

Minutes of the City Council Regular Meeting
Jennings City Hall
October 28, 2019
Public Hearing & Regular Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.

The two thousand three hundred ninety-seventh meeting of the Jennings City Council was held on Monday, October 28, 2019 at 7 p.m. at Jennings City Hall.

A. REGULAR MEETING

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

2. Roll Call

Members present: Allan Stichnote, Aja Owens, Francine Dugger, Gary Johnson, Miranda Jones, Phyllis Anderson, Terry Wilson, Yolanda Austin

Members absent: Rodney Epps

Also, Present: Yolanda Austin, Mayor; Sam Alton, City Attorney; Deletra Hudson, City Clerk; Henry Johnson, Director of Housing and Economic Development; Willie Brandon Jr., Recreation Director, James (Jim) Maixner, Public Works Director of Streets and Parks; Brenda Williams, Finance Director; Captain Juan Cox, St. Louis County Police Department.

3. Approval of the Agenda

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman Jones, the Council voted in favor to approve the agenda for the meeting of October 28, 2019.

4. Approval of the minutes from the Regular Meeting of September 23, 2019

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman Jones, the Council voted in favor to approve the minutes for the meeting of September 23, 2019.

B. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONERS, REMONSTRATIONS, COMPLAINTS AND REQUESTS

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

- a. *Joseph Turner, 8514 Hamilton*, thanked the City Council and Mayor Austin for moving the City forward and their service.
- b. *Rhonda McQueen, 7124 Greenhaven* - no comment
- c. *Marietta Beck, 5476 Hodiament*, started her comments by stating that she wished Councilman Epps was present because she thinks there was a misunderstanding at last month's meeting when she complained about properties not being picked up. She said she was sorry that he took it personally. Her intention was that she thought the Council would check out the Building Department as to why complaints are not being handled. She said she previously told Councilman Epps that him placing dumpster and picking up stuff went above his call as a council person.

Ms. Beck said there has been little improvement in her complaint since the September and August meeting. She understood that Mr. Johnson was supposed to call her the next day after the September meeting. As of this date, she reported that she has not heard from Mr. Johnson. Ms. Beck also stated that she invited all council members to drive through the southeast section of Ward 4. She reported that she only knows that Councilman Stichnote took her up on her offer because he does security at the church.

Ms. Beck asked about the new signs posted in reference to LAMC properties, and what is the new development about. She asked the Parks Department to check the lighting in the little park at the 5500 Hamilton. The light is on, but it is very dim. She also asked if Councilmembers are allowed to attend the City Council meetings by phone. Ms. Beck offered two recommendations: (1) could higher fees be charged for landlords that are absent, for instance out-of-state, to help recoup cost of the notifications that are done in reference to the properties. (2) instead of paying money for the fees, could the citizens do community

service like picking up trash. She reminded the City Council members that they are held to a higher standard and are not above the law, including traffic laws.

Sam responded to Ms. Beck's question regarding councilmembers attending meetings by phone. He said the code allows, with notice, for council members to miss meetings. Then the Sunshine Law 610-015 allows for council members to attend meetings by telephone, but they cannot vote unless they attend by video conference and it's an emergency. Ms. Beck asked if they are counted as absent. Sam said they are not counted as absent. He said the minutes should reflect that they are present by telephone. There is no prohibition against the council member attending a meeting by phone and listening by phone.

Councilwoman Owens addressed some of Ms. Beck's concerns. She said she rides through the 4th Ward all day, every day. If she sees anything or residents come to her with complaints, she directs it to the right department and follows up to make sure the concerns are being met. She said she never knew about Ms. Beck's concerns specifically, but she did go back to look into them. The Building Department let her know that the owners had been sent letters and they would be following up. Councilwoman Owens said she went to all of the addresses that Ms. Beck listed on Hodiarnont and Hamilton. She said all of the areas have been looked into and letters have been sent to the owners.

Mayor Austin asked Jim to address the concerns of Ms. Beck. Jim responded that there were other concerns about dumping in various places. There was a property identified that they didn't initially get to, but it was not a Jennings property; it was privately owned. Once it came through, they addressed it and plan to stay head of the issues. He told Ms. Beck that he received her email. The issues are in going through the process in the Building Department where letters are being sent. Once they get to the Public Works Department, the issues will be addressed. Mayor Austin confirmed with Jim that some of the issues were second mows, where the City had addressed the issues previously.

