



**Minutes of the City Council Regular Meeting**  
**Jennings City Hall**  
**Telemeeting Via Zoom Video**  
**December 19, 2022**  
**Regular Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.**

The two thousand four hundred and forty second meeting of the Jennings City Council was held on Monday, December 19, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in person and via Zoom Video.

**A. REGULAR MEETING**

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

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Roll Call**

**Council members present:** Councilman Stichnote, Councilwoman Fountain Henderson, Councilman Wilson, Councilwoman Brown, Councilwoman Morton, Councilman Johnson, Councilwoman Clower, and Councilman Turner

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

**4. Approval of the Agenda**

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

**5. Approval of the minutes from the Regular Meeting of November 28, 2022**

On the motion made by Councilwoman Brown, seconded by Councilman Wilson, the City Council approved the minutes from the Regular Meeting of November 28, 2022.

By the following roll call vote Councilman Stichnote, Councilman Wilson, Councilwoman Brown, Councilman Turner, and Mayor Austin voted to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of November 28, 2022. Councilwoman Henderson, Councilwoman Morton, Councilman Johnson, and Councilwoman Clower opposed.

**B. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONERS, REMONSTRATIONS, COMPLAINTS, AND REQUESTS**

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

*Dorothy Howard, 5831 Janet Avenue*, stated she wanted to start the meeting off by saying, we grow better together. Ms. Howard stated she's a resident of Jennings and she attended the meeting last month. She said there was a discussion was about the monument in the park. Ms. Howard stated if the council agreed on it, then why bring it up now. Ms. Howard referred to an earlier statement stating why would they protest something they know nothing about. Ms. Howard referred to the audit. She stated if money is being mishandled let the residents know. Ms. Howard said if they knew that, the room would be fuller than it is today. She said the residents want to know what's going on in Jennings. Ms. Howard stated she can't understand why the money was

spent on the monument. Ms. Howard asked why did it come up if everyone agreed on it. Ms. Howard stated they need to move forward and come together and let Jennings grow.

*Freddie Bracy, 7120 Idlewild Avenue*, Mr. Bracy wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Mr. Bracy stated he enjoyed the Christmas party. Mr. Bracy stated it was good to get out and to have something for the residents.

Mr. Bracy complained about a house on College and Emma, going towards the school. Mr. Bracy stated some kids have torn the windows out of the house. Mr. Bracy asked what are they going to do with that property. Mr. Bracy stated the house is on the corner going north on College Avenue. Councilman Johnson reported the address is 7088 Emma Ave. Mr. Bracy stated he still hasn't gotten an answer about the church. Mayor Austin reported they are trying to locate the owner and he doesn't live in St. Louis.

Councilman Johnson reported the pastor of that church moved to Texas. Councilman Johnson stated since it's a nonprofit, taxes don't accumulate on the property. Councilman Johnson stated most of the properties they acquire are from the posted back tax list. Councilman Johnson stated by it being a nonprofit it's protected by different laws. Councilman Johnson stated the owner is out of town and it's not much he can do.

Mr. Bracy stated why can't we all get together and solve the issues in Jennings. Mr. Bracy said, put the money where it should be.

*Cortez Holloway, 5329 College Avenue*, reported Jennings is looking better. Mr. Holloway stated something is being done, but there's still a long way before he can see major improvements. Mr. Holloway said the Christmas party was nice and he had a good time. Mr. Holloway said he is seeing less unregistered vehicles on the street but there is still a long way to go.

*Reynal Caldwell, 2525 Shannon Avenue*, reported last month he asked about fencing. Mr. Caldwell stated he called the office, and the mailbox was full. He stated he was told she's in a meeting. Mr. Caldwell stated it's been over a month. Mr. Caldwell stated they need to empty their mailbox. He reported he left his name and address where he could. Mr. Caldwell stated he still wants to put up his fence.

