



Minutes of the City Council Regular Meeting

Jennings City Hall

June 24, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.

The two thousand three hundred ninety third meeting of the Jennings City Council was held on Monday, June 24, 2019 at 7 p.m. at Jennings City Hall.

A. PUBLIC HEARING

B. REGULAR MEETING

1. Call to Order

Mayor Austin called the regular meeting for the City of Jennings to order at 7:00 p.m. She asked for a moment of silence for Michael Langsdorf, the North County Cooperative Officer, who was shot and killed on Sunday, June 23, 2019 in the City of Wellston.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Councilmembers Present:

Allan Stichnote, Miranda Jones, Terry Wilson, Francine Dugger, Phyllis Anderson, Gary Johnson, Rodney Epps, Aja Owens

Councilmembers Absent: none

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

4. Approval of the Agenda

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson and seconded by Councilman Epps the Council voted all in favor of approving the agenda.

5. Approval of the regular meeting minutes from the May 28, 2019 Council meeting.

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson and seconded by Councilman Epps the Council voted all in favor to approve the regular meeting minutes from the May 28, 2019 Council meeting.

C. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONERS, REMONSTRATIONS, COMPLAINTS AND REQUEST:

1. Comments by the Public:

Terry Buford of 2601 Kinamore Drive, stated 2608 Kinamore has been vacant for about 10 years. She said the lawn has been mowed one time at 2608 Kinamore and needs to be mowed again. Ms. Buford said she has received conflicting information about whether 2608 Kinamore has been sold or if the property is owned by the City. She asked for an update on the status of 2608 Kinamore.

Ms. Buford said at 2600 Kinamore, the grass needs to be cut, and a pit bull keeps getting out. She said that she has called, animal control, the police department, and the building department, and the pit bull still gets out.

Ms. Buford said at 2700 Kinamore the residents only mowed the front yard, but the side and back lawns need to be mowed. She said she has left several messages with the building department, but nobody calls back.

Ms. Buford asked for an update on the trucks parking on the Target lot. Mayor Austin replied the City had to wait until the owner put the no parking signs up. She said the signs are up and the last time she went through the Target parking lot she only saw one truck and the officers know they should be enforcing the ordinance by giving a citation to the truckers.

Victoria Lee of 6368 Lalite Avenue, asked about the City getting speed bumps put on Lalite. She described the speeding issue on Lalite. Ms. Lee said she is continually hearing gun shots and she doesn't know who to call anymore. She said Officer McCrary told her to continue to report issues to the police department. Captain Cox said the police have been doing some foot patrol at the Star Residence particularly on the parking lots. He said that the police would do a radar study and try to curb some of the speeding on Lalite. Councilman Epps asked if it was possible to put speed bumps on some of the streets. Mayor Austin said the City is trying to capture what streets need the speed bumps. Councilman Epps reiterated that it is possible, and the City might place speed bumps on the streets.

2. **Clarence Britten of 2219 Switzer**, stated on Switzer from Jennings Station Road to Clifton there is a hill with a two way stop sign going north and south, but the east and west bound traffic speeds over the hill. He said the house on the corner finally cut the grass. He said that he does not appreciate Henry Johnson calling the police on him for coming to City Hall to file a complaint. He said his safety comes before anything. He said the fire hydrant on his street is blocked by the tall grass and weeds. He said what is the use of cutting the grass if you are not going to get the weeds from around the whole house.

Mr. Britten said the street Switzer is torn up; he has had to replace his tires four times. He asked where the tax dollars are going to. Mr. Britten asked if an audit can be done to let residents know what their tax dollars are going for. He said the elected officials work for the citizens; the citizens don't work for the elected officials. Mayor Austin said the City's budget is online. Mr. Britten said that he can understand it is online but asked why printed copies could not be provided at the Council meetings. He said there are things being built on the south end of Jennings and in River Roads, but nothing where people live.

