



Minutes of the City Council Regular Meeting
Telemeeting Via Zoom Video
May 18, 2020
Regular Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.

The two thousand four hundred and third meeting of the Jennings City Council was held on Monday, May 18, 2020 at 7 p.m. via Zoom Video.

A. PUBLIC HEARING

1. PETITION FOR THE CITY OF JENNINGS, MISSOURI, AMENDING THE ZONING DISTRICTS C-2 AND C-3 FROM 9050 WEST FLORISSANT AVENUE SOUTHBOUND TO THE INTERSECTION OF LUCAS AND HUNT ROAD ALONG WEST FLORISSANT AVENUE TO BECOME PART OF THE WEST FLORISSANT CORRIDOR ZONING DISTRICT.

Mayor Austin opened the public hearing. She asked Irvetta Williams, Economic Development and Zoning Consultant, to begin the presentation. Irvetta explained the process had begun two years ago and she was brought on board in November of 2019. The initiative is moving for the approval and adoption of the West Florissant Corridor District regulations and she asked those members of the West Florissant Corridor District team to introduce themselves. Cordell Patrick, the Assistant Vice President of the St. Louis Economic Partnership, greeted the council and the Mayor. He explained that he represents the Regional Economic Development Company in St. Louis County, as well as the City of St. Louis. They have been put at the forefront of the project, along with the Mayor, to identify resources and consultants to work on this project for the last two years or so. Cordell introduced Jenna Ryan and Anna Crane. Jenna Ryan thanked Cordell for the introduction and said she represented PJV as the project manager for quite some time. She said she was thrilled about the partnership between the three municipalities and truly believes great things will come from it, then thanked the council for speaking. Irvetta then asked Anna to speak. Anna Crane introduced herself as another associate at PJV and echoed what Cordell and Jenna said, as well as making herself available to answer any questions.

Irvetta moved forward with the presentation, which was shown on screen to Zoom viewers via PowerPoint. She explained that the presentation contains the fifty-four (54) proposed zoning regulations. At this time, she shared her screen, showing the West Florissant Corridor Land Use Zoning Presentation. The consulting team was formed to create the land use zoning codes in the geographic area of West Florissant. Irvetta said the purpose of the zoning codes are to create a cohesive image and identity for the three cities, which will connect neighborhoods, institutions, parks and town centers with safe and active cyclist, pedestrian, and vehicular patterns. Cordell said the objectives of the project are to facilitate a business partnership between Dellwood, Ferguson and Jennings. This is an attempt to create a sense of place for the West Florissant Corridor, which requires all three municipalities working in tandem to create that type of atmosphere. This is an attempt to encourage prime investment in the area, which the cities of Dellwood, Ferguson and Jennings have signed a partnership agreement for this project. Cordell said the cities of Dellwood and Ferguson have adopted the ordinance, and he hopes that the City of Jennings would also adopt the ordinance regarding the West Florissant Corridor District, so all three municipalities would agree to sign the new policy. The Corridor stretches from West Florissant-Lucas and Hunt and South Gateway (Buzz Westfall), which is the area that affects Jennings, and includes the park of Ferguson. The purpose of this project is to create a developed neighborhood and commercial area.

Irvetta indicated on the slides the entire West Florissant Corridor District. She specified that it started at Highway 270 to North Gateway, which is located in the City of Ferguson, coming down West Florissant Avenue into the City of Dellwood, at Dellwood Town Center, becoming a residential district along the avenue then moving on to South Gateway (Buzz Westfall), which is

the Jennings District, including six other lots north of the Buzz Westfall area. She indicated on the map what was included in those districts.

Irvetta asked Cordell to speak on the highlights on the presentation. Cordell said that each city will continue to enforce regulations. As for the Planning and Zoning Commission of Jennings, it will continue to enforce the rules and regulations for the City's section of West Florissant. An advisory panel with representatives from each city, which has a total of nine representatives. The panel only comes into play when a city would like to make a change to any of the set regulations. Cordell said that existing businesses will not be subject to make any drastic changes in regard to the district zoning regulations. Those subject to the new regulations are: 1) those sites that have been vacant for more than one year; 2) if the property owner decides to rehab the original property more than fifty percent than the assessed value of the property; or 3) change of land use or ownership of site or property. He said that over time, the community will begin to see the Corridor take shape. Cordell said that some regulations will be focused on parking lot structures, building materials and design, landscaping, and lighting use. The policy will also allow for bike racks and make the Corridor more appealing for foot traffic and families to truly enjoy their communities.

