was happy to share exciting news, they are undergoing a name change. Ms. Harvey explained that since Jennings merged with the Riverview Fire District in 2014, citizens have been confused, due to first responder vehicles named differently. She said that it was decided that they would be renamed North County Fire & Rescue Protection District. Ms. Harvey said that tax dollars are being saved due to the passing of Proposition I, and the two new firehouses will be erected with the new name. She thanked those who voted on it. She said that on Tuesday, November 24, 2020, there will be a name change hearing hosted via Zoom at 1:30 p.m. North County Fire & Rescue Protection District was named because it encompasses areas that are served in a seventeen (17) square mile radius: Riverview, Jennings, Flordell Hills, Bellefontaine, Moline Acres, Glasgow Village, and other unincorporated cities of St. Louis County. She said Mayor Austin was a large proponent when the merger happened and happy to bring it to fruition. Ms. Harvey said that the Fire District meetings are held every Tuesday evening via Zoom.

Ms. Harvey said that they had a ten-year plan for the EMRA (Emergency Medical Response Agencies) license. The process was expedited and certified for Advanced Life Support. She said that there are now six (6) firefighter-paramedics hired on the truck. She encouraged the public to introduce themselves and welcome the new firefighter-paramedics. Mayor Austin thanked her and asked that she thank the firefighters for installing fire detectors and that she would be on the call the following day regarding the name change hearing.

**Marietta Beck, 5476 Hodiamont Avenue**, greeted everyone. She thanked the City for staying on the case on 5441 Hodiamont Avenue, which has no vehicles now. She asked Jim if residents could call Ameren to report streetlights. Jim said yes, there will be a customer service line printed in the newsletter. She commented about the last meeting is short and if the issue was investigated. Mayor Austin said that the police contract will be discussed in a couple of months at a Ways & Means Meeting.

Ms. Beck said she was pleased with the barricades, they were installed and within six (6) hours, she said there was less traffic on Emma Avenue which has been quieter, but unfortunately, there were two murders. She said that her neighbors noticed the difference with the installation of the barricades and wished it would've happened a while ago. Ms. Beck wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

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

**Councilman Stichnote** greeted everyone. He asked Jim when Ward 1 will get barricades and said that people were excited about getting them. Jim said after the holidays the barricades in Ward 1 would be placed. He said that he just finished installing barricades on Minnie Avenue, Albertine Avenue, Lena Avenue, and two alleys that previously had barricades. He is finishing up placing the delineators to put up for reflectors and Dead-End signs installed. Jim said that Ward 1 should be seeing the barricades after the Thanksgiving holiday.

Councilman Stichnote asked Sam Alton, City Attorney, about the motorhome on Scottdale. Sam asked Jim about the motorhome. Jim said the property owner lived in Colorado; the half of the motorhome sits on another woman's property and that he consulted Joshua Canavan, Prosecuting Attorney, regarding the motorhome. He said that when the City consulted a tow company, they wanted to charge the other property owner, which the motorhome does not belong, to have it removed. Jim said that tickets were issued to the property owner in the past. Mayor Austin asked if Sam could get with the Jennings Prosecuting Attorney to consult on the issue.

Councilman Stichnote said that he was contacted by a Ward 4 resident who was requesting a barricade on Wescott Avenue. He said that he told the resident to get in contact with their Ward 4

Councilmembers. Mayor Austin asked him to let Jim know about the upcoming Building and Public Works Committee meeting.

He thanked Capt. Law for getting guns and bad guys off the street. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and that they will see everyone next time.

**Councilwoman Jones** greeted everyone and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. She said that we are currently living in a strange time with high COVID-19 positivity rates and the rates are even higher when you think of people who have not been tested. She recommended curtailing holiday festivities and encouraged awareness of people's gatherings. Councilwoman Jones said that there were way too many people being lost due to COVID-19 and everyone needs to play their part.

She said that transparency is important to her and she felt it was important to get things done. Councilwoman Jones hoped to have some real, meaningful conversations regarding public safety in the Jennings community. She said that she was concerned and wanted to be sure that it was on the record asking for more transparency. She said that Capt. Law has been making a gallant attempt at being in contact with the City. She reported a Ward 1 meeting on December 3, 2020. Councilwoman Jones said that she will be posting a link for the meeting so that residents could join. She said that they represent Ward 1 residents. She will let everyone know what the councilmembers know and make sure people feel safe and comfortable.