Mr. Britten said people are hearing a lot of gun shots, he asked when is enough going to be enough. He asked if it would take an elected official getting hurt to see change.

Jim replied that Switzer is scheduled to be repaved from Jennings Station Road to Clifton. Jim said he will request a traffic study to see about a stop sign being put up. He said the City is taking care of a lot of properties, but due to the rain they are being maintained on and off. Mr. Britten said that he understands that but asked about the people that own the property and said if they are not going to take care of the property then sell it to someone who will. Jim said that is something that can be looked into, but it depends on where the owner is with their taxes. Mr. Britten said the loophole is if they pay their taxes, they don't have to do anything else to keep the property up. Jim explained the owner is paying for the grass to be cut through their real estate taxes. Councilman Epps asked if the property Mr. Britten and Jim were talking about was at 8601 Clifton. Jim said it was. He said Public Works did go to mow the lawn at 8601 Clifton when it was brought to his attention but unfortunately it was not in the MyGov system at the time, and Public Works had to wait the seven days. He said the seven days was up Thursday and Public Works was able to get the property mowed on Friday.

Councilman Epps and Jim discussed the legal process for Public Works to be able to mow privately owned properties. Mr. Britten expressed his concern with properties repeatedly going through the legal process. Councilman Epps asked if blighted and condemned properties are delinquent on taxes, is there any way the City can bypass going through court and mow them and charge the owner. Sam said if the property is an emergency it can bypass some of the legal process. He said the code defines what an emergency is and when it happens. Sam said there is still the timeline that is in the code when it is a private property and we have to notify them and give the owner an opportunity to fix it. Councilman Epps asked if the City could legally make an ordinance where if it is private property and they are delinquent on the taxes that the City can cut it automatically. The Council continued to discuss the legal process for issues at vacant properties. Councilman Johnson said the City is making efforts on some of those properties, there have been two auctions, the resident asked if he could get a list of vacant properties that are City owned. He encouraged residents to keep checking the City's website for an update on when the auctions area going to happen. Mayor Austin said residents can also contact Myra Randle in the Building Department to get information regarding City owned properties. Councilwoman Owens asked what are the ways that residents can find out when the auctions are going on. Mayor Austin said residents can check the newspaper, the Jennings newsletter, the City's website, the bulletin board, and their Councilmembers are also aware and can get the word out. Councilwoman Dugger stated that full council did not know the full process, there

was no ordinance brought to say that Jennings was going to do an auction. She said the auction just started. She said not all of us know where the money is going and who is collecting the money. She said not all of us have seen a contract on how an auction works. Mayor Austin advised the residents that ninety-nine percent of the Council was aware of the auction and the information. Councilwoman Dugger rebutted that all of the Council should have been aware of the auction information.

Rosiland Sykes of 8854 May Ave, asked if residents can get information from the School Board Members about what time residents are allowed to use the track at Jennings High School. Councilmember Wilson (a School Board Member) stated signs with opening and closing hours were posted on both entrances, as well as the Jennings School District website.

Ms. Sykes said she has no problem with the police, she loves them dearly every time she calls, they have responded. She said Jennings needs more police presence. She said May and Shannon are terrible. She said Shannon & May is like a speedway. She said if a police officer sits at the Shannon and May and Hord and May they would be able to pay their salary from the amount of citations that would be written. She said people are speeding down Jennings Station Road. She said gangs are being formed in the community. She described what she thought to be a gang on Shannon. She described events when the suspected gang members rang her doorbell.

Captain Cox said he agrees with having more of a police presence. He said he wishes he had fifty more officers, but he doesn't. He described several issues where businesses and residents have asked for additional police presence. He said there are only so many police officers in the community at a time. He said the police do a lot of extra patrols. He said Officer McCrary is taking notes at the neighborhood watch meetings. He said officers get on the concerns the next day, but he has to take resources from one place and put them in the next place. Captain Cox said there is a rule if you are not at the station for official police business then officers are to be in their car at a business, church, park, or patrolling neighborhoods. He said the City has a lot of different issues, such as violent crimes. He said violent crimes take precedent, but traffic enforcement is important. He said the police are still answering calls for domestic violence, shots fired and much more. Captain Cox said officers will make an effort to be more visible, but he does not have any additional officers.