Irvetta noted that as the cities are enforcing the Corridor rules and regulations, these guidelines should also be made available to architects and engineers. While the ordinance is zoning related, it does contain valuable design guidelines within them. Cordell said the land or property use of the district has been classified into the following classes: a) types of businesses permitted: retail stores and office buildings, at least two acres or larger within proximity of the Corridor; special uses for classes a and b; check cashing businesses are not permitted according to zoning ordinances proposed. Irvetta said that a special condition to the district zoning regulations is the prohibition of businesses with drive-thru windows and they must apply for a conditional use permit. Cordell said the purpose is to encourage more sit-down restaurants and allow Jennings to regulate the amount of fast food establishments going into the area.

Irvetta concluded the presentation and opened the last ten minutes for questions regarding the West Florissant Corridor District. Councilman Wilson thanked them for the presentation and recalled the discussion about the corridor district. He said he appreciated hearing them articulate what he has seen previously in document form. He believes this is good for Jennings and the region. He is in full support of the project. The project team members thanked Councilman Wilson.

Mayor Austin invited those speaking in favor of the project to speak. Mayor Austin then invited those speaking against the project to speak. Councilwoman Anderson asked Irvetta, due to the current pandemic, she wondered how drive-thru establishments will be affected by the conditional use permit necessary to conduct business in Jennings because of the current projection of the pandemic lasting perhaps as long as one year. Irvetta said the conditional use permit regarding drive-thru establishments are in an ordinance that may be passed that evening.

Mayor Austin asked again if there were any further questions or discussions about the West Florissant Corridor District. Mayor Austin thanked the project team, Irvetta and Cordell. At that time, she closed the public hearing of the petition.

B. REGULAR MEETING

1. Call to Order- The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Council members present: Allan Stichnote, Miranda Jones, Terry Wilson, Phyllis Anderson, Gary Johnson, Rodney Epps, and Aja Owens.

Council member(s) absent: Francine Dugger.

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

3. Approval of the Agenda

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

4. Approval of the minutes from the Regular Meeting of April 27, 2020.

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman Anderson, the Council approved the minutes from the Regular Meeting of April 27, 2020. All in favor, none opposed.

C. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONERS, REMONSTRATIONS, COMPLAINTS AND REQUESTS

1. Presentation by Mayor Austin.

Mayor Austin presented a proclamation accounting the accomplishments of Councilman Rodney Epps upon his upcoming retirement from his post as the 4th Ward Council member of the Jennings City Council, effective June 2020. The City of Jennings expressed their sincere gratitude to Councilman Rodney Epps for dedicating seventeen years of service to the residents and the Jennings community. Mayor Austin honored him by proclaiming that signed on May 18, 2020 as Councilman Rodney Epps Day, attested by City Clerk, Deletra Hudson. Mayor Austin asked Deletra to play a video of Councilman Epps receiving his proclamation and a clock from the City of Jennings.

Councilman Epps thanked Mayor Austin and the residents of the 4th Ward for having faith in him. He said he will miss the council. Mayor Austin said that she knows he will come around every so often.

2. Presentation to Michael Wren.

Mayor Austin stated that Councilwoman Owens had approached her regarding recognizing Mikey Wren for his efforts in the Jennings community. Mayor Austin presented a proclamation accounting the accomplishments of Michael “Mikey” Wren, the son of Ariel and James Biggs, brother to his little sister, Ariel. He is an entrepreneur, best-selling author, youth motivational speaker, board member of two national boards and owner of Mikey’s Munchies vending machine company, which makes him the youngest vending machine business owner in the country. His vending machines are located in all the City of Jennings office buildings. Mayor Austin continued saying that Mikey is a philanthropist who has donated over \$10,000 worth of clothes to kids in the St. Louis community and hosts annual toy drives for kids in the Jennings community. Mikey also teaches youth entrepreneurship workshops to kids in the St. Louis community.

The office of the Mayor and elected officials wishes to honor Michael “Mikey” Wren for his service and representation of excellence for the Jennings community. The Jennings community is proud to have Mikey and his family as a part of the City of Jennings, Missouri and wishes him continued success. Mayor Austin proclaimed Saturday, May 23, 2020 as Michael “Mikey” Wren Day, signed May 18, 2020.

Mayor Austin invited Mikey to speak. Mikey said that he was at a loss for words and expressed his amazement. Councilwoman Owens thanked the Mayor and Deletra Hudson, City Clerk, for their efforts in creating the proclamation. She told Mikey that it is important for people to know that at the level he is right now, he is doing amazing things and as a City, they would like to wish him well. She encouraged him to keep up the good work. Mikey thanked Councilwoman Owens. Councilman Wilson congratulated Mikey, encouraged him to keep up the good work, he had always supported Mikey’s work and he saw bigger and better things in the future for Mikey. Councilman Wilson encouraged Mikey to keep being the light in the City of Jennings and expressed his pride in Mikey. Councilwoman Anderson congratulated Mikey. Councilwoman Jones congratulated Mikey and expressed her pride in Mr. and Mrs. Biggs for raising such an amazing young man, for all they do, and thanked them for sharing Mikey with the Jennings community and the rest of the world. Mayor Austin told Mikey they will arrange a time for him to come in and receive his physical proclamation.

