Minutes of the City Council Special Meeting
Jennings City Hall
November 4, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

The two thousand three hundred ninety-eighth meeting of the Jennings City Council was held on Monday, November 4, 2019 at 7 p.m. at Jennings City Hall.

A. SPECIAL MEETING

1. Meeting called to order at 7:04 PM

Councilmembers present: Allan Stichnote, Aja Owens, Francine Dugger, Gary Johnson, Phyllis Anderson, Rodney Epps, Terry Wilson, Yolanda Austin

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

Councilmembers Absent: Miranda Jones

2. Approval of the Agenda

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilman Epps, the Council voted all in favor to approval of the agenda

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of a professional services contract for the preparation of the Comprehensive Plan

Councilwoman Dugger asked Mayor Austin to explain the work that the intern had been doing with the City's Comprehensive Plan. Mayor Austin explained that the intern came from Washington University. She was assigned to review the City's comprehensive plan and identify what was in the plan to be done and compare it to what has been done by the City over the years that followed the plan. Mayor Austin informed the Council that the intern had completed a great amount of work, but there was still some information that needed to be compiled to complete the project. However, the internship is over with Washington University. Mayor Austin wants to offer the intern a contract to complete the project. The current status of the project is being presented to the Planning Commission on Thursday, November 7th. The completion of this project is projected within the three-month period of the contract. Completion of the project will help move the City forward with knowing what projects have been done and what needs to be done.

On the motion by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman Anderson, the City Council voted all in favor to approve the contract with Diamond Munerlyn to research and update the City's Comprehensive Plan.

2. Approval of a professional services contract for the operations of the Building and Economic Development Department

There was a motion made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilman Epps that died for a lack of a vote due to questions

Mayor Austin explained to the Council the need to bring in a consultant to assist the City with Economic Development until a new Director of Housing and Economic Development could be hired. She presented the Council with a three-month contract to hire Irvetta Williams at the rate of $50 per hour with a maximum of 20 hours per week worked.

The Council discussed the proposed rate of pay and whether it was too high or too low. Mayor Austin explained that the City was paying a previous contractor over $200 per hour. The Council also discussed the fact that Ms. Williams previously worked with the City. Councilwoman Owens inquired about why she left the city previously.

At that point, the City Attorney recommended the Council go into Closed Session to discuss personnel.

C. Closed Session, Personnel (RSMO 610:021-3)

On the motion made by Councilwoman Anderson, seconded by Councilwoman Dugger, the Council voted for a closed session for Closed Session, Personnel (RSMO 610:021-3) by the roll call votes of the following council members: Stichnote, Wilson, Dugger, Anderson, Johnson, Epps, Owens; Jones absent; none opposing nor abstaining.

Councilwoman Owens inquired about the background and past work history of the recommended consultant. The Council discussed the personnel and addressed the concerns of the recommendation.

On the motion made by Councilwoman Owens, seconded by Councilwoman Anderson, the Council voted to hire Irvetta William as an emergency appointment for the consulting services by the roll call of the following council members: Stichnote, Wilson, Anderson, Epps, Owens; Jones absent; Dugger opposing; Johnson abstaining.

D. ADJOURNMENT

On the motion by Councilman Wilson, second by Councilwoman Anderson, the council voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m. by the roll call vote of the following council members: : Stichnote, Wilson, Dugger, Anderson, Johnson, Epps, Owens; Jones absent; none opposing nor abstaining.

Yolanda Austin

Yolanda Austin, Mayor

Attest:

Deletra Hudson

Deletra Hudson, City Clerk