Sam Alton stated he spoke to Mr. Caldwell at the last meeting. Sam reported the code reads the way the code reads. Sam stated he's aware there's a business across from Mr. Caldwell that does have a fence. He said there's a restriction in the code for residential zoning for fences in the front yard. Sam stated if the Council wants to change that and the zoning code, the recommendation would come to the Council to change it.

Councilman Johnson stated when they changed the ordinance to 6-foot fences, he recommended it and the Council said no. Councilman Johnson said if people can build fences in front of their yard, they'll be able to warn their cars up safely. Councilwoman Clower asked Sam if they can take that up and make an ordinance for it. She asked if it goes to the Chairman. Sam stated it would be a zoning change. He stated he's not sure if it's the fence section or zoning section of the code. Sam said it would go to the Policy Committee, then the recommendation would go to the Council. Sam stated if they are changing the zoning code, then it would go through the Planning and Zoning Commission then to the Council.

*Marietta Beck, 5476 Hodiarnont Avenue (via zoom)*- stated she wanted to thank Councilman Turner for calling her the day before Thanksgiving and offering her a free turkey. Ms. Beck reported the Jennings Historical Society had a meeting last Tuesday December 13, 2022. Ms. Beck thanked Mayor Austin and Councilwoman Brown for attending. Ms. Beck reported the next meeting is Tuesday March 14, 2023. Ms. Beck reported it will be held at the Civic Center on Jennings Station Road. Ms. Beck wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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

*Councilman Turner* wished everyone a blessed Christmas. Councilman Turner reported last month at 5505 Fair Ridge, the dumpster in the driveway was moved and there was a lot of clutter in the driveway. Councilman Turner reported he went by and everything is clean. He said he has received several calls from a gentleman on Albertine Avenue over a couple months. Councilman

Turner reported a tree that fell on the electric lines and a random worker from the electric company volunteered to remove it. Councilman Turner stated the guy was afraid the line would break.

Councilman Turner stated last week, he went by to check on everything and spoke to him. Councilman Turner reported the owner of the property 6735 Albertine was there and was able to meet him. He said he asked him about the tree, and he stated they intend on doing it that day. Councilman Turner reported he did cut the tree down.

Councilman Turner reported at 5448 Wilborn, there was dumpster in the driveway from the flood. Councilman Turner stated it's still full and hasn't been emptied. Councilman Turner reported he called it in a couple times.

Councilman Turner shared he went to the Police Luncheon, and it was nice. He also mentioned he attended the City Hall Christmas party. Councilman Turner thanked Jim and Public Works for cutting grass. He also reported he attended the grand opening for KFC, it was nice. Councilman Turner reported every time he passes by there are quite a few cars there, which is good for the City.

Councilman Turner reported his concern about the number of potholes in the City. Councilman Turner said to Jim that he's aware he doesn't have a lot of guys on his team but every street in the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward has potholes. Councilman Turner asked what's the plan for that. They need to do something about all the potholes in the City.

**Councilwoman Clower** thanked everyone for attending the Christmas Party. Councilwoman Clower reported it was their first one and it was open to every Ward. Councilwoman Clower thanked everyone who participated, and she hopes in the future they can continue to do it.

Councilwoman Clower mentioned they've discussed trying to get Christmas lights downtown in the City of Jennings at several meetings. Councilwoman Clower stated she spoke with STS Auto. Councilwoman Clower reported Councilwoman Henderson put up some money to donate Christmas lights and was supposed to be refunded from the Christmas funds. Councilwoman Clower stated she's not understanding why the Christmas lights still aren't up. Councilwoman Clower stated she called Jim several times. Councilwoman Clower stated Steve said that he would help Jim. Councilwoman Clower stated she wants an updated status on Ameren. She asked Jim if he got a response from them on getting lights for each season and the year.

Councilwoman Clower stated she reported last month that the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward and some of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward have back alleys. Councilwoman Clower stated she feels that it's unfair to the residents in the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward that they have to maintain the back alleys. Councilwoman Clower stated she thinks the ordinance needs to be revised. Councilwoman Clower stated Wards 1 and 2 don't have that issue and it should fall on the City.

