



**Minutes of the City Council Regular Meeting
Jennings City Hall
Telemeeting Via Zoom Video
September 26, 2022
Regular Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.**

The two thousand four hundred and thirty-ninth meeting of the Jennings City Council was held on Monday, September 26, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in person and via Zoom Video.

A. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Tax Rate Levy for 2022

The public hearing for the Tax Rate Levy for 2022 was opened by Mayor Yolanda Austin at 7:00 p.m. Mike Williams from Sikich presented the proposed tax rate levies for 2022 and explained each levy for the General Fund, Pension Fund and the West Florissant Special Business District.

The public hearing was closed at 7:04 p.m.

B. REGULAR MEETING

- 1. Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.
- 2. Roll Call**

Council members present: Allan Stichnote, Yolonda Fountain Henderson, Terry Wilson, Jane Brown, Dr. Kimberly Morton, Gary Johnson, Lorraine Clower (via Zoom), and Joseph Turner.

Council member(s) absent: none.

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

3. Approval of the Agenda

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

4. Approval of the minutes from the Regular Meeting of August 22, 2022.

On the motion made by Councilwoman Fountain Henderson, seconded by Councilwoman Brown, the City Council approved the minutes from the Regular Meeting of August 22, 2022.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONERS, REMONSTRATIONS, COMPLAINTS, AND REQUESTS

Presentation – Corey Williams, SBA Office of Disaster Assistance

Mr. Williams reported on August 9th they received a declaration for the devastating flooding that occurred in St. Louis County, the independency of St. Louis as well as St. Charles County. He reported that as a result of that declaration it opened a program called Individuals in House Program. Which provides direct Federal assistance to businesses of all sizes, homeowners, renters and nonprofits. The first step in the process is to register with FEMA. He reported there are four ways to register with FEMA. Go to disasterassistance.gov, call 1800-621-3362 or download the FEMA mobile app, and they also have disaster recovery centers throughout the City of St. Louis,

St. Louis County, University City, Ferguson, and Hazelwood. Those hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays.

He reported that once you register with FEMA as a Jennings homeowner or renter, they may ask why SBA I don't have a business. He reported that in a time of a disaster not only does SBA offer loans to businesses and nonprofits but to homeowners and renters as well. Homeowners can borrow up to \$200,000 dollars to repair and replace disaster damage and real estate and up to \$40,000 dollars to replace disaster damage to personal property which includes any vehicles. He reported interest rates are as low as 1.688 percent, no closing cost, no cost to apply, no prepayment penalties, all the loans are amortized up to 30 years and a minimum 5-month deferment. Mr. Williams explained if someone is referred to SBA as a homeowner or renter it's important to complete the application, because if they did not get approved for an SBA loan, they can refer them back to FEMA for further grant assistance. A program called other needs assistance or unmet needs. The deadline to apply for physical damage is October 7th, 2022. If you are unable to go to a recovery center, you can apply online at disasterloanassistance.sba.gov or call 1800-659-2955.

Councilwoman Henderson asked how many disaster buildings are left. Mr. Williams states that there are six. Salvation Army, Rankin Tech Center, Hazelwood Civic Center, University City, Ferguson at the Community Empowerment Center and one in St. Charles at the O'Fallon City Hall. He reported there's also a business recovery center off Kingshighway at the Urban League. Councilwoman Morton asked if they don't get approved what's the process from being referred back to FEMA. Mr. Williams stated that there are two categories that FEMA uses. They are called failed income test and home application.

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

Shirley Wayne, 5828 Janet Ave, asked Mayor Austin about the current status of the Economic Plan that the intern was working on in the spring and when can we anticipate the homes that are currently on the demo list will be demolished. She asked Councilwoman Clower and Councilman Turner there are vacancies in Ward 4 and asked what's the plan to help solve the vacancy issues in Ward 4. She asked Sam, City Attorney has he reviewed the nuisance ordinance to determine if there should be revisions to help hold absent property owners accountable. She reported the St. Louis County Council office has a new team of attorney's who work on nuisance problem properties. She stated that it would be a good idea for Sam to touch base with them to see if there are things that we can adopt for the City of Jennings. She stated the ordinance needs to be more enforced. She then asked Sam and Mayor Austin and others to get together to find a solution for the property owners. Ms. Shirley then asked Jim about 5825 Janet that has been reported to be cut and 5825 Helen and 5829 Helen. She stated there is a lot to be cut and cleaned, 5832 Janet the front was cut by the City of Jennings, but the back was not.

Sam addressed Ms. Shirley by saying that he is a part of that Committee and is working with St. Louis County. He stated that the nuisance law that the City of Jennings has is very similar to the St. Louis County nuisance law. He stated that there is no real answer other than to monitor the properties give them notice to vacate and declare them a nuisance. Sam reported that almost every day Jim sends him an email with a property in every ward that's declared an emergency. He stated that Jim has about 500 properties in the City of Jennings that he's doing something about, just in the month of August. He stated that when the nuisance law becomes involved, they send out notice, they are given 5 days to abate the nuisance, if they don't request a hearing then the City has the right to abate that nuisance. If they do request a hearing, then that's another procedure. He stated there are a lot of properties to deal with, with limited manpower and funds. Sam stated that the City is doing the best they can to get to the properties one by one.

Mayor Austin addressed Ms. Shirley about the intern, she said that we did have a Washington University Brown student intern that worked with our Economic Development Department. She stated that her assignment was to go out and research and find as many vacant properties as she could. She stated the last time she spoke with the intern she found about 1200 properties. She stated that now that they know the properties some of them are in the post 3rd, some are bank owned. She stated that the City is responsible for cutting those 1200 properties on top of the City properties. Mayor Austin stated that Kelly Shelton, Economic Development has developers that

have been reaching out trying to get to some properties. She stated there are several things outlined for the demolition list.