- d. *Yolonda Fountain-Henderson, 8822 Sumter*, complained about the graffiti on Lillian. She said the graffiti is still there and has been there for over two years. She asked about the status on Lynwood. She reported that the parents have to go behind the Jr. High and now there are craters in the street that need to be patched. Ms. Henderson said when she brought it to her councilperson, she was told that there will not be any special treatment for the Jennings School District. She continued to say that there is an issue on St. Cyr. She said she would give information to Capt. Cox or Sgt. Perez regarding a hot address. She said she has received two complaints and calls regarding drug activity and overcrowding. Ms. Henderson asked the Council what they were doing about the overcrowded households. She said she is getting a lot of complaints that the City is not doing occupancy permits and people are just moving in.

Ms. Henderson asked why the City is rushing to do Proposition E in November. People are constantly calling her and asking her about it. She said she doesn't think it is time for a community center, when the City of Jennings doesn't have its act together. She said the grass is tall and out of control. She said the Street Department is cutting in Alexandria Place and that shouldn't happen. We need to clean up the City. She thanked the City for cleaning the house on Solway. Then she asked when the derelict vehicle can be moved from the address that she has been constantly complaining about.

Mayor Austin asked Jim to address cutting the grass in Alexandria Place. Jim said the property is privately owned and the retention pond and property behind the Dollar General. The owner has defaulted and walked away from the property, so the City is treating it like every other property in the City; once the notices go out, the Public Works Department goes out to cut the property. He explained that liens are being put on the property.

Jim said the graffiti on the building off Highway 70 is within the City of Jennings limit, not Pine Lawn, he has verified that. Now that the City has a new aerial truck, they can safely get up to the building to paint over the graffiti. He reported that he will paint over the graffiti with gray paint. He continued to address the pothole on Lynwood. He said that when they opened that street, no one predicted the amount of traffic that is on the street. This year's budget doesn't support the repairs. He committed to his department going over to assess it and providing a temporary fix until next year.

Mayor Austin asked Capt. Cox to respond to the derelict cars issue. He said that his department can't do anything about complaints of derelict vehicles on private property if they don't have a search warrant. Councilman Stichnote stated that the City has an ordinance about derelict vehicles on private property. He said the Building Department is supposed to handle those issues.

- e. **Phyllis Gibson (no address given)** began her comments by stating that the City doesn't need a new "gym". They need the roads fixed. She said whoever St. Louis County got to fix the Jennings Station Road, did a terrible job. The work is tearing up people's cars. She said she is insulted about what came out in the \$20 million lawsuit (regarding St. Louis County Police Department). This is a reflection of what we spend \$4.5 million on to contract with St. Louis County Police Department. She said the City could have its own police department. There are many people in the community who need jobs, but the City always contracts out. Those people can be hired from our City and surrounding cities. Ms. Gibson stated that she pays taxes and the city doesn't cut the trees like they used to nor sweep the streets. She has reported a branch or something sticking out on Ranchdale that can harm someone. She said she called the new head of the Building Department about the trees and was told to come to the Council Meeting. She said she should not have to come to the Council meeting to get her tree cut. She was told by the Building Department that the City doesn't cut trees anymore. She asked when did the City stop. She referenced that when she first moved to the City, she received a book that told how things were being done. Ms. Gibson said the residents don't receive that information anymore. She asked why we need a gym. She said the residents could go to Bellefontaine. There are two Y's in the area. She also asked why the City needs a police department who doesn't want to be here and are only looking for a paycheck.

Mayor Austin asked Ms. Gibson how long she has lived in Jennings. She responded that she has lived here long enough. Mayor Austin asked her was she aware of the number of lawsuits the city received when it had its own police department.

- f. **Yolonda Pendleton, 7026 Minnie Avenue**, said she noticed that between Minnie and Lena people are dumping couches in the alley. She said there are about 3-4 couches there now. There used to be a house at the location but now it is a lot. Jim said he is aware of the area. He said he would look into issue.

Ms. Beck asked about the signs in the 4th Ward that she mentioned in her comments. Mayor Austin asked Mr. Johnson to address the signs. Mr. Johnson said the signs are from LMAC Holdings, which is the developer that will be building approx. 30-40 new homes in the south end, in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan 4th Ward redevelopment effort. The signs are required by Missouri Housing Development Corp. to be posted prior to the award of the contract.

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

Councilman Stichnote reported that on October 5th the City had the North County Clean Up. He and Councilwoman Jones cleaned up areas in Ward 1. They cleaned a few streets with the biggest areas being on Blewett and Hord Avenue. He said two days later, it was full of trash again. He announced on that on October 16th, the Seniors went on a trip to Catfish Kettle in Farmington, MO. On October 24th, the Senior Bingo event happened. The Trunk or Treat happened on October 26th at Gary Gore. On October 31st, Halloween, the Police Department will pass out candy at Gary Gore. Councilman Stichnote reminded people to vote on November 5th on Proposition E. He announced that there will be a Thanksgiving Dinner at the Civic Center for \$5. He asked Captain Cox for a police report. Captain Cox gave an update on the shooting that occurred last week on W. Florissant and Strathmore. The case is still open so he was limited to the information that he could disclose. He also reported that the Jennings High School student was killed. There are two suspects. One of them is in custody, but the case is still open.