Councilwoman Clower stated she asked Councilman Turner if he is the chairman over the ordinance committee, but she has yet to get a response from him. Councilwoman Clower said he did tell her that he was told that the ordinance couldn't be changed. Councilwoman Clower stated they can change the ordinance because the residents have complained about the back alleys. Councilwoman Clower stated she feels it's their responsibility to look into it. Councilwoman Clower stated she doesn't understand why he's not looking into changing the ordinance regarding the back alleys in the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward. Councilwoman Clower stated if there's an ordinance in place it should apply to all Wards.

Councilwoman Clower stated she agrees with Ms. Howard about coming together. Councilwoman Clower stated she's trying to understand a lot of things, and as a councilmember she wants to know where the funds are going as well. Councilwoman Clower stated that's why you see a lot of residents on the news asking for a state auditor to come in to answer all the questions that the residents have. Councilwoman Clower stated she wants answers as well. Councilwoman Clower addressed the monument. She stated that was in effect before she became a Councilmember. Councilwoman Clower stated she doesn't know much about it. Councilwoman Clower stated she believed at her first meeting she did vote for it. Councilwoman Clower stated she voted out of not knowing the process of it. Councilwoman Clower stated if they are using money from the City they should be able to say no. Councilwoman Clower stated

they are trying to come together, but it's hard when you see things that have been done and the focus is always the other side. Councilwoman Clower stated they are trying to break that. Councilwoman Clower stated she wants the whole City fixed up and that's what she's looking into.

Jim reported on the streetlights regarding Jennings Station Road. Jim stated the ones he looked at were called in and those were repaired. Jim said he got that information from Ameren today. Jim stated the darkness on Jennings Station Road, which comes from the highway down, is a St. Louis County Road. Jim stated that will have to be brought up with Ameren and St. Louis County. Jim stated the City owns a couple of streetlights on the old section on Jennings Station Road, that's why those were able to be fixed. Jim reported anything on that end they agreed to leave on the back side of Jennings Station Road between Theodore up to Dawson.

Jim reported on the West Florissant Business District. Jim stated Councilman Johnson spoke on that a little stating the City shouldn't use funds to do anything down there. Jim stated he spoke to Ameren, they said the City of Jennings and the West Florissant Business District has no agreement to use any of their poles. Jim stated he tried to move something forward for Steve because they did that with the school. Jim stated they couldn't do anything with the school because the banners were to big. Jim stated he will forward the email he got from her, and she said absolutely no decorations are to be put there. Jim reported the banners that are up, they don't have an agreement on that either.

**Councilman Johnson** stated the Christmas party was great and he had a good time. Councilman Johnson stated he enjoyed the opening of KFC as well. Councilman Johnson referred to what Ms. Howard stated earlier. Councilman Johnson stated Ms. Howard made a great point and he agrees with her. Councilman Johnson stated we should come together and that's the goal.

Councilman Johnson gave an example. He said if there are eight councilmembers and if four of them like it and the others don't, its four to four. Councilman Johnson stated that's a tie breaker, it's going to pass. Councilman Johnson stated that's one way some things pass. Councilman Johnson referred to Councilwoman Clower's statements from earlier. He said before you wake up and realize what's going on, you might make mistakes. Councilman Johnson stated once you figure out what's going on and walk correctly, you continue to walk correctly.

Councilman Johnson reported the reason why they have the audit (even though they do know where the money is going) it's because of the process that's going on with the money and how it's being distributed. Councilman Johnson gave an example. He stated let's say the Jennings sign says they're hiring. He stated but they've paid an Economic Development Consultant \$25,000 and they already have an Economic Development Coordinator. Councilman Johnson stated that's a waste of money.