Kellie stated that when she started working here a year and a half ago there was approximately 36 properties on the demo list, and she tore down 16. She reported that last month they were approved to move forward. She stated that there was money left over from a previous budget and that she's going to use that money to tear down additional properties. She stated that they are currently in the process of tearing down 12 properties, which leaves 8. She stated that she will use the rest of the demolition fund for Economic Development as well as ARPA funds to tear down the rest. She stated that November 4th is when she would like the bids to come back, after that a demolition contractor will be selected and it should be done by the beginning of 2023. She stated that they will be done simultaneously since they are two different pots of money that we must keep separate, one is for the Community Development Grant & the City of Jennings ARPA Funds. Kelly stated the request will still go out simultaneously to the contractors.

Mayor Austin asked Kelly to explain the process if they have properties that they feel that need to be demolished and how can they send her the address to the properties. Kelly stated that about a year ago she created a form that you can fill out. She stated that you can put down the address, why do you think it should be torn down and what ward the property is located in. She stated that the form is located on the City of Jennings website under the Economic Development Department, you can fill it out and submit online or you can print it out and bring it to the City Hall and she will work from there. Once that's done, she will go through the process with the Building Department and Public Works, they will then go out and verify the property. Depending on if the property can be saved, if so then it will go to our auction. Mayor Austin thanked Kelly.

Sam stated that a little while back, he doesn't remember which Council Member proposed it but reported that the Council passed section 2311 about abandoned properties, which allows anybody to go onto the property and abate the nuisance or work with the City. He stated the City is trying. Councilwoman Clower explained her plans for the 4th Ward. She stated there have been many City Hall meetings regarding those vacant homes. She stated that her goal for the 3rd & 4th Ward is to not be overlooked. She stated we do have over 400 vacant homes, but the majority of those homes are in the 4th Ward. She stated that she is trying to get most those homes in the 3rd and 4th Ward torn down. She also stated her main goals are to continue to target those vacant homes, the high grass and dumping. She reported she asked Jim and Public Works to provide a list of all his duties so they can be tracked and monitored. She stated she is continuing to have meetings and talking to the residents in the 4th ward.

Mayor Austin thanked Councilwoman Clower. Councilman Johnson responded to Ms. Shirley about the grass cutting. He stated the ordinance reads that if it's determined as an emergency, they can cut it. He stated they have the funds they don't have the manpower. He reported they are missing 10 people. He stated they should use the funds that are sitting to contract it out to get the grass cut. He stated that they can take care of the problem. He also stated there's \$250,000 that was set aside for demolition. Councilman Turner stated his focus is on building new homes in the 4th ward, changing the image. He stated as we demo and build, we will come to a place where we enjoy where we are and what we have. He acknowledged that we do have tall grass but stated it will not remain that way. Mayor Austin thanked Councilman Turner.

Reynal Caldwell, 2525 Shannon Ave, stated he is concerned about the vehicles on the street with and without license plates. He stated it brings down the property value. Sam, City Attorney stated that St. Louis County is working hard to deal with those vehicles and identify those vehicles. He stated they are patrolling and going one by one tagging them trying to see who owns them or tow them.

He stated Officer Root has dealt with a bunch of the vehicles. Sam stated if you have a vehicle sitting out on the street in front of someone's house like the trailers that don't have any identifying information like a license plate it's not easy to figure out who it belongs to or who to send a citation to. Lieutenant Perez stated that Officer Root has a business line cell phone that you can call in those complaints. He stated that there's a community crime portal where an officer will receive the complaint within 24 hours, and it will be addressed. He stated Officer Root is completely dedicated to addressing the abandoned auto issue in the city.

James Williams, 5618 Hamilton, stated that when he moved into the City of Jennings July 1983. He reported when he moved here there were ordinances that were fulfilled, they were backed by the police and others. Mr. Williams stated if there was a vehicle with a flat tire you were given a summons to show up in court. He stated if your property wasn't kept up to code you were given a summons or a ticket to get those things improved. Mr. Williams stated we need a law that puts a time limit on how long they have to correct those issues without it lingering on. He stated if the 4th Ward is failing, the entire City of Jennings is failing. He stated the Council needs to improve the laws and work together.

Sam responded to Mr. Williams; he stated once the summons is issued that has nothing to do with the City Council. Its then up to the court system, prosecutors and the judge to decide what to do with those people if or when they come to court. He stated the process is in place. Mr. Williams responded by saying that they have given it time, but the process is not moving, things are still going undone waiting on the process. He stated if the banks are not complying give them 90 days after that they'll forfeit that to the City of Jennings.

Mayor Austin thanked Mr. Williams. Councilwoman Clower agreed with Mr. Williams and stated the City needs to be held accountable. She stated many residents have called and complain about the same residents repeatedly and nothing has been done about it. She stated the process has failed, and the system is broken, and they need to follow the ordinance. She stated to Sam something needs to be done and he needs to follow up on that summons if they've been done. Councilwoman Clower reported the residents are asking what are the next steps. Mayor Austin thanked Councilwoman Clower.

Cortez Holloway, 5329 College Ave, asked about the stop sign at College Ave. He stated cars or school buses don't stop. He stated a speed bump will help. Mayor Austin asked Jim if that was on the list and if he knew the progress of the speed bump on College. Jim stated there was 3 speed bumps already put up on College. He stated they do have the option to move them. He stated to Mr. Williams he will put a letter in with Lieutenant Perez to beef up the police presence in that area and will look into moving a stop sign there. Mr. Williams stated he has been a resident since 1988 and it was a nice place but now it's so bad that people are now calling the City Jenlock. Mayor Austin thanked Mr. Williams.