Councilwoman Jones reported that they had a great time at the Community Clean up. She thanked Councilwomen Anderson and Owens for the idea. She said the effort showed togetherness for everyone to come out to clean up their wards, along with the other North County Cities who fellowshipped at Koeneman park after the cleanup. Councilwoman Jones said she and Councilman Stichnote rode around all day trying to clean the areas that they could in the community. She said the good part was that people came outside and thanked them for doing the cleanup. The effort made a difference. Councilwoman Jones stated that something is going on

around Sharidge. They heard shots. The police were called. Shot Spot picked it up and pinpointed the location. Officers responded. However, the random shootings at night are happening. She said she knows there is nothing that can be done to prevent them, but the City could have increased patrols. She asked if there could be a designated hot spot if they find that the shot locations are in the same reoccurring locations. Councilwoman Jones thanked the police department for responding so quickly.

Councilwoman Jones announced that the Stanley Cup was in Jennings at both the High School and the Middle School in Ward 1. She said this month has included both highs and lows. Great things like the Stanley Cup and the wonderful things in the School District; then you have the low of one of the students being killed. Councilwoman Jones stated that she knows the conversations regarding the Recreation Center includes a discussion about money. There are a lot of things that we can spend money on, but the City needs to do better by its children in the community. Having more things for them to do is so important and our community deserves it. If you look at other communities, such as Bellefontaine Neighbors (10,000 people) and Dellwood (5,000 people). Jennings is not a little community. There are more than 14,000 people in our community. Our community should not have to go to Bellefontaine to swim or go outside of our community. She said this is her editorial. She thinks it is important for us. The City has issues. The taxes that residents pay and the things that we do in our community, for us not to have those things that other communities of similar size and demographics have, makes us want to look at making sure that our community has the things that we need. If it is about our kids, keeping them off the streets and giving them something to do, she said she will be 110% for it.

Councilman Wilson informed Jim that he received a call about a light being out on Pickford and Eastchester. He provided Jim with the pole number as J603. He reported that he attended a town hall meeting sponsored by Congressman Clay. Councilman Wilson stated that he has attended several of those types of meetings. He said it is important that the people get counted on the Census. He asked the public to talk to the neighbors about being counted. He said the City of Jennings has created a Complete Count Committee to help get the word out about completing the census information. The Census day is in April 2020, but it starts in March. There will be a lot of engagement around the importance of the census. The Census is tied to a lot of resources, funding and congressional seats. There are a lot of things that can be done in our community that are based upon the numbers. He agreed with what Councilwoman Jones, by echoing the importance of the City investing in itself. He said the City doesn't sell any products, so we have to chip in together to make things happen for the community. Councilman Wilson said under the proposed Economic Development Sales Tax, you will pay \$.01 for every \$2 spent. Anyone passing through the community will be paying the same tax. He said the voting is on everyone, but he thinks the investment will go a long way. The proposed project will probably be the biggest project the community has seen in his lifetime. He said he thinks it is time for the proposed things to come to the community. He stated that he believes it will solve some of the issues of the community. Councilman Wilson said it is always said that there is nothing for the kids to do but we have an opportunity to change that and we deserve the best facilities in our community. He said one's personal feelings about the project should not deter others from joining in. He said he thinks the grass will be taken care of and it will not be an issue at the proposed Recreation Center. He said the tax isn't just about the Recreation Center and City Hall, it is about Economic Development activities in the community. We must invest in our community. The more businesses we bring in, the more we can do. He encouraged the public to think about that when the election happens.

Councilwoman Dugger expressed concerns about the shooting in Ward 2 on Whistone. She asked Sgt. Perez for an explanation or update. She also stated that she had a concern, because there was an investigation going on, where the Drug Unit was in the area dealing with something when the shots happened. The guys shooting got away. She stated that the Drug Unit wasn't in the area for the shooting but for something else. Councilwoman Dugger said the task force scared her residents so badly that they ran from the task force, not knowing what was going on, and started falling and hurting themselves. She asked Sgt. Perez for an update on how the task force was there for something else and couldn't catch the shooters. Sgt. Perez explained that the Drug Unit was in the area working an unrelated case. They were not on the street when the shooting took place. They were a couple of streets over when they heard the shots. They then responded to the area where they thought they heard where the shots were coming from. They then found the victim who was shot. The scene was chaotic. They didn't know what was going

on. There are no suspects at this time. Detectives don't have any leads on suspects involved in the shooting.