Councilman Johnson reported they paid a security company \$125,000 to watch a burnt building since April. Councilman Johnson stated he started without a contract as well. Councilman Johnson stated that's why they want an audit. Councilman Johnson stated he wants it to be out and transparent. Councilman Johnson stated it's nothing personal. Councilman Johnson stated when the funds came out, nobody was invited to the meeting. Jane Brown was the only one who attended the meeting. Councilman Johnson stated they asked questions that went unanswered about the \$1.4 million. Councilman Johnson said they didn't decide that and that's why they want an audit.

Councilman Johnson stated the protest gives the people a voice. Councilman Johnson reported he was talking about protesting the house on 2449 Hord because it's going to be a rooming house. (Someone in the room stated that's not true) Councilman Johnson said he comprehended and perceived it as being a rooming house. Councilman Johnson reported it's a 12-bedroom house. Councilman Johnson stated once she explained the type of people that would be there, he felt like it wouldn't be conducive to that neighborhood. Councilman Johnson stated that's why the people should be able to protest. Councilman Johnson stated they're not just batting things down; it's because there's no transparency.

Councilman Johnson stated if you go to other communities, there are signs posted all over that say public notice or public hearing. Councilman Johnson stated that's transparency. Councilman Johnson stated they have the money but there are no residential programs implemented.

Councilman Johnson stated if they put their leaves or limbs on the curb it's going to stay there because there aren't any services. Councilman Johnson stated instead of giving \$500,000 to businesses for awnings, give the money to the residents and let them know it's there.

Councilman Johnson stated they are not against them, it's nothing personal. Councilman Johnson stated the number one thing in Jennings is code enforcement, it's gone. Councilman Johnson said they want transparency. Councilman Johnson said come talk to him, he will give you all the facts. Councilman Johnson reported they're at 725 signatures for the audit and they only need 750. Councilman Johnson stated they're coming and they are going to find out everything. Councilman Johnson stated that's why they want the protest and audit. Councilman Johnson stated they're not trying to hide anything.

Councilman Johnson stated they want them to know they have \$2.9 million. Councilman Johnson reported he wants them to know that with the first \$1 million, the auditor came in and said it was mismanaged. Councilman Johnson stated he wants them to know there was also a one paragraph response to that.

**Councilwoman Morton** reported 8401 Sunbury does not have an occupancy permit. Councilwoman Morton stated she spoke with Schona and sent an email to make sure she had it on record. Councilwoman Morton said tenants moved in and there's no occupancy permit.

Councilwoman Morton addressed Jim. She stated the residents on Osborn Avenue want to know what's going to be done next and when is it going to be repaved. Councilwoman Morton reported there's an issue at Woodland Elementary. She said they need new lights, because at night people are there smoking and harassing residents. Councilwoman Morton stated the police were called, the officer shined a light but didn't go down the steps. Councilwoman Morton thanked Captain Mann for sending an officer out because there was a truck that continuously parks on Osborn at the end of the street.

Councilwoman Morton stated the residents wants to know can they get less speedbumps and more police patrols. Councilwoman Morton reported a resident spoke about the cap of how many houses can investors purchase without keeping them up to code.

Councilwoman Morton yielded the rest of her time to Councilman Johnson.

Councilman Johnson referred back to his previous statements about the auditing process. Councilman Johnson explained, they have an auction where they sell properties. Councilman Johnson stated you go out to get a certain number of properties but only a certain amount makes the list. Councilman Johnson reported there were 21 properties after the auction, which means they didn't sell. Councilman Johnson stated the properties are trash, and when people buy trash properties their going to sit.

Councilman Johnson stated \$15,000 was paid to the donut shop. Councilman Johnson reported Custom Cabinets were paid \$15,000 to do soffit work. Councilman Johnson stated the cabinet company was doing outside work and he lied on the forms. Councilman Johnson reported \$42,000 was given to him. Councilman Johnson then asked, "Where's the donut shop" then he stated, "Go ride over there and see if it's there". Councilman Johnson stated they want transparency. It's not about going after anyone. Councilman Johnson stated all this money that's going to whatever could be going to the streets, demolition, lights etc. Councilman Johnson stated if you want to know, come talk to him.