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

Marietta Beck, (no address provided), inquired about the upcoming June ballot about Riverview Fire District, specifically the firehouses and she wanted to know which ones. She also asked about the trash service that had come before the City Council in the February City Council meeting minutes, she was under the impression that Waste Management would be providing trash service in another three years but she had a notice that Republic Services will be providing trash service in the Jennings area now, what happened there. Jim Maixner, Public Works Director, said that Waste Management came back with a counterproposal after sealed bids were opened, which was approved by the City Council. After the City's Waste Management representative had spoken with their lawyers, they found that they were not legally obligated to honor the contract extension that was approved by the City Council and their contract proposal came back higher than Republic Services. The City Council approved Republic Services proposal because their bid amount was more beneficial for the City. Ms. Beck mentioned that she attempted to read the Solid Waste Committee minutes and she said she had difficulty locating those minutes on the City website. Mayor Austin asked Deletra Hudson, City Clerk, to speak regarding the minutes issue. Deletra said the individual standing committee minutes are not posted to the website, only City Council meetings and special City Council meeting minutes are. She told Ms. Beck that if she would like a copy of any standing committee meeting minutes, she can contact the City Clerk's Office and she will be assisted in finding the information she needs.

Ms. Beck asked Jim Maixner about the issue of vehicles parked on the property at 5426 Hodiament, she asked if there was a business being in the residential area. Jim said that they did go to the property and tagged the abandoned vehicles. With the help of Officer Bakula, who was assigned by Capt. Law for thirty to sixty days. Jim said that it has helped to expedite the process. When they went to the property, no one was home, but it does not look like a business is being run there, but rather used for storage. As a result, and assistance of the neighboring property owner at 5430 Hodiament, some of the vehicles have been removed from 5426 Hodiament. Ms. Beck reported there were still vehicles parked on unimproved surfaces on the property that may be less visible due to the vegetation there. Jim said that he was aware, and he approximated that sixteen vehicles were tagged, and he said that they have contacted the Judge on how to proceed with this situation. He reported that he was making progress on this issue. Ms. Beck thanked Jim and said that she did see some progress.

Mayor Austin asked Ms. Beck about her question regarding the firehouse. Ms. Beck asked which of the Riverview District firehouses will be remodeled or if it will be destroyed, she said she could not decipher which firehouse it was referring to and hoped it would not be Firehouse #3 on West Florissant. Mayor Austin said it is in fact the firehouse located on West Florissant which will be destroyed in hopes to build a new one. Ms. Beck asked if it would remain in the same location. Jim said there are a couple of proposed sites, one that would be located more centrally near the Jennings Civic Center and another located at the corner of Chambers and Bellefontaine which is still close by. Ms. Beck said when Riverview First District first began working with the City of Jennings, she asked if they intended on keeping both firehouses and they had told her they did. Mayor Austin believed there is a lot of repairs that must be done to the current building on West Florissant.

Jane Brown, (no address provided), said she was impressed with the new renovations and Sievers Park. She thanked the City Council and for the hard work and the vision to do it, and the success of it, when you pass by it is simply beautiful. Ms. Brown thanked Councilman Stichnote as well because she knew that park update was one of his children. She said thank you to the City Council again for continuing to beautify the City.

Mayor Austin thanked Ms. Brown for speaking. Mayor Austin said that Sievers Park does fall under the Parks and Recreation Committee and a park grant, she thanked those on the Park Committee whose recommendation brought the renovation before the City Council and she thanked the City Council for approving it.

Shirley Wayne, (no address provided), greeted the City Council. She said that she will miss Councilman Epps because of all his help in her neighborhood and thanked him for everything he had done to make Ward 4 better. Councilman Epps thanked Ms. Wayne and said he will miss her also.

Ms. Wayne addressed Councilwoman Owens to follow up on a text message she sent her regarding some properties, and she reported that on 5824 Janet Ave. the grass needs cutting. It is a rental property which is currently occupied. Ms. Wayne also inquired about the complaint form, which was located on the City of Jennings website, she can no longer locate it. She asked what the process for citizens is to file a complaint. Mayor Austin said there should be still a place available on the City website to file a complaint. Councilwoman Owens confirmed that she did receive Ms. Wayne's text message and assured her that she will follow up with her the following day.