Councilwoman Dugger said she sent some information to the Building Department about a house in the area where there are tents in the backyard and people are living in the tents. She said they are seeing things that may happen regarding occupancy, some may be happening after 5 p.m. She informed Sgt. Perez that the people are relying on them for help. Councilwoman Dugger said she sent the complaint about the people living in tents and loud music to Estelle (in the Building Department). She also told Sgt. Perez that they are needed in those areas, which is off of Whitstone. He said that is definitely something they can assist with. Councilwoman Dugger asked Mr. Johnson if he was aware of the email she sent to Estelle. Mr. Johnson said he wasn't aware of the email. Sgt. Perez stated that the Building Department knows how to reach him if they need police presence. Councilwoman Dugger said she thinks people have been calling in on the people living in the tents and partying. She asked if they could get on top of this issue.

Councilwoman Dugger stated everything else in Ward 2 was ok. They are also hearing the shots. There is speeding down the streets in the 2nd Ward, which is still an issue. It was discussed a few months ago about how to combat the speeding. She stated that Officer McCrary has been sitting on the corner, near the school, clocking people. However, she identified other areas that need monitoring on Ada Wortley, Leamont and Jennings Station Road, where there is constant speeding. She asked Sgt. Perez where they were with those areas. He responded that they can conduct some radar in the areas. He said aggressive driving is a serious problem all over. He said sometime officers are conducting a stop and the drivers take off on them. Their policy dictates that they can't chase traffic violators. Councilwoman Dugger asked Sgt. Perez if they were doing anything different about the speeding. She asked what was implemented after her complaint about the speeding. Sgt. Perez responded that extra patrols, radar enforcement and making the officers aware of the locations reported with the violations occurring. It is a part of their regular job with everyday patrol. If they see it, they should try to conduct a stop and issue citations or issue a warning. Councilwoman Dugger said before the City throws money at a situation regarding speed bumps, she wants to figure out whether or not the City and police department are working to try to see what can be done. She asked Sgt. Perez again what was done since the complaints were given. He repeated his response.

Councilwoman Jones asked if there had ever been a study with putting speed bumps down. She asked if they need to do that to start the process of finding out where are the worse streets. Councilwoman Dugger said she inquired about the speed bump issues. She stated that there are liability issues surrounding it and it is very costly; but the city has not done a report. She said that is why she is asking to see what can be done with the City, as opposed to throwing tax dollars at a situation. Sgt. Perez said they have a traffic unit, Highway Safety Unit. They can make a request for them to come in to provide extra enforcement while the officers are out handling radio calls. Councilwoman Dugger asked that they look into that so a message can be sent to let people know that they cannot speed through Jennings. Sgt. Perez said that if they are speeding through the City, there is a reason for it. Councilwoman Dugger said people are moving through red lights and she does see the police. She said she wants to see something concrete reported to the Council.

Councilwoman Anderson announced it was a great time at the Clean Up. She said she may have come up with the idea, it could not have been done without the help of the department heads, council members, Deletra Hudson (City Clerk), Mayor Austin and her constituents. She thanked everyone for their help on the cleanup. She asked Mr. Johnson to check to see if the dog at 2106 McLaran was registered. She thanked Lt. Geasley for showing her how to read his report. She asked if he would let her know when the CPR training will occur. She said she wants to get in on the training and she is sure there are other departments that may be interested as well. Councilwoman Anderson told Jim she saw trash dumped on McLaran and Xograph. She also asked him if they can get together to come up with dates on street cleaning.

Councilman Johnson reported a Ward 3 monthly meeting occurred where they had a special guest from St. Louis County, Councilwoman Rita Days. They explained some of the challenges in the 3rd Ward and discussed some strategies to combat some of the concerns and issues in the Ward. He announced that part of his duty is to introduce new ordinances to help the City move along without pointing the finger or complaining. He said he has introduced a couple of legislative bills to the Public Works Committee. One was the Garden Lease Bill that would mimic the St. Louis City program. He said there is a state bill that allows residents and people in

the community to stabilize vacant properties. So, he introduced some legislation to create a municipal ordinance through Public Works.

Councilman Johnson said he had a great time at the Trunk or Treat. He announced a Town Hall Meeting on October 29th at 6:30 p.m. at 7629 Natural Bridge with Wesley Bell and Sen. Brian Williams. He reported that the residents who live in the 74th District will have a special election on November 5th for the State Representative, along with Proposition E. He said the Neighborhood Clean Up was a great idea and thanked Councilwoman Anderson for bringing it to the community. He stated that they cleaned up on College (Emma to Flordell Hills). It stayed clean for about two days.