Councilman Johnson yielded the rest of the time to Councilwoman Henderson.

Councilwoman Henderson stated good evening to everyone. She expressed it was a pleasure being one of their councilmembers of the Jennings City Council. Councilwoman Henderson stated this is her last council meeting, but make note it's not a resignation yet. Councilwoman Henderson stated it will be in writing when she resigns. Councilwoman Henderson stated when she turns it in, they will know the exact date.

Councilwoman Henderson stated part of her journey has been ups and downs. Councilwoman Henderson reported she has been disrespected by some councilmembers and Mayor Austin, but she keeps going. Councilwoman Henderson stated this is one of the cities she will represent in



Jefferson City. Councilwoman Henderson stated she can't continue to say Jennings. She now needs to start saying District 85. Councilwoman Henderson stated her promise to all is that she will do her best.

**Councilman Wilson** asked Leslie Johnson if he's responsible for Ward 2. Mr. Johnson stated yes. Councilman Wilson asked Mr. Johnson, did he get a chance to go over to 9342 Hathaway. Councilman Wilson stated he sent a message to one of his colleagues. He didn't have Mr. Johnson's extension. Councilman Wilson reported two months ago, they cut down a huge tree and they left everything in front. Councilman Wilson stated he wanted to know if they were going to ever clean it up.

Mr. Johnson stated no, he just got the address today. Mr. Johnson stated it's been hard when most requests are coming verbally. Mr. Johnson reported they are trying to create a form that can be filled out. Mr. Johnson stated usually when it's verbal, they are expecting them to remember everything. He said it will get better, he stated the form doesn't go away so that will help. Mr. Johnson stated he will give that property his attention before the end of the week. Councilman Wilson thanked Mr. Johnson for the work he does in Ward 2, and he is glad he's here.

Councilman Wilson reported the KFC ribbon cutting was wonderful. There were a lot of people there. Councilman Wilson stated if you didn't get an opportunity to go, you should stop by. Councilman Wilson reported the City has three upcoming events. He said on January 9<sup>th</sup> there will be the Tai Chi Exercise Event at the Civic Center. January 12<sup>th</sup> is the Neighborhood Watch at Gary Gore School at 5 p.m. January 14<sup>th</sup> is the Youth Commission Vision Board Party. He said they don't have a time on it, but hopefully they will soon.

Councilman Wilson reported the budget meetings will begin in February. Once they set those dates, he will make sure everyone knows. Councilman Wilson stated even if you're not on the committee everyone is welcome to attend. Councilman Wilson reported the City of Jennings has 13 available positions, three are part-time. He listed the positions. Councilman Wilson said if anyone knows someone who would fit the job descriptions are on the board when you walk out. Councilman Wilson stated they can take a picture or there may be a copy you can take home.

Councilman Wilson stated he hopes everyone has a safe and a wonderful Happy Holiday.

**Councilwoman Brown** stated the year has moved quickly and lots of activities. She said it's good to have an opportunity to respond to need requests from the residents. Councilwoman Brown reported unfortunately Covid 19 is still with us, as well as the flu and additional viruses that have caused a triple-demic.

Councilwoman Brown reported it was a good time welcoming KFC to the community. She said she enjoyed seeing the drive thru lines continue to wrap around the building on a daily basis. She stated that's a good thing for stake owners. Councilwoman Brown reported the recreation staff continues to host activities that the residents enjoy. She said the Chili Chill & Karaoke event last Saturday was a great turnout. Councilwoman Brown reported as the guests were leaving, they had high accolades over the fun they had.

Councilwoman Brown thanked Captain Mann and fellow officers for a well-organized Christmas Luncheon. She stated the Senior Commission makes working together on projects that benefits Seniors and the community most enjoyable. Councilwoman Brown said she appreciates their efficient assistance that gets the task completed smoothly and quickly. Councilwoman Brown thanked each department and their staff for their services provided to the residents and business owners.