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

Councilman Stichnote greeted those in attendance of the City Council meeting. He said there is some confusion regarding the City's trash services. Some residents have reported that they have not received their brochures about upcoming trash services in the mail. Councilman Stichnote asked should residents have received one. Mayor Austin said that yes, they should have received one. If they previously had trash service, they were added to a list of recipients to receive the brochure updating them. Councilman Stichnote commented that he thinks that the new contract with Republic Services is a good deal and may help keep litter off the streets. Mayor Austin said the City tried their best to keep the similar services previously provided with the new trash service provider, Republic Services, and hopes for a smooth transition. Councilman Stichnote commented that he believed it will be smooth.

Councilman Stichnote reported he received phone calls the last weekend about vehicles driving recklessly and shots fired near Lucas and Hunt Road. Mayor Austin asked if he gave the streets of concern to Jim Maixner, Public Works Director, and she reminded councilmembers that he is keeping a list of problem areas. Councilman Stichnote reported the streets were Shirley, Solway and Meadowlark are the largest concern areas. Jim said he forwards the information to Sgt. Perez. Councilman Stichnote asked if Sgt. Perez attended the City Council meeting, Capt. Law spoke up. Councilman Stichnote asked if he could shed light on the situation on Shirley Road where shots could be heard. Capt. Law said there were fourteen shots fired from an AR-15 into the air which was picked up by shot-spotters and officers did respond. They did locate the AR -15 and the individual who shot the gun, and he advised that he wanted to test fire his new gun. Capt. Law said officers seized the weapon and the individual was arrested.

Councilman Stichnote asked for a monthly report that may be included in the council packet to focus on derelict cars in Jennings and perhaps categorized by Ward. He asked Jim how long it may be before Burger King can be re-opened after burning. Jim said that he talked with Fire Chief Goldstein and Jim went to the building along with Casionia, the fire did not look like it went to the roof and the owner will have to go through the inspection process from the Riverview Fire Department and the Building Department. The owner is in the process of doing a clean sweep of the whole store since most of the building has been cleaned since the fire.

Councilwoman Jones said she had some good things to report, firstly, with the recent graduates, the City should be seeing many parades happening, she wanted to make everyone aware of that. She asked for a moment of silence for the family that lost their lives in a fatal car accident on Lucas and Hunt. Councilwoman Jones said to her understanding they were Jennings alumni. She understands that that is a St. Louis County maintained road, but she said that there must be something done regarding speeding. She said she knew of a few cases where people have lost their lives in that particular area of Lucas and Hunt. Councilwoman Jones suggested perhaps working with the county to find a way to get drivers to slow down in that area.

Councilwoman Jones reported about the food giveaways in the community in its time of need. She gave a shout out to Councilwoman Aja Owens for her work on the City Council and being such a humanitarian. She said she appreciates Councilwoman Owens for always doing humanitarian work in the Jennings community, so she wanted to give a special shoutout.

Councilwoman Jones reported there was a fire in a van near the corner of Cozens and Shannon recently. She asked if there is anything that could be done about the burnt van because it was such an eyesore. Jim said that Casionia called him about the location and asked her to write a letter to Mr. Hunt (owner of the property) regarding the grass that needs cutting on the Shannon side. In regard to the abandoned van, Jim said he imagined the seven days should be up, so the vehicle can be tagged, and citations issued. Mayor Austin echoed Jim, confirming that the letter has been given to Mr. Hunt and like Jim said, once the seven days have passed the City can speak to the owners

about the van. Councilwoman Jones said with COVID-19, have the owners claimed issue with getting it towed. She asked if it were something the City could help with to get it removed, because obviously there is a hardship in that situation. She also asked if the owners said when they would get it removed. Jim said that he thinks that he may have to remove himself from the situation because he does personally know the owner and has for many years. Mayor Austin asked Schnona McClellon, Director of Housing & Economic Development, to speak on the issue. Schnona was unavailable and the Mayor said this would be followed up on with Casionia.

Councilwoman Jones mentioned that as a matter of public record, that there is a gentleman who owns a tow truck company that resides on Lamar, he has been parking his trucks on the street. She knows that Jim is working with the owner but the woman that has called to report the issue has called for several months and Councilwoman Jones would like to see her get some resolution. Councilwoman Jones was notified that the hill across from Jennings Station Road and West Florissant, campaign runners would use the lot to post their campaign signs across from the gas station, previously unincorporated property, it is now owned by someone. They have contacted Councilwoman Jones to let her know that is this probably the last election in which campaign runners may post signage because it is now owned by the church nearby.