Councilwoman Owens started her report with a quote by Eleanor Roosevelt, "Do one thing that scares you every day." She thanked Mr. Turner for acknowledging some of the positive things going on in the 4th Ward. She said there are things going on in the Ward that could be improved. Councilwoman Owens acknowledged that there were many people in attendance who have lived in the 4th Ward for many years, including herself. They know what it used to look like. She said the City is working to try to get things back to the as close to as what it used to be like. Councilwoman Owens encouraged the people to care for each other and work together. She said she has seen the improvement over the past six months. She said it may not seem like it because there is so much that still looks bad but there is so much that looks better. She said she is seeing it on all of the streets in the Ward. When the community comes together on efforts like the Clean Up, it helps. Councilwoman Owens said she had friends come from other places to help with the cleanup but if the people in our own areas would come out and help and help our neighbors, that would help get the Ward back to what it used to be. She said start with getting together your block, the street, the Ward, and then City. She said it takes everybody working together.

Councilwoman Owens thanked the Council for approval of the resolution for Mario Gardner. There was a balloon release done for him. The Jennings alumni came together for the event. She acknowledged the young man from Jennings School District who was killed last week. She spoke to the kids at the high school to help community build. She speaks with the kids allowing them to express themselves, be heard and having different avenues and platforms. She thanked Councilwoman Anderson for the vision for the Community Day, with the barbeque and fellowship. She said sometimes with a vision, it may not come out exactly the way you want it to. But whatever it is, is exactly what it is supposed to be. She applauded the City and all of the departments that assisted. She gave a shout out to Harold Sims, Public Works, for his efforts. Harold is the person in Public Works who goes above and beyond to make sure things are perfect. Councilwoman Owens acknowledged the other Cities that were represented at the event: Moline Acres, Vinita Park, Normandy, Dellwood, Northwoods, and Sen. Brian Williams. She announced the food was prepared by David Green and his wife, Doris. She announced there is a new church in town, New Life Christian Church on McLaren. The church has a youth choir called Kids in Motion. They sang last Sunday at Fairview Village Senior Building. Dr. Robbie is the Youth pastor who also participated in the Community Clean Up. She thanked the Building Department, Public Works Department, Police Department, and everyone in the City who plays a part in improving the City. She said she had an interview with Fox 2 News to promote the Clean Up. She gave kudos to the Jennings School District and everyone who participated in the Homecoming. She also celebrated her 20-year classroom reunion with the Homecoming. She announced that on November 24th, there will be a 4th Ward networking Mixer at the Civic Center from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. This is time to come together and fellowship, to get to know each other better and discuss any issues there may be. She announced the barber shop and home health at 5200 Helen will do a Trunk or Treat on Halloween from 5 - 8 p.m. She announced the Metropolitan Church at 5300 Helen held their Trunk or Treat on October 27th. She pointed out community resources offered by the Urban League: Weatherization Program (314-615-3646) and Turkey Giveaway on November 26th 1-3 p.m. Bring identification, proof of income, proof of residency and social security card. Councilwoman Owens asked the community to pray for a star resident named Sharon, who had undergone surgery. She ended her report with a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King, "Our lives begin to end when we become silent about the things that matter."

Mayor's Report

Mayor Austin began her report by thanking the department heads. She expressed her appreciation for their hard work in moving the City forward. She knows they get a lot of

complaint but not as many compliments as they think they should receive. Mayor Austin asked the residents to go to the City's website for filing complaints and compliments, also job position vacancies. She listed the vacant positions and asked the community to share the information with those who may be looking for employment. She announced that three students from Jennings High School attended the Business Watch Meeting. They participate in the entrepreneur and business program at the school. They joined the meeting and explained the program to the businesses. Mayor Austin said she has been attending the Ward 3 meetings. She said she enjoys the meetings. At one of the meetings, there was a complaint about county areas. The Mayor said she met with County Councilwoman Rita Days, who is the councilperson for the area. She asked if the County could get on a schedule of when they would clean the island along West Florissant, near Lucas & Hunt and the island along Jennings Station Road, across from the White Castle. Mayor Austin said she informed the County Councilwoman that there is a long wait for the County to respond to the City's complaints. When they cut the grass, it is left on the sidewalks and streets. Mayor Austin informed the public that the County Councilwoman is new to the position and was grateful for the information. She committed to talking to the County Public Works Department to get a schedule of cleaning the areas without the City having to call.

Mayor Austin announced the 4th Ward is moving forward with a developer who is building houses in the both the 4th and 2nd Wards. There will also be construction of a new senior building in the 2nd Ward, Jennings Place III. She acknowledged there are things that need work in the community, but she said there is progress being made. There are more houses, senior living facilities, bringing homeowners back into the city, as well as making sure the grass is cut and houses are boarded up. She stressed that it takes residents to express to councilmembers and the Building Department. to assist with correcting the problems. She encouraged people to come and report the issues so that we can all make it better. Mayor Austin said sometimes it comes as an attack on the people who are working hard, but she appreciates the people's concerns and complaints so that we can move forward and work together as a city.