Yolonda Fountain Henderson of 8822 Sumter, asked for a traffic study at Middle Rivers and Cozens, and Lynwood and Mary. She described accidents about to occur when using the back entrance of the Junior High School. She said that is why she asked for stop signs at those locations. She said the first thing you see coming off the highway is graffiti she asked if the graffiti could be removed from Lilian. She said the island on Jennings Station Road leading to White Castle is awful, she said the island on Lucas and Hunt is also awful. She said she was pleased to say and might want to honor the officers. She described a robbery in progress that officers were able to stop. She acknowledged Jim for coming out after the last council meeting to look at the hole in the street she reported in May. She asked when the "plate" in the street can be lifted. She said they are starting to hear a lot of sonic booms and they are not sure if they are fireworks or gun shots. She asked if the shots fired would register where the booms are coming from. Captain Cox said the shots spotter is supposed to be pretty sophisticated and should recognize the difference between gun shots and fireworks. She said Thursday is the last day of summer school. She asked everyone to be mindful of the students out and about. She said they are called speed humps now, if the City would like to investigate. She said that she sent information to Councilman Wilson. She said at 2451 Shannon she is asking again if the house has an occupancy permit, there are a lot of people staying in the house. She said Koenman Park has a lot of people in the park after hours. She suggested Councilman Stichnote address the people being in the park after it closes. Councilman Wilson said the building on Lilian with the graffiti is in Pine Lawn, and he would contact Mayor Epps of Pine Lawn to address the graffiti.

Lynne Porte of 8346 Osborn Dr, stated the property at 8344 Osborn Drive for 3-4 years people have been living there without an occupancy permit. She found out more than what was allowed was living in the residence, the gutter is torn up and was never fixed, the black SUV is sitting on flats and was never repaired the backyard has not been cut. The building department was informed. Ms. Cassy told Ms. Porte they would not know anything unless the neighbors would inform them of the infractions. She called to check on the status and was told a notice would be put on the door and if anyone was caught there they would be arrested. She said they need to give notice in the evening because the residents work during the day. She said that she checked again on the status and was told by Mike and Cassy not to worry the owner has come clean she asked what that means. She said nothing has been done. She called the police to have the black SUV towed and thanked the police for towing it. She said it seems to her instead of following the Jennings rules or ordinances something else is going on and it should be investigated. She said she got the impression from Cassy that the house was not habitable.

The street corner from Kinamore Drive and the outer road and Lucas and Hunt has ridges in the road that would be hard on any vehicle; why would they leave the road like that for months is a big

question. She said they tried to repair it, but it still has ridges. She said if it was any other place in North County that would be fixed correctly the first time.

Ms. Porte said the property at 2721 Kinamore Drive is anyone living there, the yard should be against Jennings ordinance. She said the tree limb on the corner of Osborn and Kinamore needs to be cut. She said the tree limb is hanging over the yield sign and it can't be seen from the corner so that they can get out safely on Kinamore. Mayor Austin asked if the end of Kinamore was the one the City was working on or someone else. Jim stated St. Louis County is working on the intersection at Kinamore. Jim described the projects. The resident stated that they should have fixed it correctly the first time and asked about the "dip" in the street. Jim stated the dip in the street was called in to American Water Company three times. He said that he will get on them about repairing the hole in the street. Mayor Austin said that we will have a letter from the City Attorney sent to American Water Company since he has already spoken to them three times. Jim said they have fixed the water leak, now he can call to have them repair the street on Old Lucas and Hunt, he said the projected date to finish the repair he was told was Labor Day.