Freddie Bracy, 7120 Idlewild, Mr. Bracy addressed Councilman Johnson, there hasn't been any improvements or change on the streets. He stated it's going to be caving in. He stated water is running down the hill and it needs to be taken care of. He asked Councilman Johnson why you don't have the manpower. Jim responded to Mr. Bracy, He stated they have contracted out with another temp agency who does asphalt and is starting that program back up and will make sure he sees movement on that. He stated the guys from the agency are working out well. Mr. Bracy said that they are building a new City Hall in Jennings, then asked do we need a new City Hall. He stated we do not need a new City Hall, and that he doesn't see anything wrong with the one we have now. Mr. Williams stated with the new City Hall the residents will have to pay more taxes, and that a lot of residents in the City of Jennings are senior citizens on fixed income. He stated a truck has been sitting on Jennings Station Road on a lot with a lot of junk in it, it has been sitting there for a long time. He asked Councilman Johnson if he has seen it. Councilman Johnson replied yes. Mr. Bracy asked well why they haven't been moved. Councilman Johnson stated its private property. Mayor Austin stated to Mr. Bracy that his time is up, and the Council has his concerns.

Corene Caldwell, 2525 Shannon, addressed the City Council about the school. She stated her grandkids go there and the lockers are raggedy. She stated the bags that were provided for the phones are a waste of money. She stated the school lunch is terrible and the meals are the same 3 times a week. Mayor Austin stated that Ms. Caldwell should join the school board meetings on the 2nd or 3rd Monday of the month to discuss her concerns. Ms. Caldwell stated the kids need a balanced meal, and for some kids this is the only meal they have. She stated they need to put in sidewalks for the kids and that they are walking in the street because there's no sidewalks. Mayor Austin stated the sidewalks are a City issue, but the superintendent is on the line and she's hearing all her concerns.

Teresa Lowman, 5513 Belridge, addressed Councilman Johnson she stated she saw the interview with him and Elliot Davis, News Reporter. She reported he was talking about the new City Hall

and Recreational Center. She stated he failed to mention that in February 2021 when the ordinance was put out there authorizing Jennings to enter the real estate purchase, and the Council voted on it. She reported Mr. Johnson voted in favor of purchasing the real estate. She reported in May 2021 when Jennings approved the request to subdivide the lot to put up the City Hall and Recreation Center, she stated Councilman Johnson also voted in favor. She stated during the interview with Elliott, he asked Councilman Johnson what he would he have done with the money if he could talk to Mayor Austin about it. Ms. Lowman reported Councilman Johnson said he would tear down houses. She stated he was negligent with Elliott Davis and the others. She asked why he wasn't honest about it and tell Elliott that he voted in agreement with it. She stated all the Council people at that time approved it.

Councilman Johnson responded to Ms. Lowman and said yes, he voted to purchase the land, subdivide the land. He stated that's not supporting building of a structure, it's just buying the land. Councilman Johnson stated he is not in agreement in building a new City Hall. He stated we should get our money back from the land. He reported we have spent over a million dollars, \$750,000 dollars for the land and to remediate \$200,000 dollars. He stated what he said was true. He stated they paid \$750,000 dollars for the land \$200,000 dollars to fix it. Councilman Johnson stated to the Council to abort the city plan and sell the land. He stated they are taking \$50,000 dollars out the General Fund, \$75,000 dollars out of Parks, \$450,000 dollars out of Economic Development, \$125,000 dollars out of capital improvement. He stated he is against that, he wants the streets paved, roads fixed, trees cut down and buildings demolished. Mayor Austin thanked Ms. Lowman.

Marietta Beck, 5476 Hodiament Ave, she thanked the St. Louis County Police Department, Policeman Adam responded to her wellness check on a neighbor August 9th she also thanked Captain Norman Man, who helped expedite the follow-up on her neighbor who passed away and Police Officer Root September 14th. She asked what's the status of the legal action at 5426 Hodiament where all those vehicles are still parked on that property, she stated there is still a school bus parked in the front yard at 5443 Hodiament. She asked if there's a policy for the landlords to make sure they are being landlords and not slumlords. She reported there's a person that owns 38 properties, 34 are in Jennings. She reported out of those 38 properties only 7 are current and up to date with taxes. She reported that delinquent taxes are 1 to 5 to 9 years. Ms. Becks asked is there something being setup for the landlords to be responsible and not to let them rent out additional properties. Ms. Beck also thanked Ms. Lowman for her speech. Mayor Austin stated a couple years ago they had something for the landlords, but the Council members put that on hold, but it can be revisited. She also said the addresses that Ms. Beck has that's in back taxes she can turn those into Ms. Kelly, Economic Development so she can look into them.

Sharon Stewart, 8332 Osborn Dr., stated that she's been a resident for 36 years. She stated the city was quiet and clean. If you called the Police Department, they respond. She stated we need to clean the City up, cut the grass and tear down these houses. Ms. Stewart reported Mayor Austin okayed Osborn needing a street repair at the last meeting. She asked Mayor Austin, where are we with that. Jim responded to Ms. Stewart he agreed that there are potholes on the street. He stated it's something that will be addressed once he gets the hot mix crew out there. He stated it'll be more than a permanent repair. Mayor Austin reported with the new temp crew, they will fix the potholes on Osborn. Councilwoman Morton asked for clarification on if they were fixing the potholes in one area or the entire street of Osborn. Mayor Austin stated the entire street of Osborn.