C. MONTHLY DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson, second by Councilwoman Jones, the Council voted in favor to approve the monthly departmental reports.

D. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

1. ***Ways and Means & Public Safety Committee*** - Councilman Wilson reported that the committee met on October 7th at 6 p.m. There was one item on the agenda, which was the approval of the emergency purchase of a vehicle. Jim, Public Works Director, reported that one of the vehicles that the Corrections Department uses for transporting prisoners needs to be replaced. He recommended the purchase of a 2020 Fusion for the Corrections Department. The vehicle will come from the State bids. During the meeting Jim explained the importance of this vehicle to the Corrections Department to prevent them from losing money if they fail to be able to transport prisoners. Jim offered the Corrections Department use one of the Public Works vehicles if their current vehicle breaks down before the new vehicle arrives.
- The committee voted all in favor to recommend the purchase of the vehicle to the City Council. On the motion made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman Jones to approve the recommendation to approve the emergency purchase of the vehicle, the City Council voted all in favor of the emergency purchase.
2. ***Public Works & Building Committee*** - Councilwoman Jones reported that in the absence of Chairman Rodney Epps, she chaired the meeting. She read the report from the meeting that commenced on October 7th at 7 p.m. Councilwoman Jones informed the public that Councilman Johnson introduced several proposed ordinances with the committee. His actions were refreshing. She reviewed the proposals, which included: A Beautification Charter, an Adopt-a-Street program for public improvement. He stated there was no cost for the programs but some stipulations. The committee discussed the Adopt-a-Street program to guide Councilman Johnson to address some of the concerns and gather more details for review, such as checking on the timeframe and making it a renewal program with a three-year commitment. The committee liked the idea and recommended the proposed policy by review to make it a City of Jennings policy. This program will expand the beautification program. They agreed to continue to work on the program as a committee.

The Committee also discussed a Garden Lease Agreement. This program would allow fresh food gardeners to use city owned vacant land to grow fresh produce. The committee discussed which properties could be used, asked for more clarity. Councilman Johnson introduced the proposal to get the committee's feedback. After a discussion, the committee requested more information on the program.

The committee discussed Senate Bill 203. Councilman Johnson provided the committee members information to support the Senate Bill 203, passed by the State of Missouri. He explained that the bill allows people to enter abandon properties to remedy the nuisances without the threat of trespassing. He proposed the Committee consider adopting an ordinance based upon the passage of Senate Bill 203. The committee wanted to discuss the bill with the City Attorney, Sam Alton, and asked Councilman Johnson to do the research and submit it back to the Committee for the ordinance to be considered for the City of Jennings.

Councilwoman Jones explained that all of this information was introduced for the first time to the Committee so that the City could get the policies made, review and action could be taken later.

3. *Parks & Recreation Committee* - no meeting. Council Stichnete reported to the public that the City received \$65,317.16 from TIF funds into the Park Fund.

4. *Policy & Ordinance Committee*- Councilwoman Jones reported that the committee met on October 7th at 6:30 p.m. The Committee entertained a proposed ordinance to prohibit commercial vehicles on all city streets. The committee voted in favor of the recommended ordinance for council's approval.

The committee also entertained a discussion for a proposed ordinance to make a portion of Catalina to Halls Ferry a "No Parking" zone due to a blind spot going uphill on Catalina near the end of the street. The committee voted in favor of Jim getting with the City of Attorney to present the ordinance for Council's approval

The committee discussed the City's Grievance Policy. Councilwoman Anderson asked the committee to consider having all grievances forwarded to the Council if someone is written up for termination. Chairman Jones asked if the committee should see the grievance or know of it prior to terminating an employee. The committee requested that the City Attorney adds clarity to the due process section of the policy to allow employees to meet with the Council prior to termination. The committee asked the City Clerk to have the City Attorney review the policy for clarity and add due process to the Employees' Rights Policy.

5. *Municipal League* - Councilman Wilson stated that the Municipal League and people from St. Louis City came together to have discussions around the merger of the City and County. A petition was circulated to form the Board of Freeholders (Board of Electors). They have enough signatures to form the Committee. The Committee now has nine community members nominated by St. Louis City and so has St. Louis County; the governor nominates one member. The St. Louis City Board of Alderman has to approve the recommendations of Mayor Krewson. St. Louis County's, Dr. Page, has presented his nine nominees to the St. Louis County Council and it was passed. Councilman Wilson gave the Jennings Councilmembers a list of the members appointed by the County; it is also listed on the St. Louis County website. Now that the Committee is formed, all meetings will be open to the public to discuss: plan for whether there will be a merger, stay as it is, how to work together, etc. He encouraged people to attend the meetings when they are posted, after the St. Louis City's nominations are approved. The plan from the meetings will appear on the ballot. Councilman Wilson committed to keeping the City updated on the actions of the Committee.