Councilwoman Jones said she discussed with Councilman Stichnote some shootings that have been taking place in the Jennings community. One in particular, at an apartment complex that took place the morning of May 18, 2020, she asked Capt. Law to speak about that situation. Councilwoman Jones knows that Capt. Law has had a conversation with Councilman Stichnote, but she would like to know where the shot-spotters were located because is important for people to know what it's picking up and how to mitigate what is happening. Mayor Austin said before Capt. Law speaks, she told Councilwoman Jones that the exact locations of the shot-spotters are not something he can divulge. Capt. Law said the shot-spotter covers about one mile and a half to two miles, which is an increase from the previous five years when the program began. The cost is approximately \$60,000-\$70,000 per square mile, per year to have the service. He estimates there is about one and half miles to two miles that is not currently covered in the Jennings area, which would cost the City of Jennings between \$60,000-\$120,000 per year to engage the service. Councilwoman Jones asked if the service is something that the City of Jennings pays for or is this something that St. Louis County pays for. Capt. Law said that this is a cost covered by St. Louis County, there is no charge to the City of Jennings for a shot-spotter within the City of Jennings. Councilwoman Jones asked for some clarity on the reports and see if that were something that could be clarified. Mayor Austin said that the updated report was placed in councilmember mailboxes a week ago.

Councilwoman Jones urged the public to stay safe and reach out if they need anything. She said she posts information on the JenningsMOWard1 Facebook page, updating the public on food giveaways and resources. She heard that the public does not know who to call on when they need help, she said they are available to help and to call on them.

Mayor Austin asked for a moment of silence for the family that died in a fatal car accident on Lucas and Hunt Rd. and Hord Rd. She said the people who lost their lives were two 22-year olds, a 15-year old, a 1-year old child and a child that was a few months old. At the end of the pause, Mayor Austin thanked everyone.

Councilman Wilson greeted everyone and congratulated Councilman Epps for his seventeen years of service. He told Councilman Epps to enjoy his retirement and he believed that the councilman is leaving his Ward in better shape than he found it. Councilman Wilson applauded and saluted him for his service and everything he has done outside of his council duties and appreciated his friendship as well.

Councilman Wilson wanted to acknowledge Jim for stepping in on a situation at Albia Terrace. Councilman Wilson received a call from a resident living in Ward 3 that was having difficulty with a neighbor, they stepped in to take care of a situation where a door was kicked in on a vacant property. Jim said it was a City of Jennings property which the back door was left open by a trespasser, the door was boarded up the day following the report from the resident. Councilman Wilson thanked Jim for his swift action on that.

Councilman Wilson reported there will be graduation celebrations and billboards to honor students that have graduated. He said there was a digital billboard east on I-70, flashing individual seniors

from Jennings High School. He thanked whoever had been running the three marquees in celebrating graduates as well.

Councilman Wilson reported hearing the gunshots in Ward 2 as well. He said there is positive construction going up, completion of the senior residence, which should be completed in the next few weeks. He noted that someone pointed out that Sievers Park is looking good and he looks forward to celebrating it is opening. Councilman Wilson said there has been a lot of food distributions, in which he, Mayor Austin and Councilwoman Jones participated in. The NAACP and the Jennings School District collaborated on food distribution at the Jets and he believes the NAACP will be taking over for the next few weeks. He promised to post the information on that.

Councilman Wilson said that the council may or may not have received emails from Deletra regarding how busy he has been with the Municipal League. He was nominated to serve on the Board of Directors for the Municipal League in St. Louis County. He said he was honored to be considered for the position. The City of Jennings will be represented on the board and he completed the final portion of his certification to become a Certified Elected Official and should be receiving his plaque in Kansas City at the Municipal League Convention summer of 2020. He said it was great to see everyone and he hopes everyone stays safe.

Councilwoman Anderson greeted everyone and said she missed everyone so much. She thanked Jim for taking care of 2608 Kinnamore, she reported the neighbor is loving them for what they have done to take care of it.

Councilwoman Anderson asked Mayor Austin if there was any way that the public can be notified that the polling locations have been consolidated due to COVID-19. Councilman Wilson said the polling decisions are the responsibility of the Committeewoman and Committeeman in the Norwood township, which includes Jennings, but they are responsible for having the information for polling locations and places. Mayor Austin said that a person whom normally votes at City Hall was notified that they will have to vote at the High School, she said she there may be confusion and suggested posting the sites on the City of Jennings website.

Councilwoman Anderson asked if the owners operating in Buzz Westfall will be in adherence to the slow reopening of businesses due to COVID-19, specifically regarding nail salons in the Jennings area. Mayor Austin said when she drove by the shopping center earlier that day, she did see customers waiting at the nail salon six feet apart outside and are doing their best to adhere to safety standards. Mayor Austin commented that Jennings businesses are working very hard to not to reopen yet. She has received emails asking when they could reopen and effective May 18, 2020, they are doing what they are supposed to do because they do not want to be closed down and they also value the safety of their employees and their customers. Mayor Austin said that Jennings business owners are being really careful.

Councilwoman Anderson said she just called about the loose dogs all over Jennings, and asked Jim to call her later about that situation. She complimented Councilman Wilson on the new look.