Girtha & Larry Spratt, 6335 Minnie, stated that on Labor Day her neighbor's car was stolen from in front of her house. She stated there is a lot of gangbanging as well. She asked the Council why there isn't any speed bumps because they speed through Acme and Wylborn. Ms. Spratt requested speed bumps. Mayor Austin stated Jim is listening and that he will take it to the Police Department for a review and then it will go to Public Works. Mayor Austin reported that half of the street is in St. Louis City, and the other half is Jennings. Larry stated his complaints have been answered but the grass is growing everywhere. He asked why anyone can't get in touch with those who own the land. He stated they move to other places, but the homes are still here. He reported a house on Hamilton with grass is so tall that you can't see the house. He stated they need speed bumps on Acme. He stated they need to do something about the gangbanging.

Mayor Austin thanked Mr. Spratt. She stated she has 6300 on Minnie but the other half is Acme which is the City of St. Louis, and the other half is Jennings. Councilwoman Morton asked Girtha and Larry, have they called the police when they hear gun shots. Ms. Girtha reported when she calls, they tell her it's the City, and that Jennings police can only come so far, it's out of their

jurisdiction. Mr. Spratt reported the City Police never show up. Jennings police have shown up before.

Culeta Hendrick, 8404 McLaran, reported she spoke to a resident of 50 years, who's disappointed in the decline of Jennings. She reported she has been a 25-year resident and has seen the decline in Jennings as well, especially on her street McLaran. She stated she is seeking improvement asap. She reported New View Fashion Beauty at 7525 West Florissant is a hot mess and needs to be torn down. She reported the grass was cut at 8310 McLaran and thanked the Council. She asked what they are going to do about the dead landscaping. She reported the streets need to be paved at the corner of McLaran and West Florissant. Ms. Hendricks addressed Jim and she stated she is still waiting for them to reposition the speed bump on Kinamore and McLaran. She requested another speed bump and put it close to 8404 McLaran. Mayor Austin stated that the building on 7525 West Florissant is Country Club Hills. Jim stated he will go by to look.

Bennie Garrett, 8428 Carl, addressed Councilman Johnson, he reported 8400 block of Carl has a few houses that have so many weeds that you can't see the house. It's been vacant for about 5 or 6 six years. He stated there's another house down the street that has been empty since June or July and the grass has grown high. He reported someone was there last week to cut it, but they didn't cut much of nothing. He reported there was about 10 people there doing nothing, playing and looking around. Mayor Austin thanked Mr. Garrett.

Michele Owens, 9208 Hathaway Dr., thanked Mayor Austin, Councilwoman Brown, Jim and Verna, for the help she received when her basement flooded. She stated she lost everything. She reported FEMA came by and looked at her home and gave her some money. Ms. Owens stated she wants a new City Hall and Rec Center. She stated they need to bring back the newsletters that informed what was going on in the community. Mayor Austin thanked Ms. Owens.

Zelma Turner, 8744 Granada Pl, thanked Mayor Austin and her team for all the work they've done. She stated she lives in the 4th Ward and that she loves Jennings. Ms. Turner said speak positive words and positive is going to happen. Mayor Austin thanked Ms. Turner.

Melvin Hall, 5651 Acme, absent

Joanne Clay, 5562 Albia, thanked the Police Department and reported she loves the app, and it really works. Ms. Clay reported there is a house that's been vacant for 3 years and she has been in contact with the City of Jennings but hasn't gotten anywhere yet. She stated at 5556 Albia the grass was cut, and it looks nice. She reported 5544 Albia Terrace looks nice as well. She asked the Council is there a way she can get the ordinances that are in place now. Sam responded to Ms. Clay and said they are online. She talked about the houses that are up for purchase on the list and asked when does the list come out. Deletra stated they come out quarterly. Mayor Austin thanked Ms. Clay.

Rob Tate, 7113 Beulah Dr., stated this is his first time coming to a Council meeting. Mr. Tate reported his parents bought a home in Jennings in 1975. He stated his parents moved after he graduated, he then took over the home because it meant something to him. He reported he rents it out and tries his best to keep it looking nice. He reported on September 1st he went over to get rent and smelled an odor and asked the neighbor what's wrong. He stated there were dead rats the size of cats in the driveway. Mayor Austin asked what address. Mr. Tate says 7129 Beulah. He stated the grass hasn't been cut in a year and trash was all over the driveway. He thanked the Council for listening to his concerns and the progress that has been made. Mayor Austin thanked Mr. Tate.

Kellye Still, 2625 Avie Dr., Via Zoom stated there have been speed bumps placed on Kinamore, Sunbury and McLaran. She stated there aren't any on Avie. She reported kids use that street to go to school and recently there were two guys there shooting. She asked why the other streets are getting speed bumps but not Avie. Mayor Austin asked Ms. Still what street and block is she requesting a speed bump. Ms. Still says 2600 block of Avie. Jim responded to Ms. Still, he stated he checks on it every time it's brought up. He reported it will be discussed at the following Public Works meeting which is always the first Wednesday of the month. He stated he will also get with Officer Root about the traffic studies and will address it. Mayor Austin thanked Ms. Still. Mayor Austin reported the street was not turned in, but they have it now to go through the proper procedures.

David Green Via Zoom, absent

2. Councilmember's Reports (Reports are limited to 5 minutes. See Decorum Ordinance)

Councilman Turner thanked Captain Mann and Officer Davis for the clean up on the 17th. He reported that he was not there, but Gary shared what took place. He thanked Jim and his crew for doing a few yards and lots. He reported a home next to him 8514 Hamilton has been vacant the grass was high. He reported Jim has been working on it and hopes to get a resident soon. Mayor Austin thanked Councilman Turner.