**Councilwoman Henderson-** reported she is sworn into office January 4<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon. Councilwoman Henderson thanked everyone who came out to the Christmas Party that was held at Gary Gore. Councilwoman Henderson stated everyone had a great time. Councilwoman Henderson reported some of the residents were asking for the other councilmembers and the Mayor. Councilwoman Henderson stated she told them when she invites them, they never come.

Councilwoman Henderson stated she hopes the City does a major turnaround. Councilwoman Henderson reported trash is everywhere. People aren't following the rules of the City. Christmas lights on buildings needs to be thrown away. She said they've been using the same burnt-out lights

every year and it's embarrassing. Councilwoman Henderson stated she went out of her way to purchase the solar lights and garlands and they never got put up in the downtown part of Jennings. She said there were excuses after excuses.

Councilwoman Henderson reported for those who don't know, they are not allowed to park their cars in the middle of their yard. She announced that the inspectors are coming to you soon. Councilwoman Henderson stated they can't clean up the City if cars are parked in the middle of the yard. She reported there was a car parked close to the door. Councilwoman Henderson stated school is out Tuesday at noon and will not resume until January 5th at 8 a.m. She said please watch our future leaders out here in the streets.

Councilwoman Henderson stated she wished Ameren came to the meeting last month because the City is still in the dark. She advised the public to get the pole numbers and the address of the house, so when they come, they can compare. Councilwoman Henderson stated it has a letter J in it and if it's the school district it has a letter "Z". She said if anyone has any concerns about the school district, she and Councilman Johnson are both on the school board. They can turn that into their facilitator. Councilwoman Henderson reported she has turned in a lot of pole numbers and some still aren't turned on because they are still in the dark.

Councilwoman Henderson reported on 8624 Clifton. She stated they need to do something, that's a nuisance house. Councilwoman Henderson stated she got a call stating they are burning clothes in the middle of the street. She said that's embarrassing. Councilwoman Henderson stated every time she turns around, she's getting calls. Councilwoman Henderson reported it's not her Ward, but she knows who the person is. Councilwoman Henderson stated she got a text stating a neighbor across the street is getting fed up.

Councilwoman Henderson stated she will bring her business cards. She wants everyone to know what's going on in Jefferson City. Councilwoman Henderson reported she attended the KFC grand opening. Councilwoman Henderson stated she arrived later, but she heard we can't get along. Councilwoman Henderson stated we can, it starts with the leadership first. Councilwoman Henderson stated she wish she could get along with Mayor Austin to move the City and other Cities forward.

Councilwoman Henderson stated she has been here since 1977, she's a product of the Jennings School District. Councilwoman Henderson stated when someone gives you their time it doesn't matter what order it goes in. Councilwoman Henderson stated she cares about this City, she grew up in this City and she wants to see this City go forward. Councilwoman Henderson stated she wants the City to be beautiful and on top, like it should've been. Councilwoman Henderson stated she has been here since 1977 and she knows Jennings can go right back to the top.

*Councilman Stichnote* stated last month they discussed the Mayor's Monument. He reported he found the minutes from the Park Committee Meeting from July 23, 2019. Councilman Stichnote read the motion from the minutes. He stated the motion was made by Councilman Stichnote and seconded by Councilman Johnson to move forward with the Monument, which was \$13,105. Councilman Stichnote reported everyone voted in favor of it.

Councilman Stichnote reported he also found the minutes from the Council Meeting on July 27, 2019. He read the motion from the minutes, which stated the motion was made by Councilman Stichnote and seconded by Councilwoman Brown the Council voted in favor of it.

Councilwoman Morton asked Councilman Stichnote can he tell them who was on the Council at that time. Councilwoman Henderson stated she wasn't on the Council at that time.

Councilman Stichnote stated it was at the open council meeting, nobody complained about it. Councilman Stichnote reported it was also in the Jennings newsletter. He said nobody complained until 4 months before election. He reported he had the 2011 Police Monument minutes as well and it was \$4,165. Councilman Stichnote stated in 2012 they did a Lloyd Eakers Monument, and it was \$7,620. He reported then they put up the Lloyd Eakers Shelter which was over \$150,000. Councilman Stichnote stated nobody had a problem with that.