Mayor Austin noted that Councilwoman Jones had a question. Councilwoman Jones asked what could be done to prevent confusion for voters. Mayor Austin said that it would be very hard to send out a mailer about new voting sites since the City does not know where each person is going, rather posting the sites in relation to previous polling sites would be more helpful. Mayor Austin said if anyone knows of someone owning a dog, they must call the Finance Department and ask for Stephanie to check records to see if the animal is documented and then she can notify the Building Department. There was an incident where a dog attacked someone in Ward 3, which resulted in her hospitalization for three days.

Councilman Johnson greeted everyone and said he would like to thank Councilman Epps for his service of seventeen years to the City of Jennings. He said that he has only been on the council for one year and in that time, he has learned a lot from Councilman Epps. He described him like the strong right-hand to calm him down. He has learned from Councilman Epps confidence, discipline he exhibits, the longevity he has had with Jennings, and Councilman Johnson hopes to follow his example of being a resident councilmember. He again thanked Councilman Epps for his service to the City of Jennings.

Councilman Johnson thanked Jim for receiving his calls and addressing his emails regarding the trash and grass cutting in Ward 3. Councilman Johnson thanked Mayor Austin for the

comprehensive police monthly report. He also thanked the St. Louis County Police Department and he welcomed Officer Bakula, who is already at work in the Jennings area to remove abandoned vehicles. Councilman Johnson thanked Councilwoman Owens for the collaboration on cooking and distributing food to Jennings senior residents.

Councilman Johnson reported the Ward 3 Neighborhood Association received the Invest STL Neighborhood Solidarity grant of \$300, which was used to for a connectivity piece and 300 mailers were sent out. The community stabilization of Ward 3 has commenced, since the fall approximately 13 buildings, with the assistance of Public Works, were boarded up and vegetation cleaned up. Councilman Johnson promised to do his duty as a councilmember to get back on track with the clean-up soon. Councilman Johnson reported a Zoom Ward 3 meeting was held in which he was able to make contact with some new residents. With the new connectivity mailer that was sent out, they were able to contact new residents which was a great success.

Councilman Johnson reported a survey with Center Job Insight, a group out of New York, which is a tech survey, gathering opinions and perspective of residents. The sponsored survey will have signs going up around Ward 3. Councilwoman Anderson asked if Councilman Johnson would invite her to the next Ward 3 Zoom meeting. Councilman Johnson said he sent it to her City email address. Councilwoman Anderson said that she has not received the emails so it may be going to the wrong address and asked him to call her so she may give him the correct email address. Councilman Johnson agreed to do so.

Councilman Epps greeted everyone. He thanked Mayor Austin for the recognition, the City of Jennings and the four Wards for having confidence in him for a long time. He said the council has some great young minds on board but something that has bothered him is development, especially residential development, it is taking too long. Councilman Epps said that if you want to have a cancer in the City, it is blight, which causes the City to go down, people to move out of the City and decreases appeal to move into the City. He hoped that the council would speed up residential development, which is good for the whole City, currently it drags on too long which is unfair to the people that are hanging on to the City, the people trying to stay here. Councilman Epps said there are some good people in the City, it has been a good City for a long time, but the council has got to do something about this blight. He urged the council to make sure there are some homes in Jennings which helps make the City solid. This had been on his heart to say. He believed that the right people are on the council and urged them to see more residential development.

Councilman Epps said he would miss everyone, he might be back but as you know, life has other things in store. He thanked everyone again and wished them a blessed evening.

Councilwoman Owens opened her report with a quote by Margaret Mead. She thanked Councilman Epps for his seventeen years of service in the 4th Ward.

Councilwoman Owens thanked Reggie Jones and the City of Dellwood for providing free pancakes to the community. On May 2, she and Councilman Johnson joined The New St. Louis Black Panther Party for a free BBQ Giveaway at Hamilton Park in the 4th Ward. On May 3, she joined New Life Church in Jennings 4th Ward for a Drive Thru BBQ Giveaway.

Councilwoman Owens thanked Councilwoman Miranda Jones, Councilwoman Francine Dugger, Councilman Gary Johnson, and Yolonda Fountain-Henderson for helping with a Mother's Day Giveaway throughout Jennings. 300 mothers were given a free hot Sunday dinner along with a special gift bag and flowers. To date, they have served over 800 hot Sunday dinners throughout the city.

Councilwoman Owens thanked Mayor Austin and Deletra Hudson, City Clerk, for creating a condolence proclamation for Ms. Ella Stokes, a resident from Star Residence that recently passed away due to COVID-19. Her family was truly grateful.