Councilwoman Clower thanked Captain Mann, Jim, Allan, and Councilwoman Fountain Henderson for the cleanup on May 17th. She reported she has received several complaints about 5443 Hodiament regarding the yellow bus. She reported she has been talking about the yellow bus for months now and this issue should be forwarded to Sam. She reported a resident, and her daughter have called several times regarding the yellow bus. She reported 5426 Janet there are trucks in the yard and there have been discussions about that but wants to know the status. She reported 5300, 5400 and 5500 block of Wilborn the high grass needs to be cut.

She stated she did see Captain Mann's report, she stated she wants to see in the report when the officers stop by a resident to talk to a resident and gives them a break for their cars being parked on the street. She stated she wants a report stating why and how much time are they giving them so that when the next police come, they can cite them. She reported the 3rd and 4th Ward has the majority of the homes that need to be torn down. She asked Captain Mann if he can send an officer to do patrolling at 5400 block of Janet, she reported there has been several shootings on Wilborn as well.

Councilman Johnson reported he attended the Missouri Municipal League Conference last week. He reported he was able to meet the City Judge. He reported he has been working in Ward 3. He stated he introduced legislation for the 25 miles per hour in the City, the nuisance order, and the new ordinance that were passed to hold landlords accountable. In order to get an occupancy permit, your taxes must be paid up and you must have insurance.

Mr. Johnson addressed Ms. Lowman, He reported they have already paid the security company over \$80,000 to secure a vacant building. He reported from April 13th until now they have paid over \$80,000. He stated the company was operating without a contract. He reported the residential property value went down \$500,000 last year, the commercial value went down 1.4 he reported there was no buildings built in Jennings.

He reported two businesses on Highway 367 they gave them a forgivable loan. He reported the Donut Shop isn't there anymore they gave them \$54,000. He asked Sam and Kelly to look at the report, there was a form that was filled out, form 943 on the information section on question 4 which says are you any person affiliated with the vendor. Councilman Johnson reported that the applicant marked no, he stated that was false. The document was falsified because the Donut Shop is owned by the vendor.

Councilwoman Morton reported 7150 Garesche has high grass and needs to be cut. She reported she got a call from a resident that's in a wheelchair. She reported she went to the Monument of Faith Community Outreach event on the 17th and showed her face at the cleanup. She asked Jim and the Building Department when we will receive follow-up for things we say in the meeting and emails. She reported a lot of the time she's getting complaints from residents and wants to know who gets the follow-up, if something has been done about it.

Jim responded to Councilwoman Morton, He stated at the last Public Works meeting that everyone wanted the numbers that were cut and that's what he gave them. He reported the numbers that were compiled were off the MyGov system that's how he gets the word and exactly what was done. He stated all Council Members can go in and look.

Councilwoman Morton stated all the residents want is paved streets, speed bumps, a clean city, trash pickup and sidewalks. She stated that we need to hold everyone accountable even if you work in the City.

Councilwoman Brown thanked Shirley Wayne and reported the appropriate letters have been sent out for the items that were outstanding for a nuisance and abatements are moving forward. She reported progress will continue to be monitored. She gave thanks for recommendations to get solutions to recurring problems. She reported Saturday she attended the Hawaiian Luau event the Recreation Center hosted, and it was well attended. She reported everyone had a great time and that the mission was accomplished. She also reported that the weather was nice August 27th the 2022 Fishing Derby was fun for all and is looking forward for 2023.

Councilwoman Brown thanked Officer Davis and Shonny Davis, for their timely reminder of upcoming neighborhood events each month. She ended her report by saying we always show appreciation for dedicated staff and its well-deserved and to keep in mind they work 8-10 hours before Council meetings. She stated we can show our appreciation of their services in a more compelling way if meeting time is held to a more reasonable limit.

Councilwoman Fountain-Henderson reported the cleanup took place September 17th she thanked Jim, Captain Mann, residents, Council Members, and the Fire Department. She stated she's glad that they had more than 12 people present. She stated that if anyone has concerns there are two School Board Directors here that are on the board. She thanked Schona and Building Inspector Leslie. She reported at the last Council meeting a home at 5476 Hodiament, she stated she was in the 4th Ward, and she had to inch her car to get through there. She stated the trees are deplorable. Councilwoman Henderson asked Schona to write down the address and send a letter to the resident.

She reported homecoming is October 15th and if anyone is interested in coming to the parade you are welcome. The parade starts at 11 a.m. and the game is at 1 p.m. She stated to Jim our City is dark, she asked Jim to write down the numbers for the lights. J404, J136, and J621. She reported residents in Ward 2 have continually called her telling her no one in Ward 2 picks up the phone. She reported they are saying they don't have anyone else to call so they're calling her. She also reported there are trash bags still left from the clean up on Jennings Station Road near Jennings Crossing.

Councilwoman Henderson asked Sam if a business was involved in fraud do we have the right to shut them down. Sam stated that it depends on the kind of fraud and the process. He reported if they owe taxes it goes to the Department of Revenue and it will be investigated. If they came in and applied for a license and put down fraudulent information, then yes, the City can do something.

Councilwoman Henderson reported she wants to add something to the policy. She stated if they can set up a meeting because parking on the wrong side of the street is becoming a norm and it needs to be addressed. She congratulated Sergeant McCrary for becoming a Sergeant.

Councilman Stichnote thanked Jim for the grass cutting. He reported the grass cutting in August. Ward 1 was 88, Ward 2 was 24, Ward 3 was 132 and Ward 4 was 263. Total of 508 properties were cut in August. He reported on September 11th he went to the Masonic Parade with Mayor Austin, Councilwoman Brown and Councilman Turner. Everyone enjoyed themselves. He reported he did attend the cleanup on September 17th and did work in Ward 4.