Councilwoman Jones said that a lot is going on in the community, and she expressed her concern about gatherings of people with the rising COVID-19 cases. She commented that the Special City Council meeting went well and the situation in the last meeting was well handled. She said that the public safety plan has so far been effective, and people are seeing things happen, which is so important. Councilwoman Jones thanked the Public Works Director for being so responsive to all the City's needs. She thanked Schona, Sam, and Deletra for working so hard for Jennings under Mayor Austin's leadership.

She reported that there are landlord issues in Jennings. The landlords are not doing what they are supposed to do with people being home. She recommended that the City circle back around because landlords need to be held accountable to residents. Councilwoman Jones thanked Schona for talking to residents and Jim for taking care of them too. She wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

**Councilman Wilson** thanked everyone for kind words with the loss of his cousin and thanked Councilwoman Brown for her card. He thanked Deletra for working so hard on getting the proclamation to his aunt.

Councilman Wilson commended the community for coming out strong in the November election. He said that the voter turnout had increased by about 10% in Jennings and up 9% in the whole Norwood Township. He said that Jennings needed to make sure that the momentum from the 2020 General Election is funneled to April 2021 Municipal Election.

Councilman Wilson said that Ward 2 is hosting a town hall meeting on November 30 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom and all are welcome to attend. He said that Mayor Austin will join the meeting and give City of Jennings updates, President Rosemary Johnson of the Jennings School District and special guest, Dr. Kendra Holmes of Affinia Healthcare will be speaking on COVID-19 updates, testing sites, and giving medical opinions. He said that representatives from the Police Department will be joining the meeting as well and a \$50 gift card will be raffled off at the end of the meeting. Councilman Wilson encouraged people to look out for their neighbors and look out for people's packages being delivered during the holiday season. He said to be safe and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

**Councilwoman Brown** thanked Mayor Austin. She asked Capt. Law to thank Officer McCrary for helping with the situation that occurred on Shadydale Drive and it was handled successfully. She recognized Irvetta Williams, Economic Development Consultant, for being vital to the City and for the Outstanding Local Government Achievement Award for the West Florissant Corridor District. Councilwoman Brown said it was good to see surrounding areas working together and what Jennings is looking to do.

She said that October 28, 2020, was National First Responders Day. She said they could not be thanked enough for what they do daily. She said that on October 31, 2020, there was a safety Halloween event at Gary Gore Community Center and that it was so unified with high community spirit. She said that adults were enjoying it as well as the young people and there were such an upbeat feeling and a delightful time together.

Councilwoman Brown wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and to be safe, don't despair for not being able to be with families. She urged everyone to keep safe and enjoy their families from a distance.

**Councilman Johnson** greeted everyone. He said that he attended the Neighborhood Watch meeting hosted by Officer McCrary, which was joined by a domestic violence speaker. He said that the meeting was very informative and was thought-provoking. He was glad they opened the eyes of residents. Councilman Johnson said that there was a Halloween Day drive-up event, where candy was given away, people wore costumes and had safe interactions. The event was joined by the staff of Stay Fresh Barbershop and Krab Kingz restaurant.

Councilman Johnson said that on Wednesday, November 25, 2020, there will be a turkey giveaway at Urban League from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. He said that there are organizations like STL Mutual Aid that can provide household items and other items. The items can be picked up at giveaway sites or delivered. He said that he wanted to piggyback on what Councilwoman Jones recommended with staying focused on public safety. He said that he has seen the effort of St. Louis County Police, but that the City should not forget that comments at City Council meetings in previous months have been about crime. Councilman Johnson said that with no disrespect to Prosecuting Attorney Wesley Bell, crime may not be down in important areas. He felt that the City should investigate why that is before having another conversation about the police contract. He said with the unexpected ending of the November 9<sup>th</sup> Special City Council meeting, he felt that Sgt. Perez stated only 4 cars were patrolling at nighttime. Councilman Johnson feels that it is necessary to investigate what the City of Jennings is paying for and to revisit the police contract. He challenged the councilmembers to read the contract and revisit the police report numbers. He thanked everyone for their time and hoped that everyone enjoys their holiday.

**Councilwoman Anderson** greeted everyone. She said she received a complaint on 7200 Marge Avenue, then forwarded that to Jim about trash dumping there. She said that she received a call saying that Louisa Foods owners are not practicing social distancing within the factory and she expressed her concern. She asked Sam if she should report this to the local news or to the police to report. Sam said to notify St. Louis County Health Department first then perhaps news publications next. Sam said that the St. Louis County Health Department enforces the rules and the police force must work with them.