Councilwoman Owens informed the community that during this difficult time, there are several agencies offering resources and assistance to help the community: Better Family Life, Urban League, CAASTLC, Spire, Ameren, 211, Meals on Wheels, St. Louis Food Angels. She thanked the community members that consistently asked about the needs of families in Jennings 4th Ward and have gone out to meet their needs with groceries, household items and toiletries. She gave special thanks to Jennings 4th Ward residents who are avid volunteers: Mr. Turner, Mr. Green,

Mrs. Green, and Ms. Stegall who were very instrumental with serving at the Jennings Food pantry. Councilwoman Owens also thanked the Public Works Department for all that they do to keep our city clean and safe.

Councilwoman Owens noted shootings in the 4th Ward are a constant concern for residents. She suggested it would be great to have more police visibility as speeding is still a great concern throughout the 4th Ward as well. She has submitted streets that are receiving constant complaints: McLaran, Switzer, Helen, Hamilton, Hodiament.

Councilwoman Owens said several residents have complained about the change to Republic trash service. They have heard negative reviews about their service and would rather pay more to have kept Waste Management. She appreciated Officer Bakula coming by her home to introduce himself and explain his intentions on addressing nuisances throughout the city. He has already updated her on some issues addressed.

Councilwoman Owens reported her approval for two grants to help in the 4th Ward. She looks forward to working with the constituents in the 4th Ward to address some of their basic needs. She also reported her intention to plan a nice giveaway for Father's Day to celebrate fathers throughout Jennings. Councilwoman Owens has teamed up with an organization to help provide breakfast and lunch options to families throughout Jennings 4th Ward for the next 12 weeks.

5. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Austin thanked the department heads and the City employees as the City has navigated waters they have not waded in before. She reported they are doing a wonderful job working from home and those that are working in office. She said the City is working on making the transition of how to move back into the office, and a schedule is still being worked on for residents making appointments to see the Building Department. Mayor Austin said phone calls are still being received by the City receptionist, she has been taking messages and delivering them to the appropriate departments. Mayor Austin said that inspections and permits are still being processed and if anyone says that business is not being conducted within the City of Jennings, she clarified to everyone that business is still being conducted and if there are any problems, be sure to get a hold of Mayor Austin and Deletra Hudson, City Clerk.

Mayor Austin gave a shout out to several City employees: she congratulated Councilman Wilson for his nomination to the Municipal League Board of Directors, she gave a shout out to the City Clerk, Deletra Hudson, for her nomination as St. Louis Business Journal's Most Influential Women for a business award, and in the Recreation, Willie Brandon for certification as a Parks and Recs Professional and certification as a Youth Sports Administrator. He is recognized in the Missouri Parks and Recreation Newsletter. Mayor Austin encouraged all City employees to gain professional development and certifications, and these two individuals have gone above and beyond and are being recognized. She congratulated Deletra Hudson and Willie Brandon.

Mayor Austin thanked the Jennings School District for what they have done for the 2020 graduates during this difficult time. She said the City had honored and congratulated the graduates on the three electronic message boards and throughout the City. She has asked businesses to join the City in congratulating and honoring the high school graduates. Mayor Austin has every intention of letting those graduates know that though this time of difficulty was unforeseen, that the City is with them.

Mayor Austin reported that she has been working closely with the Finance Department to see where the City may be falling short, perhaps in sales tax. With the business closures due to COVID-19, the City does not seem to be falling as short as she expected. She reported an expected loss of \$83,000-\$84,000 but the previous week, the Finance Department received a letter from St. Louis County Revenue Department regarding a Revenue Settlement and Distribution which the City will be receiving within the next of couple weeks approximately \$79,000. Mayor Austin reported that in proportion the City seemed to be looking at only a \$3,000 loss in the month of April from this time in 2019. She has reviewed the Revenue closely with the Finance Director, Brenda Williams.

Mayor Austin informed the public that Jennings has two testing sites: Affinia Healthcare at 8960 Jennings Station Road, from 9 am to noon, Monday through Friday, their telephone number is 314-833-2777 and CareSTL Health, 7047 Emma Avenue, on Tuesdays from 1 pm to 4 pm and

Wednesdays 9 am to noon, their telephone number is 314-367-5820. She asked that the information be shared with other residents in the Jennings area. Mayor Austin reported the Affinia mobile units that are going to senior residences for those who cannot go to testing sites. Mobile Units are visiting Jennings Place, St. John Neumann, River Roads and Fairview Village to test those who would like to be tested once appointments have been set.

Mayor Austin encouraged councilmembers that have questions about what City employees are in office to reach out to her and she can let them know. She is aware that the Finance Department comes in to process checks, the City receptionist comes in from time to time to check mail, and the Building Department employees do come in more frequently. Mayor Austin thanked Jim for coming in and putting up plexiglass in the Building Department and reception desk. She explained those are some safety measures that are being taken before the City returns to office.