Councilman Stichnote reported September 22nd there was a Bingo, there were 37 residents that showed up. He reported that's the biggest crowd they've had in a long time. He reported on Scottsdale they are starting to get a bunch of stuff dumped there again. He reported he has a letter from a resident requesting speed bumps on McLaran and College.

Councilman Wilson thanked Jim for the work done on a house on Hathaway and Jennings Station Road. He thanked Schona and the Inspectors for getting on two houses in Ward 2 that they called in. He reported the inspectors went to the property and gave them a citation and the residents cut the grass 2 days later. He reported Ward 2 is having a meeting October 29th that morning. He also reported he attended the Masonic Parade and had a great time. He reported he attended the golf tournament, it was amazing.

He reported he attended the employee recognition barbecue earlier this month, and it was a great way to appreciate the staff and was good to see other Council Members there. Councilman Wilson shared that this weekend there's a collaboration fundraiser event in Bellefontaine Neighbors. Moline Acres Police, Bellefontaine Police, St. Louis County Police, North County Police,

Riverview Police and more. There will be a bar-b-que fundraiser, all proceeds will go to Back Stoppers to support first responders. It starts 11 a.m.- 6 p.m. He encouraged everyone to go support them.

Councilman Wilson asked Councilwoman Henderson if she has a phone number for the resident on 9012. She stated that she has followed up with the Building Department and that they have very limited information. She stated she has a number and has left a voice message on the number she has. Councilman Wilson asked Deletra for dates about the Public Works meeting so that he can give it to the rest of the committee.

4. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Austin thanked the department heads and their staff for continuing to supervise the day-to-day operations. She reported they have a written complaint from a Ward 2 resident, Ms. Shirley. Mayor Austin asked Deletra to read her 10 complaints. Deletra reported the complaints from Ms. Shirley. All streets in Jennings have problems, Wards running into one another. She stated, all Council Members should be busy in their Ward. Some ways she sees help for some problems are enforce codes, to many out of state owners, help people buy homes who want to live in Jennings. If there's a problem, it should not carry-on year after year. Sit down and work on solutions. Every meeting there's grass, trash, and problem properties. West Florissant should look bright and inviting. She stated she has been through the Wards and its 21 homes (attached to complaint) she stated that if we want to get anywhere, we need to look at ourselves. People who have worked to get Jennings forward run into brick walls.

Mayor Austin reported Ms. Shirley Wayne listed all the addresses and those that are empty and her concerns. She reported she has turned them over to Councilwoman Brown. Ms. Brown will follow up with the Building Department. Mayor Austin thanked those who are updating the website along with the message board. She stated if residents and business owners are not on the email or phone list to call the City Hall and ask for Ms. Verna Charles. She will make sure you are on those lists.

She reported she is happy to say that we have a total of 381 applications and have been accepted for the ring doorbell. Two hundred thirty-two have been given out and the remaining are awaiting to be picked up or some have been denied for various reasons. Fourteen hundred hot spots have been given away and the city is still accepting applications for both. She reported there are 212 residents and businesses who are registered for the voluntary community camera program. She thanked those who have registered and if you need an application, they are located on the counter in the hallway.

Mayor Austin commended Officer Shonny Davis for making sure events are planned for the community, to continue community engagement. She stated she would like more participation at these events especially with the Neighborhood Watch. She reported only 4 residents came out to the meeting which is held monthly. There are 3 events coming, the City of Jennings Night Out which is October 4th at 5 p.m., October 7th 5 p.m.-7 p.m. National Faith Weekend. Join the City of Jennings Police Department, Houses of Worship, and community members for a day of resolution, reconciliation, and bridge building. It will be held at the Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church at 5300 Helen in the 4th Ward.

Mayor Austin reported the Neighborhood Watch meeting will be held October 12th. They are held every 2nd Thursday of the month at 5pm at 2545 Dorwood. She reported the non-emergency crime portal is working and she has spoken with a couple residents. She reported the residents thanked them for having that for complaints which goes directly to the police department.

Mayor Austin thanked the Public Works Department for assisting with picking up things that were left at the curb by residents that were affected by the flood. She stated 25 families notified City Hall for assistance, they were directed to call 211 and FEMA. Mayor Austin reported she met with Ms. Carolyn Robinson Tucker who's the FEMA Representative for the city. She reported she met with Mr. Corey Williams from the SBA and asked him to come and share that information. She reported all that information is provided on the City Website cityofjennings.org

She reported they are continuing to meet on the City Hall, Rec Center project with the construction team KAI and Hankins Construction. She reported she met with the people who are working on the KFC. She asked them to put up a sign because she's getting calls. She reported there is now a sign up. She reported the Fire Station is hoping to start breaking ground the end of October. She reported that A Caring Plus Foundation is working on construction for 3 homes in Ward 2.

They have also been approved for 31 additional homes that'll be in south Jennings Ward 4. Mayor Austin reported she has asked the department heads to follow up with complaints at least within 48 hours. She stated you can check MyGov and if any Councilperson needs help contact Ms. Deletra and she will make sure Ms. Diana gets back with you.

D. MONTHLY DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

On the motion made by Councilwoman Brown, seconded by Councilman Wilson, the City Council approved the monthly departmental reports. All in favor; none opposed.

E. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

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

2. *Public Works & Building Committee* – Councilwoman Brown reported there was a meeting September 7th at 5:33 p.m. She reported they covered 7 agenda items. The Republic Services price increase which she asked the attorney to follow up from a legal standpoint. He stated according to the contract with Republic Service it's the resident's responsibility to ensure clean recycling and contamination must be documented and communicated by the Republic Services.