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

Mayor Austin thanked the department heads and their staff for the work they do throughout the month and for what they've done through the year of 2022. Mayor Austin asked Captain Mann to explain the new schedule, starting December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and about signing up for the doorbell cameras. Captain Mann reported on Christmas day the entire St. Louis County Police Department Division of Patrol will be transitioning to 12-hour shifts. Captain Mann explained that it's due to staffing shortages throughout the county, but not within the City of Jennings, because it's a contract. He stated Jennings is fully staffed 100% of the time. Captain Mann explained due to the shortage in the unincorporated precincts, the Chief has decided to switch to 12-hour shifts. Captain Mann stated that means it takes less officers to patrol a 24-hour day.

Captain Mann stated with the same number of officers assigned to the City of Jennings, there will be additional officers on patrol on a daily basis. Captain Mann explained based on the contract, they are mandated to have four officers on each shift. Captain Mann stated with 12-hour shifts, they will see 5 or 6 officers per day depending on training, vacation time, etc. Captain Mann stated it should increase the patrols in the City of Jennings and to allow them to do additional activities. Such as, traffic enforcement, dealing with some of the problem properties and nuisance properties that were addressed today. Captain Mann reported they do have a plan for that, so stay tuned.

Captain Mann reported the portal is going well. He encouraged people to keep using the portal. Captain Mann stated it allows their officers to get out and address the concerns and for him to track what they're doing as a result of those concerns.

Captain Mann reported the Community Camera Program is growing and they have over 300 locations plotted within the City of Jennings with over 400 actual individual cameras. Captain Mann stated they can do more. He believes in the program and hopes it will be beneficial moving forward.

Mayor Austin added while they were at KFC, the district managers came to her and said this was the first community to come out. Mayor Austin reported that they said when they have openings, it's usually only their staff that come out. They have never seen support like the City of Jennings before. Mayor Austin thanked the community, the councilmembers and others who came out to support since day one.

Mayor Austin reported on the Home Improvement Repair Program. She stated if anyone has any questions about it, they can reach out to Kellie Shelton. Mayor Austin reported it goes through St. Louis County, but Kellie has information on it.

Mayor Austin reported they recognized Linda Schmerber, who has been with the Jennings Historical Society for over 37 years. Mayor Austin stated she served as the President for about 16 years. She is also the author of the book called "Jennings the Man, the City and Its People". Mayor Austin stated there are some books available if anyone wants to purchase one. She reported the Historical Society is looking for people who are interested in joining the Historical Society. They can reach out to Councilwoman Brown.

#### **C. MONTHLY DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

On the motion made by Councilwoman Henderson seconded by Councilman Wilson the committee voted to approve the monthly departmental reports. All in favor, none opposed.

#### **D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

##### **1. AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JENNINGS, MISSOURI APPROVING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT AND GRANTING SAME TO MARSHA HAWKINS-HOARD TO OPERATE A CHILD AND FAMILY EMPOWERMENT CENTER AT 2449 HORD AVENUE, IN THE CITY OF JENNINGS, MISSOURI.**

On the motion for the first reading made by Councilwoman Fountain Henderson, seconded by Councilman Wilson for Bill #2682. Councilman Johnson opposed. Sam did the first reading of the ordinance. City Clerk Hudson reported bill #2682 was previously assigned.

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman Brown, for the second reading. Councilman Johnson opposed. By the following roll call vote of Councilman Stichnote,



Councilman Wilson, Councilwoman Brown, Councilman Turner, and Mayor Austin voted in favor for a second reading. Councilwoman Henderson, Councilwoman Morton, Councilman Johnson, and Councilwoman Clower opposed.

Sam did the second reading of the ordinance.

By the following roll call vote of the following councilmembers: Councilman Stichnote, Councilwoman Henderson, Councilman Wilson, Councilwoman Brown, Councilwoman Morton, Councilman Johnson, and Councilwoman Clower opposed. Councilman Turner abstained, Bill #2682 failed.