She reminded everyone that numbers are still high, and it seems like no one is tracing people they have encountered anymore. She asked everyone to please listen to any Department of Health representatives that may call. Councilwoman Anderson commented that COVID-19 numbers are astronomical at present. She recommended that family members don't visit for Thanksgiving and that people stay in their bubbles.

**Councilwoman Clower** greeted everyone. She hopes that everyone has a nice Thanksgiving. She reminded everyone to stay safe. She gave her condolences to those who have lost loved ones to COVID-19.

Councilwoman Clower said that Ward 4 hosted a meeting with Capt. Law and hoped that residents come together to support their police officers. She reported that at 8716 Acacia Drive the grass needed to be cut. Mayor Austin reminded Councilwoman Clower that the process begins with reporting it to the Building Department and asked Schona to follow up with her. Councilwoman Clower said on Garesche Avenue and similar streets have had overgrown trees that may be covering streetlights. Jim said that it is the homeowner's responsibility to maintain their trees. Jim said that flyers were sent out in the past and he has seen easements along with homes that have limbs that could have fallen and hurt someone off Hord Avenue. Councilwoman Clower reported that at 5473 Helen Avenue the home's gutters are falling and the property owners are poorly maintaining the property. She asked if the Planning Commission will be discussing the 2019-2020 demolition and wanted to know more about it. Mayor Austin said that it was the Building Department's responsibility and that Schona has a list of homes that are up



for demolition. Mayor Austin said that the Building Department is currently finishing up on the list from 2015-2017. She said that perhaps some funds from the Economic Development Fund could be used to work on two or three homes. Mayor Austin instructed Councilwoman Clower to give Schona the address to be added to the demolition list. Mayor Austin said that eight (8) homes are coming down.

Councilwoman Clower reminded everyone about the turkey giveaway at the Urban League from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Jamestown mall. This information was the most updated from what Councilman Johnson said about the turkey giveaway.

**Councilwoman Owens** greeted everyone and started with a quote from Nelson Mandela. She thanked the Police Department for all their work and recognized Officer McCrary for all his work in the community and the rest of the Jennings Precinct. She said that the SWAT Team vehicle was shown to her nephew, who would like to be in law enforcement when he gets older.

Councilwoman Owens said that the Halloween event at Gary Gore Community Center was a success. She thanked Officer McCrary for handing out meals for families in Ward 4. She said that New Life Church hosted a Halloween event and a Thanksgiving event on Saturday. She said that they have been doing a lot for the community. Seniors complained about dumping near Corpus Christi. Councilwoman Owens thanked Jim for putting up a barricade near Lillian Avenue and Hodiamont Avenue. She said that at the last meeting the Pastor from Monument of Faith Church spoke about the trash dumping behind their building and the Building Department did follow up. She said that she knows that dumping is an issue throughout the City and urged everyone to keep a lookout for when that happens. Councilwoman Owens said that a lot of residents are having mixed feelings about the installation of the barricades. She received a report that on Lalite Avenue people had been driving through properties to get around the barricades. She said that people are just getting used to the barricades. She noted that crime has gone down with the barricades being installed. Councilwoman Owens reported that residents have been asking if McLaran Avenue will be getting speed bumps. Mayor Austin said McLaran Avenue was on the list to have speed bumps installed. Jim said that from the 1900-2400 block, speed bumps will be installed. Jim said barricades will be installed after the traffic study is conducted, and more can be budgeted in the future.

Councilwoman Owens reminded everyone that there is a house decorating contest in Ward 4 for the holiday and flyers are going out. She encouraged Ward 4 residents to participate and that there will be cash prizes for the winners. She said that if any families need hygiene items like toothbrushes and diapers, they are available through her and to reach out. Councilwoman Owens wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and reminded everyone to be safe, stay at home, and meet with immediate family only. She reminded everyone about all the giveaway dinners, so a lot of people can celebrate. She also reported that she will follow up on Shirley Wayne's issue about the mattress that was left. Jim and Schona noted the issue. Councilwoman Owens said that some of the senior residents gave her a little award for working on their behalf.

### **3. MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Austin thanked everyone for cards, calls, and texts in response to the loss of her nephew. She thanked Department Heads for empowering and embracing the words of the Mayor. She said those three words are: energized, excited, and enthusiastic.