Councilwoman Brown reported the Republic Services upheld the terms of the contract with the City of Jennings and that proper recycle guidance could be communicated to the residents by the City and posted on the website. She reported the solid waste contract ends May 2023. She reported the approval about eligibility requirements for grant assistance for resident trash pickup service, the committee approved the Trash Bill Grant. All in favor; none opposed.

The approval for the installation of speed bumps along 9100-9200 block of Glen Garden Drive, she stated the recommendation to replace the speed bumps voted all in favor, none opposed. She reported Mr. Maixner reported that he didn't receive the traffic study regarding the installation of the speed bumps for 8900 Woodstone Court. Councilwoman Brown reported Mr. Maixner stated through verbal communication with the Police Department those who were conducting the traffic study are leaning towards advising against the installation due to the short length of the street.

She reported Councilwoman Clower requested for the Public Works monthly report that includes properties, date when grass was cut and job number from MyGov system. She also reported Councilwoman Clower inquired about the status of the street sweeper, she stated Mr. Maxner is working with MyGov for a more detail report and that the reports it can't be separated by Ward.

She reported about the request for no parking on McLaran, she reported Councilman Johnson recommended a no parking sign to be put up on Jennings Station Road to Goodfellow Blvd. She stated that Mr. Maxiner suggested that a survey to be issued to the residents about the parking.

Councilwoman Brown reported about the discussion about flood victims because residents who were victims of the flood are asking where they can dispose of damaged items. She reported Mr. Maxiner reported the St. Louis County has provided dumpsters which will be delivered to Theodore, Hathaway Dr. and at the corner of Cozens Ave. She reported Councilwoman Henderson requested a list of prohibited things that can't go in the dumpsters. She reported Councilwoman Henderson request that a speed bump be moved at 2205 Shannon. The committee approved recommendation to remove the speed bump. All in favor; none opposed.

3. *Parks & Recreation Committee* – Councilman Stichnote stated there was no meeting. He asked Jim if he knew about a damaged fence at Lions Park. He stated it look like a car drove through it. He reported they have a new fence at Sievers Park.

4. ***Municipal League*** - Councilman Wilson reported there's an executive board meeting scheduled for October 20th A general meeting scheduled for October 27th He reported he has been appointed to the Legislative Affairs Committee and they have scheduled 3 meetings to come up with the agenda. He reported the committee was made up of a variety of Mayors and Council Members from around the county. The first meeting was September 8th and there are 2 more meetings scheduled.

5. ***Planning Commission*** – There was no meeting.

6. ***Economic Development Board*** – There was no meeting.

7. ***Youth Commission*** – There was a meeting, included in packet

8. ***Senior Commission*** – There was a meeting, included in packet

F. LEGAL BUSINESS (Proposed Ordinances)

1. **AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JENNINGS, ORDERING THE LEVYING AND ESTABLISHING THE RATE OF THE MUNICIPAL TAXES FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES AND WEST FLORISSANT BUSINESS DISTRICT TO BE COLLECTED FOR THE YEAR OF 2022.**

On the motion for the first reading made by Councilwoman Fountain Henderson, seconded by Councilman Wilson for Bill #2693. Sam did the first reading of the ordinance.

On the motion made by Councilwoman Fountain Henderson, seconded by Councilman Wilson, for the second reading. Sam did the second reading of the ordinance.

Bill #2693 became Ordinance #2628 by the following roll call vote of the Councilmembers, voting in favor: Allan Stichnote, Yolonda Fountain Henderson, Terry Wilson, Jane Brown, Dr. Kimberly Morton, Gary Johnson, Lorraine Clower, and Joseph Turner; none abstained nor opposed.

2. **AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JENNINGS, MISSOURI, AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL, REQUISITION, ACQUISITION AND/OR PURCHASE OF MULTIPLE REAL PROPERTIES SITUATED WITHIN THE CITY OF JENNINGS, STATE OF MISSOURI.**

On the motion for the first reading made by Councilwoman Fountain Henderson, seconded by Councilman Wilson for Bill #2694. Sam did the first reading of the ordinance.

On the motion made by Councilwoman Fountain Henderson, seconded by Councilman Wilson, for the second reading. Sam did the second reading of the ordinance.

Bill #2694 became Ordinance #2629 by the following roll call vote of the Councilmembers, voting in favor: Allan Stichnote, Yolonda Fountain Henderson, Terry Wilson, Jane Brown, Dr. Kimberly Morton, Gary Johnson, Lorraine Clower, and Joseph Turner; none abstained nor opposed.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

H. NEW BUSINESS

1. ***Approval of the accounting service agreement with Sikich***

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman Brown, the City Council approved the agreement with Sikich. All in favor; none opposed.

2. ***Approval of the auditing services agreement with Sikich***

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman Brown, the City Council approved the auditing service agreement with Sikich. Councilman Turner, Councilman Stichnote,

Councilwoman Clower, Councilwoman Henderson and Councilwoman Brown voted in favor; Councilman Johnson and Councilwoman Morton Opposed.

3. Approval of the Lagers Employer Representative

On the motion made by Councilwoman Wilson seconded by Councilwoman Brown, the City Council approved the Lagers Employer Representative. All in favor; none opposed.

4. Approval of the Trash Bill Grant

On the motion made by Councilwoman Fountain Henderson, seconded by Councilman Johnson, the City Council approved the Trash Bill grant. All in favor; none opposed.

5. Approval of the placement of speed bump(s) on Glen Garden

On the motion made by Councilwoman Fountain Henderson, seconded by Councilwoman Clower, the City Council approved the placement of speed bumps. All in favor; none opposed.

6. Approval of the Appointment of Planning Commissioner

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman Morton the City Council approved the Appointments of Planning Commissioner. All in favor; none opposed.