3. *Councilmember's Reports:*

Councilman Allan Stichnote: Councilman Stichnote stated he attended [Baucom's](#) ribbon cutting yesterday (June 23, 2019). He encouraged everyone to stop in to visit. He said they did a great job rehabbing the building. He asked Captain Cox if the curfew could be enforced with all the kids running the streets at night. Captain Cox said the police can do that, but to be honest there really has not been any problems with the juveniles. Capt. Cox said if it is destruction of property or rummaging through cars that is usually drug addicts or kids, but there really has not been a rash of that this summer. He said Sgt. Bagley stated they have not been having any issues with the juveniles and described encounters with juveniles. Capt. Cox said with the juveniles if there is no one at home they would have to bring them to the station and sit with the juvenile until some over 18 comes to get the juvenile. Capt. Cox said they are down in the park where they heard juveniles were hanging out and drinking and they have made some arrest. Councilman Stichnote said that on June 21, 2019 he did attend the business watch meeting. On June 8th he attended the fishing derby and it was a lot of fun. He said Councilwoman Jones got chased by a fish, and there was a good turnout. He said the last [concert in the park](#) got canceled due to the rain, he said the next one is June 28th. He said the City had a house auction on May 1st and 44 homes were auctioned off, which brought in \$233,048.00. He said this week he is going to write four checks for the scholarship fund for four seniors from the American Legion Post.

Councilwoman Miranda Jones: Councilwoman Jones said she was looking at Lucas and Hunt and Hord where the construction is being done on the corner. She said she knows it is a County project, but she would like to see as a City if we can get a timeline of where they are with the construction projects. She said especially the sidewalks are a hazard because there are a lot of people who come to that bus stop. She said that we need to make them more responsible to us because it is our community. She said it started on Jennings Station Road and has been going on for a very long time. She said they can build a whole high rise in two weeks and over here it takes them nine years to pave a street, she said we need to stay on top of County because it is ridiculous. She said she knows the weather has been crazy, but she remembers last year we were saying that it was going to be smooth as glass and it is not. Jim said the whole project is slated to be completed by Labor day. He said they are doing from West Florissant to the intersection. Jim said he would call and get a timeline. Councilwoman Jones said that she has seen them do it and redo it several times and it seems to be a waste of our tax dollars. Jim said with a lot of the ADA accommodations they have to redo it because it changes every year. Councilwoman Jones said the part one crime is down from 25 to 22 but it is mostly larceny. She asked if there was a particular area of the crime. She said it is about the same in all of the Wards except 4th Ward. Cpt. Cox typically from buzz west fall, shop lifting, burglary, and in vacant houses, stealing copper. Councilwoman Jones said she does not know what we can do about Buzz Westfall because it is a deterrent for businesses because larceny is so high. There was overlapping discussion. Cpt. Cox's response was inaudible. Councilwoman Jones said that she has seen the bike patrols, and that says a lot about the community, she said with the hills in Jennings the bike patrol officers will be in great shape if they are not already in shape. She thanked Jim for his departments efforts with the grass cutting she said she knows the weather is an issue and she hates when her grass cannot get cut because of the weather. She said the 1st Ward Councilmembers are getting the reports read and what they have noticed is a lot of the properties are not getting to Public Works. She said they want to fix that issue of properties being put into the system and not making it to Public Works. She said the fishing derby was awesome. She said she did not get chased by a fish, it was an awfully large catfish that her son pulled out and it was squirmy, and fish are not her forte. She said Councilman Stichnote and she are planning to get together for their Ward meeting. She said Councilwomen Anderson and Owens are excited about the North County Cleanup, but she is also excited to support them in that. She said those large booms are fireworks and they are shaking the house. She said the Jennings Summer graduation is coming up at 10 am on June 26th at Gary Gore. She said Henry Johnson has been talking about the landlord registration for a while, and we keep saying how we can't find the landlords, she said that she thinks that we need to bring that back and have the conversation

and figure out how to get a hold of the landlords. She that is where you start knowing who owns property in your community. She said that she was humbled to be honored at the Urban League Salute to Women in Leadership on June 15th. What she thought was so impressive was there were three women from Jennings that got the award out of the entire metropolitan area. She said that speaks to our community and our area and our commitment to the community and she was honored to be amongst the women who were honored in our community. She said that this is something for all the women in Jennings and she thanked everyone for allowing her to represent the Jennings community for that award.