Councilman Wilson announced he was appointed to the State Policy Committee of the State's Municipal League for Taxes and Finances. The first meeting will be at the beginning of the year. He will report to the public the outcomes of the meeting.

6. *Planning Commission* - Councilman Johnson reported no meeting. He said there will be one on the 1st Thursday of the month.
7. *Youth Commission* - reports included

8. *Senior Commission* - report included

E. LEGAL BUSINESS (PROPOSED ORDINANCES)

1. AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JENNINGS, MISSOURI, AMENDING SECTION 36-137 OF THE CITY OF JENNINGS MUNICIPAL CODE PROHIBITING THE PARKING OF COMMERCIAL VEHICLES IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS.

There was a motion for the first reading made by Councilwoman Jones, seconded by Councilman Wilson for Bill #2584. Sam Alton did the first reading of the ordinance. On the motion made by Councilwoman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Wilson for the second reading, Sam Alton did the second reading of the ordinance. Mayor Austin asked if there were any more discussions. By the roll call of the following council members, Bill #2584 became Ordinance #2523: Stichnote, Jones, Wilson, Dugger, Anderson, Johnson, Owens; Epps absent, none abstaining nor opposing.

2. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE INSTALLATION OF “NO PARKING” SIGNS AT CATALINA DRIVE ON BOTH THE NORTH AND SOUTH SIDE(S) OF THE STREET PROHIBITING PARKING AT LEAST 50 FEET FROM THE INTERSECTION OF HALLS FERRY ROAD IN THE CITY OF JENNINGS, MISSOURI.

There was a motion for the first reading made by Councilwoman Anderson, seconded by Councilwoman Dugger for Bill #2585. Sam Alton did the first reading of the ordinance. On the motion made by Councilwoman Anderson, seconded by Councilwoman Dugger for the second reading, Sam Alton did the second reading of the ordinance. Mayor Austin asked if there were any more discussions. By the roll call of the following council members, Bill #2585 became Ordinance #2524: Stichnote, Jones, Wilson, Dugger, Anderson, Johnson, Owens; Epps absent, none abstaining nor opposing.

F. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. *Approval of a Special Event Permit for Norwood Hills Country Club*

On the motion made by Councilwoman Dugger, second by Councilman Wilson, the Council voted all in favor to approve the special event permit for Norwood Hills Country Club

2. *Approval of a Special Event Permit for 3rd Ward Stabilization*

On the motion made by Councilwoman Jones, seconded by Councilman Wilson, on the question, there was a discussion.

Councilman Johnson explained that in accordance with Senate Bill 203, residents or neighbors can go onto properties and stabilize them. This special event will take place in the month of November. He said he has reached out to the funder. There is a Jennings Community Fund and other funders who will assist with funding through a matching grant. He said whatever he funds he raises; they will match it. He also said they have two contractors that will board up properties and cut properties. Councilman Johnson explained his idea is to stabilize the properties before the winter. He spoke with Jim, who explained Public Works is over budget in board ups so this effort will help Public Works. The idea is to do the 30 worst properties in the 3rd Ward. There are over 500 on the post-third that are abandoned or owe back taxes. The first is on the 30 worst in the 3rd ward. They will board the front door and two windows, cut the grass in an effort to stabilize it going into the winter. The bill is a state bill. He is requesting the permit to do the work in Jennings. Councilwoman Dugger ask for clarity about the Jennings Community Fund. She asked if it was from the State. Councilman Johnson said no it wasn't. The Jennings Community Fund was established in Jennings. She asked how much the fund was. Councilman Johnson said that is the name of the organization. He said the organization is a nonprofit called Jennings Community Fund. He explained that in order to acquire the grant funds, you must have a nonprofit. The Jennings Community Fund is acting as the nonprofit for the event.

Councilwoman Dugger asked if the City of Jennings applied to be a nonprofit. He responded no. The organization has nothing to do with the City. He compared it to the Kiwanis Club and asked if the club was through the City. Councilwoman Dugger asked Councilman Johnson what he

was asking the City to do. He responded that he was requesting a special event permit to conduct a stabilization event in the 3rd Ward to assist the Public Works Department.

After the discussion, the permit was approved by the roll call vote of the following council member: Stichnote, Jones, Wilson, Anderson, Johnson, Owens; Epps absent; Dugger opposing, none abstaining.

3. Resolution for the Election Notice

On the motion made by Councilwoman Jones, second by Councilman Wilson, the Council voted all in favor to approve resolution with the necessary corrections.

4. Appointment of the Employer Delegate for LAGERS

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson, second by Councilwoman Jones, the Council voted all in favor to approve Teresa Hauser as the Employer Representative for LAGERS.