Mayor Austin was excited to introduce the Corrections Department Lieutenant Jones, who worked formerly for the St. Louis County Correctional Department. She said that he has been diving in and coming up with changes in the Jennings Corrections Department. Mayor Austin was excited about the new faces in the Building Department. She said that there are two additional Code Enforcement Inspectors. She said now there will be one inspector assigned per Ward. She also announced the hire of a new Administrative Assistant who started the previous week. She was hopeful now that there are people in the Building Department to support the Director and move things in the right direction, commercial and residential. She said that the Building Department and Public Works have been working closely together. Since parks have closed Mayor Austin asked Jim to retain his part-time staff to go around the City to pick up trash and take care of dumping, Monday through Friday.

Mayor Austin said that there has been some publicity about the barricades and Lolita Thomas, Receptionist at City Hall, has said that there have been a lot of calls for the installation of the barricades. Mayor Austin observed that she has only gotten compliments about the placement on the Jennings side of the barricades and the City side. She said that the City is getting ready to start working on barricade placement on the following streets: Clarion Drive, Ellison Drive, Shirley Avenue, and Scottsdale Avenue. She said that she had notified the Mayor of Ferguson of the upcoming barricade placements. She said that the City will be placing speed bumps near Fairview Elementary School, Northview Elementary School, Jennings Junior High School, and Jennings Senior High School.

Mayor Austin said that on December 8, 2020, Betty Jean Kerr People's Health Center will be providing walk-up or drive-up COVID-19 tests at the Jennings Educational Training School (JETS) at 6605 West Florissant from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. She reminded everyone that North County Community Development on 6614 West Florissant will be doing a drive and donations for canned goods for those in need. She said if anyone drops off items for donation, please let her know which drive they are donating to since she is collecting for two different donation drives. One for North County Community and the other is for a program for children who have lost their parents this year due to COVID-19.

Mayor Austin announced the City of Jennings received the Outstanding Local Government Achievement Award for its involvement in the West Florissant Corridor District from the East-West Gateway Council of Governments. She said that the award recognizes appropriate ways to sustain community and economic development. She congratulated the hard work of the Planning Commission.

Mayor Austin said that she is aware of the rising rate of COVID-19 cases and that she has been monitoring City offices and using hand sanitizer throughout the day. She said that Goodwill will be opening soon at the Buzz Westfall Plaza. She said that they are looking for employees, and applications are available online or at City Hall. Mayor Austin reported that on Wednesday, November 4, 2020, she was given a walkthrough of the new Chase Bank to see the facility and it seemed to be doing a lot of business. She reported that the City has continued to have meetings with KAI Architects, working with the developers, and has submitted an amount for acquisition of the land. She said that the City is now waiting for a response to its offer.

Mayor Austin said that residents are now living in Jennings Place III in Ward 2. Mayor Austin said that the Speedway Gas Station has been discussed in the Planning Commission. She said that it should be presented before the City Council within the next couple of months. She said that they plan to have an establishment in Ward 4 near Jennings Station Road and I-70 which will be a gas station and convenience store. She said it was important to work with police to ensure that businesses and residents feel safe.

Mayor Austin reported that there is a part of the St. Louis County CARES Act fund for restaurants and small businesses to apply for a \$5000 grant, for those who did not apply in the first round. She wanted to make sure that businesses in the Jennings area knew. She reported that the City of Jennings has been awarded \$1,011,759 from the St. Louis County CARES Act, the City has already received half of the reimbursement and is now waiting for the second half. She said that the funds will be spent on thorough cleaning at the Corrections Department, decontamination and disinfection of all City buildings, updates to the ductwork in all City buildings, the purchasing of cleaning supplies, sanitizers, and masks to be distributed to the public, the purchase of seven (7) thermal cameras to monitor people as they are coming into City buildings and fund extra park security, amongst other expenses. The City of Jennings will be spending every bit of the funds to mitigate the cost of COVID- related expenses.

Mayor Austin noted appreciation from a resident for a proclamation from Mayor Austin, November 14<sup>th</sup>, the woman said that the time had been stressful, and the proclamation was a lift to her spirit. The resident said that she was thankful for 16 years in Jennings with good neighbors, encounters with the Police Department and Fire Department have been changing, and smoke detectors being installed is good. She wanted to extend a positive word.