Councilman Terry Wilson: Councilman Wilson thanked Councilwoman Owens for the wonderful card, he said he appreciates the calls and emails he received from the passing of his grandmother. He thanked Jim for getting on the corner house by the Urban League, on Jennings Station Road. He said the home was an eyesore and said it has been vacant for a while it is already starting to grow back. He asked Jim to stay on top of the growth at that house. He said that he also attended the Baucom's ribbon cutting ceremony. He said Mr. Baucom informed us that it is also an event space. He said that Mr. Baucom did not want us to call it a funeral home, he said it is called a Celebration of Life Center. Councilman Wilson encouraged everyone to stop in view the facility and meet Mr. Baucom. He acknowledges Ms. Lola for attending. He said that is good to see someone investing in your community. Councilman Wilson said Mr. Baucom could have gone anywhere but he decided to come to Jennings. He said in terms of the complaints that affect maintenance of not just the City of Jennings but also St. Louis County, we definitely need to hold St. Louis County accountable. He said St. Louis County holds a Council meeting every Tuesday, at 41 South Central in Clayton at 6:30 pm, Jennings is 1st District. He said they also broadcast it on YouTube. But he thinks it is good for them to hear from Jennings. He said they don't treat us how we should be treated. He said that we are the 1st district, which was formerly held by Councilwoman Hazel Erby, she vacated the seat and there will be an election in August, to fill her seat. He said the Council does work for the community, but the council also needs the communities help in solving issues. He said communicate with the council people. He said their phones are public, and said to use the phone numbers, the website. Councilman Wilson said to use the website, the tax dollars are paying for the website and a lot of the information is on the City's website. (www.cityofjennings.org). He said there is a section on the website for complaints and he encouraged residents to use the website to get information and file complaints. He said filing the complaint on the website provides a paper trail. He said that we need to get our community involved and not just when there is a problem. He said the Youth Commission had a wonderful block party, but you see the same faces every time. He encouraged everyone to get on the phone and invite someone to the events. He said that is where it starts, in terms of the crime and the trash, when we become neighbors again. He said that he has business cards for anyone who is not able to go on the website, so that they are able to still get in contact with him. He said they will be having a 2nd Ward meeting once he and Councilwoman Dugger get together and figure that out. Sam said that it is important to know the democratic person nominated to take former Councilwoman Erby's seat has her endorsement, and the town hall with prosecuting attorney Wesley Bell that date is to be determined.

Councilwoman Francine Dugger: Councilwoman Dugger discussed the Urban League fence, She said she appreciates Inspector Bruce's follow up. She asked if there is an updated status on the completion of the privacy portion of the Urban League fence, because they have not been responding to her. Henry Johnson's response was inaudible. Councilwoman Dugger asked Sam to send a legal letter to the Urban League about the fence. Sam said that he would do that as soon as he got the details. Councilwoman Dugger asked Mr. Johnson to follow up with Sam. She said that 2nd Ward is not all together, but it is not doing as bad as some of the other wards in terms of grass, and abandoned homes. She said there are no favors being put on what Public Works is able to do, but she wanted to commend them for the work that they are doing because she said that there are still problems at Greenbrook and Jennings Station Road. Jim said that she also brought up the house at Shannon and Jennings Station Road. Councilwoman Dugger said those neighbors don't like that, she asked the City to follow up because the lady is cited, goes to court, and pays and continues to be an issue. She said thanked everyone that did whatever they did for the derby. She described the 4 years of Jennings being involved in the fishing derby. She said that she saw a community effort this year. She thanked the entire community and said that they had a wonderful time. She described the Fishing Derby, and the efforts of the Mayor, the Recreation staff, she said the Derby has grown and this year was the largest thanks to you. She said the Derby is a signature thing that the Kiwanis Club does each year. They have a sense of pride in their community and can see the possibilities of working in their community. She said we grab them whatever way we can, and everyone is doing something, she said that she is not saying Kiwanis is going to do it all. She said at the Derby the police and fire departments competed against each other, and almost 200 fish were caught. She awarded the traveling trophy (and bragging rights for the year) to the fire department. She described the competition between the police and the fire department at the Fishing Derby. Photos were taken of the Kiwanis volunteers along with the winners of the Fishing Derby competition, the fire department, and the police department. She reiterated thank you to everyone who helped even if it was just by praying for the Derby. Councilman Stichnote asked what was the biggest fish caught. She also thanked Public Works and said they did an amazing job. She said she thinks the largest fish was about 20 inches and the smallest was around 2 and half inches.