## **E. NEW BUSINESS**

### ***1. Approval of the Professional Service contract with TerraSpec - Planning Grant Satellite Park***

On the motion made by Councilman Johnson seconded by Councilman Wilson, the committee voted to approve the Professional Service Contract with TerraSpec- Planning Grant Satellite Park located at 7120 Garesche. All in favor, none opposed.

### ***2. Approval of the 2023 City of Jennings Holiday Calendar***

On the motion made by Councilwoman Henderson seconded by Councilwoman Clower the committee voted to approve the 2023 City of Jennings Holiday Calendar. All in favor, none opposed.

### ***3. Approval of the Monthly Bills for Payment***

On the motion made by Councilwoman Henderson seconded by Councilwoman Clower the committee voted to approve the Monthly Bills for payment. All in favor, none opposed.

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

Mayor Austin thanked those who are still there and on zoom. Mayor Austin wished everyone a safe Christmas Holiday and a Happy New Year.

## **G. CLOSED SESSION, LEGAL AND PERSONNEL (RSMO 610:021-3)**

On December 19, 2022, on the motion made by Councilwoman Clower, seconded by Councilwoman Morton, the City Council approved a closed session for Legal and Personnel (RSMO 610:021-1,3) by the following roll call vote of councilmembers voting in favor: Stichnote, Fountain Henderson, Wilson, Brown, Morton, Johnson, Clower 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 Part Time Corrections Officer

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 hire LaDona Cuttis, as a part time Corrections Officer 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 and Turner; none absent; none opposing nor abstaining. **APPROVED**

b. Hire Deputy City 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 Keshia Hicks for the Deputy City Clerk 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, Wilson, Brown, and Turner; Morton, Johnson, and Clower opposing; Fountain Henderson abstaining; none absent. **APPROVED**

c. Hire Part Time Public Works Laborers

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilman Stichnote, the City Council voted to approve the recommendations from James Maixner, Public Works Director, to hire Bryan Davis for the Part Time Public Works Laborer 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, Clower and Turner; Johnson opposing; none absent nor abstaining. **APPROVED**

d. Internal Transfer of Public Works Laborer

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman Morton, the City Council voted to approve the recommendations from James Maixner, Public Works Director, to promote Dawud Wade from a Part Time Public Works Laborer to a Full Time Public Works Laborer position. The motion was approved by the following roll call vote of councilmembers voting in favor: Stichnote, Fountain Henderson, Wilson, Brown, Morton, Johnson, Clower and Turner; none absent; none opposing nor abstaining. **APPROVED**

e. Rehire Part Time Corrections Officer

On the motion made by Councilwoman Morton, seconded by Councilwoman Fountain Henderson, the City Council voted to approve the recommendations from Lt. Pervis Jones, Corrections Department, to rehire Venus Johnson for the Part-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 and Turner; none absent; none opposing nor abstaining. **APPROVED**

LEGAL - The following actions were taken:

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilman Stichnote, the City Council voted to approve the recommendation from MOPERM to settle the lawsuit with Taundra Jones in the amount of \$85,000. The City will be responsible for paying \$14,000 lost wages plus the \$25,000 deductible and the balance will be paid by MOPERM. The recommendation was approved by the following roll call vote of the councilmembers: Stichnote, Fountain Henderson, Wilson, Brown, Morton, Johnson, Clower and Turner; none absent; none opposing nor abstaining. **APPROVED**

H. **ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion made by Councilwoman Fountain Henderson, seconded by Councilwoman Morton, the City Council voted by the following roll call of councilmembers in favor of adjourning at 8:59 p.m.: Stichnote, Fountain Henderson, Wilson, Brown, Morton, Johnson, Clower and Turner; none absent; none opposing nor abstaining.

Approved:

  
Yolanda Austin, Mayor

Attest:

  
Deletra Hudson, City Clerk