Councilwoman Jones asked to give love and kudos to Councilman Epps because he has done so much for the City of Jennings. She told Councilman Epps that she loved and respected him, that he will be missed, and the council does not plan on letting him go too far away. Mayor Austin added that there will be a parade for the Jennings High School graduates June 18, 2020 at 10 am leaving from Fairview Elementary ending at Jennings High School in their vehicles. They will be presented their diplomas on stage. She invited the public to come out and watch the commencement.

D. MONTHLY DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman Jones, the Council approved the monthly department reports.

E. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

1. Ways and Means & Public Safety Committee – Councilman Wilson reported there was no meeting.

2. Public Works & Building Committee - Councilman Epps reported there was no meeting.

3. Parks & Recreation Committee

Councilman Stichnoter reported there was no meeting but wanted to mention that Sievers Park is finished. He gave thanks to Jim and the Parks Committee. He also noted that this may be the best group he has ever worked with. He feels that everyone contributed with good ideas.

4. Policy and Ordinance Committee - Councilwoman Jones reported there was no meeting.

5. Municipal League

Councilman Wilson said he will send out information about the upcoming Nomination Meeting and the next Municipal League Meeting. The League is still determining whether or not to host a virtual meeting. Councilman Wilson said he would provide that information to Deletra Hudson, City Clerk, and she will disseminate that out to the council.

6. Planning Commission – Irvetta Williams said the Planning Commission met on May 7, 2020 to discuss one agenda item. There was a petition to discuss the opening of a bar & grill in hopes to appeal to young people at 6818 West Florissant. The commission decided to table the petition due to conditions for example, owed back taxes and parking concerns. The commission has asked the petitioner to return with some more information at another meeting where she will be on the agenda. Irvetta said the petitioner grew up in Jennings and attended Fairview Elementary in her youth.

7. Youth Commission - Reports provided.

8. Senior Commission - Reports provided.

F. LEGAL BUSINESS (Proposed Ordinances)

1. AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JENNINGS, MISSOURI, AMENDING THE ZONING DISTRICTS C-2 AND C-3 FROM 9050 WEST FLORISSANT AVENUE SOUTHBOUND TO THE INTERSECTION OF LUCAS AND HUNT ROAD ALONG WEST FLORISSANT AVENUE TO BECOME PART OF THE WEST FLORISSANT CORRIDOR ZONING DISTRICT.

There was a motion for the first reading made by Councilwoman Jones, seconded by Councilman Wilson for Bill #2610. Sam did the first reading of the ordinance. On the motion made by Councilwoman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Wilson for the second reading, Sam did the second reading of the ordinance.

Bill #2610 became Ordinance #2549 by the following roll call vote of the councilmembers, voting in favor: Allan Stichnote, Miranda Jones, Terry Wilson, Phyllis Anderson, Gary Johnson, Rodney Epps, and Aja Owens; Francine Dugger absent; none opposing.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

H. NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of the transfer of funds from General Fund to Parks.

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman Anderson, for the approval of the transfer of funds from General Fund to Parks. All in favor, none opposed.

2. Approval of the COVID-19 Resolution.

On the motion made by Councilwoman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Wilson, for the approval of the COVID-19 Resolution. All in favor, none opposed.

3. Approval of the monthly bills for payment.

On the motion made by Councilwoman Anderson, seconded by Councilwoman Jones, the monthly departmental bills were approved. All in favor, none opposed.

I. MAYOR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Mayor Austin thanked everyone on the Zoom call, and she remarked on the twenty-eight participants on for the May Council Meeting via Zoom.

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

On the motion made by Councilwoman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Wilson, 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, Phyllis Anderson, Gary Johnson, Rodney Epps, and Aja Owens; Francine Dugger was absent; none opposing.

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

After a brief recess, the following City Council members were all present and met in closed session: Allan Stichnote, Miranda Jones, Terry Wilson, Phyllis Anderson, Gary Johnson, Aja Owens; Francine Dugger was absent. Also present were the Mayor Yolanda Austin; Sam Alton, City Attorney; and Deletra Hudson, City Clerk.

LEGAL

On the motion made by Councilwoman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Wilson, the City Council approved giving the Mayor authority to negotiate up to \$50,000 on the lawsuit filed by Taundra Jones. The motion was approved by the following roll call vote of Councilmembers voting in favor of the session were the following: Allan Stichnote, Miranda Jones, Terry Wilson, Phyllis Anderson, Rodney Epp; Gary Johnson opposed; Aja Owens abstained; Francine Dugger was absent.

K. ADJOURNMENT

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman Anderson, the City Council voted in favor by the roll call votes of the following council members to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m.: Allan Stichnote, Miranda Jones, Terry Wilson, Phyllis Anderson, Gary Johnson, Rodney Epps and Aja Owens; Francine Dugger was absent; none opposing.

Approved:


Yolanda Austin, Mayor

Attest:


Deletra Hudson, City Clerk