Mayor Austin wished a Happy Thanksgiving to all and reminded everyone to continue being safe. She let everyone know that the City Offices will be closed Thursday and Friday to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday.

Mayor Austin called on Capt. Law because she wanted him to share what the Jennings Precinct has been doing this year. Capt. Law said that in 2020 the Jennings Precinct has done thirty (30) community engagement pieces this year and was able to acquire funds from the US Attorney's Office for \$50,000 for the City of Jennings. He said that they have coordinated to create a Jail Emergency Plan with Cpl. Shumpert and Lt. Jones, who is doing an awesome job. Capt. Law reported that his officers are being thanked by residents for the installation of the barricades. He said to the problem with derelict automobiles, the officer that has been assigned to the issue has, thus far, tagged forty-four (44) vehicles and kept an under 20% tow rate. Capt. Law said that year-to-date crime statistics are down 11% from the prior year (2019). He said that violent crimes have initiated the rising of teams in the Jennings area and in the last 15 days, the City has seen a drop in violent crime by 48%. He said that the Jennings Precinct has been deploying resources strategically and so far, officers have made 43 felony arrests and 35 guns have been taken off the street in the last 30 days, which has decreased 25% since last year. Capt. Law said that the St. Louis County Police Department – Jennings Precinct will not be stopping, he wanted Councilman Johnson to know that, and will continue to bring those resources into the Jennings area. He said that he will continue to work with the City of Jennings and will continue to be transparent. Capt. Law said that he maintains an open-door policy and that the precinct takes a large part in community engagement.

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

On the motion made by Councilwoman Brown, seconded by Councilman Wilson, the City 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 that there was no meeting. He asked for another meeting to review the police contract. Mayor Austin said she was not sure whether it would be discussed in December or January, but it must be reviewed before the budget meeting that is coming up. Councilman Wilson asked that it be reviewed and discussed in a December meeting.

**2. Public Works & Building Committee** – Councilwoman Anderson reported that there was no meeting.

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

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

**5. Municipal League** – Councilman Wilson reported that the Municipal League had an Executive Board meeting. He said that they discussed the rate increase for Missouri Water Company by almost 30%. He said that the next public Municipal League meeting will be on December 9, 2020. Councilman Wilson said that he will get information to the City Clerk. He said that there will be a series of rate schedule meetings that have begun on September 11, 2020, and will last until March 25, 2021.

**6. Planning Commission**– Councilman Johnson reported that there was a meeting on Thursday, November 5, 2020. He said that there was a business off the corner of West Florissant and Goodfellow Boulevard that is looking to sell to a self-storage company. He said that the Planning Commission met with the potential purchasers.

**7. Youth Commission** – Report provided.

**8. Senior Commission**– Report provided.

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

**1. AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JENNINGS, MISSOURI, VACATING A PAPER STREET KNOWN AS “NETTIE AVENUE” EXTENDING EAST FROM THE CURRENT DEAD END OF HAMILTON AVENUE TO THE LOUISA FOODS PROPERTY LINE.**



There was a motion for the first reading made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilman Stichnote for Bill #2628. Sam did the first reading of the ordinance. On the motion made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilman Stichnote for the second reading, Sam did the second reading of the ordinance.

Bill #2628 became Ordinance #2566 by the following roll call vote of the councilmembers, voting in favor: Allan Stichnote, Miranda Jones, Jane Brown, Terry Wilson, Gary Johnson, Lorraine Clower, and Aja Owens; Phyllis Anderson opposed.

**G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – none.

## **H. NEW BUSINESS**

### ***1. Approval of the 2021 Holiday Calendar***

On the motion made by Councilwoman Clower, seconded by Councilman Wilson, the City Council approved the 2021 City of Jennings Holiday Calendar. All in favor; none opposed.

### ***2. Approval of the monthly bills for payment.***

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


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

Mayor Austin thanked everyone for participating in the virtual City Council meeting with 30 people online. She also thanked Department Heads and the City Council for their continued hard work.


## **J. ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion made by Councilwoman Clower, seconded by Councilwoman Anderson, the City Council voted the roll call votes of the following council members to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.: Allan Stichnote, Miranda Jones, Terry Wilson, Jane Brown, Phyllis Anderson, Gary Johnson, Aja Owens, and Lorraine Clower; none were absent; none opposed nor abstained.

Approved:

  
Yolanda Austin, Mayor

Attest:

  
Deletra Hudson, City Clerk