5. Approval of the monthly bills for payment

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

6. Motion for closed session, Legal and Personnel (RSMO 610:021-1,3)

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman Anderson, the Council voted to approve closed session for Legal (RSMO 610:021-1) and Personnel (RSMO 610:021-3) by the roll call of the following council members: Stichnote, Jones, Wilson, Dugger, Anderson, Johnson, Owens; Epps absent, none abstaining nor opposing.

H. MAYOR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Mayor Austin allowed Councilman Wilson to announce to the public to check the information table outside of the Council Chambers for things happening in the City. He also informed the public that the City has been publishing a newsletter for about two years and does not issue the book that was referenced in the "Comment's of the Public" section of the meeting. He asked the public to share the newsletters with their neighbors. They can come to City Hall to get the newsletter or find it online. It is not mailed out due to the expense the City incurred with bad addresses and mail being returned to City Hall, when the City previously did mailings. He provided the City's website information.

Mayor Austin thanked the public who remained for the entire meeting. She also announced that the North County Community Development organization is having a can food and toy drive. She asked that donations be made at 6614 West Florissant. Donations will be accepted until December 6th. The giveaway will happen on December 18th.

1. CLOSED SESSION, LEGAL AND 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 Mayor Yolanda Austin; Sam Alton, City Attorney; and City Clerk, Deletra Hudson.

LEGAL - Sam Alton informed the City Council about the status of various legal items.

PERSONNEL - The following actions were taken:

Hire Full Time Permit Clerk

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilman Johnson, the City Council approved the recommendation from Mr. Henry Johnson, Director of Housing and Economic Development, to hire Brianna Davidson as the full time Permit Clerk, pending all background and pre-employment screenings. The recommendation was approved by the roll call votes of the following council members: Stichnote, Jones, Wilson, Anderson, Johnson, Owens; R. Epps was absent; Dugger voted against; none abstained.

Hire Part Time Prosecutor Clerk

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilman Stichnote, the City Council approved the recommendation from Joshua Canavan, Prosecutor Attorney, to hire Oshte Xavier Souter as the part time Prosecutor Clerk, pending all background and pre-employment screenings. The recommendation was approved by the roll call votes of the following council members: Stichnote, Jones, Wilson, Dugger, Anderson, Johnson, Owens; R. Epps was absent; none voted against nor abstained.

Hire Part Time Prosecutor Clerk- Alternate

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman Jones, the City Council approved the recommendation from Joshua Canavan, Prosecutor Attorney, to hire Ahreial Williams as the alternate part time Prosecutor Clerk, pending all background and pre-employment screenings, in the event that the first approved candidate doesn't meet the hiring requirements. The recommendation was approved by the roll call votes of the following council members: Stichnote, Jones, Wilson, Dugger, Anderson, Johnson, Owens; R. Epps was absent; none voted against nor abstained.

Hire Part Time Bus Driver

On the motion made by Councilwoman Jones, seconded by Councilwoman Anderson, the City Council approved the recommendation from Willie Brandon, Recreation Center Director, to hire Cynthia Jones as the part time Bus Driver, pending all background and pre-employment screenings. The recommendation was approved by the roll call votes of the following council members: Stichnote, Jones, Wilson, Dugger, Anderson, Johnson, Owens; R. Epps was absent; none voted against nor abstained.

The City Council did not make any action on the hire of the recommended alternate, Carol Green.

Termination of the Director of Housing and Economic Development

On the motion made by Councilwoman Anderson, seconded by Councilwoman Dugger, the Council voted in favor to terminate Henry Johnson, Director of Housing and Economic Development, due to the various complaints brought against him by his staff, as well as a joking reference of calling Taundra Jones, "Big Sexy". The motion was approved by the roll call votes of the following council members: Jones, Dugger, Anderson, Owens; Stichnote, Wilson, and Johnson voted against; R. Epps was absent; none abstaining.

Termination of the Administrative Assistant - Building Department

On the motion made by Councilman Johnson, seconded by Councilwoman Jones, the Council voted in favor to terminate Taundra Jones, Administrative Assistant for the Building Department, due to the various complaints regarding negative contributions to the office environment and failure to adequately perform duties. The motion was approved by the roll call votes of the following council members: Stichnote, Jones, Wilson, Johnson; Dugger, Anderson, and Owens voted against; R. Epps was absent; none abstaining.

K. ADJOURNMENT

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilman Stichnote, the Council voted in favor by the roll call votes of the following council members to adjourn the meeting at 11:03 p.m.: Stichnote, Jones, Wilson, Dugger, Anderson, Johnson, Owens; R. Epps was absent; none voting against nor abstaining.

Attest:


Yolanda Austin, Mayor


Deletra Hudson, City Clerk