7 Approval of the monthly bills payment

On the motion made by Councilwoman Brown, seconded by Councilman Turner the City Council approved the monthly bill payment. All in favor; none opposed.

I. MAYOR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Mayor Austin thanked those in person for staying and those who stayed on the Zoom for the City Council meeting. She stated to the Council members to invite people to some of the events that we are having.

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

On September 26, 2022, on the motion made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman Fountain Henderson, the City Council approved a closed session for Personnel (RSMO 610:021-3) by the following roll call vote of Councilmembers voting in favor: Stichnote, Fountain Henderson, Wilson, Brown, Morton, Johnson, Clower (via Zoom) and Turner; none absent; none opposing nor abstaining.

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

PERSONNEL - The following actions were taken:

- a. Hire Full Time Accounting Clerk

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman Brown, the City Council voted to approve the recommendations from Deletra Hudson, City Clerk/Interim Finance Department, to hire Shannon Glover for the full time Accounting Clerk position pending the pre-employment screenings and background checks. If Shannon Glover could not fulfill the hiring requirements, Marquisha Miller was approved as the alternate hire for Accounting Clerk. The motion was approved by the following roll call vote of councilmembers voting in favor: Stichnote, Fountain Henderson, Wilson, Brown, Morton, Johnson, Clower (via Zoom) and Turner; none absent; none opposing nor abstaining. **APPROVED**

- b. Hire Deputy Building Commissioner

On the motion made by Councilwoman Morton, seconded by Councilman Johnson, the City Council voted to approve the recommendations from Schona McClellon, Housing Director, to hire

William Hopkins for the Deputy Building Commissioner position pending the pre-employment screenings and background checks. The motion was approved by the following roll call vote of councilmembers voting in favor: Wilson, Morton, Johnson, Clower (via Zoom) and Turner; Stichnote and Brown opposing; Fountain Henderson abstaining; none absent. **APPROVED**

c. Hire Recreation Specialist

On the motion made by Councilwoman Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman Fountain Henderson, the City Council voted to approve the recommendations from Willie Brandon, Parks and Recreation Director, to hire Christopher Hobbs for the Recreation Specialist position pending the pre-employment screenings and background checks. The motion was approved by the following roll call vote of councilmembers voting in favor: Stichnote, Fountain Henderson, Wilson, Brown, Morton, Johnson, Clower (via Zoom) and Turner; none absent; none opposing nor abstaining. **APPROVED**

d. Hire Part Time Public Works Laborers

On the motion made by Councilwoman Fountain Henderson, seconded by Councilman Wilson, the City Council voted to approve the recommendations from James Maixner, Public Works Director, to hire Marcus Miller and Dawud Wade for the Part Time Public Works Laborers positions pending the pre-employment screenings and background checks. The approval also gives the Director the authority to promote them to a Full-Time position after 30 days of assessing the performance. The motion was approved by the following roll call vote of councilmembers voting in favor: Stichnote, Fountain Henderson, Wilson, Brown, Morton, Johnson, Clower (via Zoom) and Turner; none absent; none opposing nor abstaining. **APPROVED**

e. Hire Full Time Corrections Officers

On the motion made by Councilwoman Fountain Henderson, seconded by Councilman Wilson, the City Council voted to approve the recommendations from Lt. Pervis Jones, Corrections Department, to hire Keondra Williams for the Full-Time Corrections Officer position pending the pre-employment screenings and background checks. The motion was approved by the following roll call vote of councilmembers voting in favor: Stichnote, Fountain Henderson, Wilson, Brown, Morton, Johnson, Clower (via Zoom) and Turner; none absent; none opposing nor abstaining. **APPROVED**

f. Terminate Part Time Corrections Officers

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman Fountain Henderson, the City Council voted to approve the recommendations from Lt. Pervis Jones, Corrections Department, to terminate Dontie Fischer and Concere Shaw for the Part Time Corrections Officer positions. The motion was approved by the following roll call vote of councilmembers voting in favor: Stichnote, Fountain Henderson, Wilson, Brown, Morton, Johnson, Clower (via Zoom) and Turner; none absent; none opposing nor abstaining. **APPROVED**

g. Internal Transfer of Corrections Officers

On the motion made by Councilwoman Fountain Henderson, seconded by Councilman Wilson, the City Council voted to approve the recommendations from Lt. Pervis Jones, Corrections Department, to transfer Acting Corporal, Charles Shumpert back to a Full-Time Corrections Officer position and transfer Full Time Corrections Officer, Tommy Boose to the Acting Corporal position. The motion was approved by the following roll call vote of councilmembers voting in favor: Stichnote, Fountain Henderson, Wilson, Brown, Morton, Johnson, Clower (via Zoom) and Turner; none absent; none opposing nor abstaining. **APPROVED**

h. Terminate Full Time Code Enforcement Inspector

On the motion made by Councilman Johnson, seconded by Councilwoman Clower, the City Council voted to terminate De'Ondre Ross, Full Time Code Enforcement Inspector, effective immediately for cause. The motion was approved by the following roll call vote of councilmembers voting in favor: Stichnote, Fountain Henderson, Wilson, Brown, Morton,

Johnson, Clower (via Zoom) and Turner; none absent; none opposing nor abstaining.

APPROVED

K. ADJOURNMENT

On the motion made by Councilwoman Fountain Henderson, seconded by Councilman Turner, the City Council voted by the following roll call of councilmembers in favor of adjourning at 11:06 p.m.: Stichnote, Fountain Henderson, Wilson, Brown, Morton, Johnson, Clower (via Zoom) and Turner; none absent; none opposing nor abstaining.

Approved:


Yolanda Austin, Mayor

Attest:


Deletra Hudson, City Clerk