Councilwoman Phyllis Anderson: Councilwoman Anderson said she has some exciting news as well. She said that one night she was looking at Councilwoman Owens Facebook page and saw she was all over Columbia meeting everyone. She said she thought how we can do that here in St. Louis. She said when she saw Councilwoman Owens at the fishing derby, they discussed a North County Clean Up. She said Councilwoman Owens put it on paper first, and they spoke to Deletra Hudson, City Clerk, and she was excited. She said they spoke with the Mayor who gave her endorsement and she was excited and advised them to go to the beautification committee. She said the committee was excited about it. Councilwoman Anderson said that we are going to form a north county development clean up “Together We Stand” Jennings initiative, she said it will launch on October 5th from 10:30 to 1:30. She said details of the event will be discussed at the next committee meeting on Thursday, June 27, 2019 at 6:00 pm at City Hall. She said the event will end at Koenenman Park with a BBQ. She said the event is not just to clean up, but to get together as a community and learn strategies from each other, to come together as a community. She said they need two people from each Ward in Jennings and each city in North County to come to the meetings to see what is going on. She thanked the Council for being on board with this. She asked Henry Johnson to thank Kevin Tate for handling a situation for one of the 3rd Ward constituents. She asked Capt. Cox if a stop sign study can be done for east bound on McLaran and Xograph. She said there will not be a 3rd Ward meeting in July or August because the Councilmembers will be out in the community.

Councilman Gary Johnson: Councilman Johnson, said the 3rd Ward is well represented at the Council meeting and thanked everyone for coming. He said [the Historical Society](#) is looking for new members and the membership is \$12. He said we have decided to give a few dollars off to people who come to the next meeting. He said they are going to add all the churches and businesses in for free. He said the next meeting is September 10, 2019 at 6 pm at the Recreation Center (8720 Jennings Station Road). He said on July 20th he and Officer McCrary will be joined by the [St. Louis Violence Prevention Commission](#) he said they are going to do a neighborhood canvas on violence prevention and gun violence, and the July 27th Health, Wealth and Community event. He said on July 20th they will meet at Fairview elementary at 10 am. He said July 20th will also be the 3rd Ward Cleanup day. July 27th at Sievers’ Park from 2 pm to 6 pm that will be the Health, Wealth, and Community Day for the 3rd Ward, there will be free yoga, Zumba, food and other resources. He said there is an opportunity to make \$25 for your opinion by attending a workshop. He said the Community Coalition workshop will happen July 27th at Gary Gore from 10 am to 12:30, and upon completion they will give you a \$25.00 gift Card. He said that you will also have the opportunity to win a scholarship to the neighborhood leadership academy which is put on by Missouri extension. He said there is a Healthy community food market that happens at [351 Chambers Road](#) on June 29th, July 27th, August 31st, September 28th, and October 26th from 9 am to 1 pm. at Zion Travelers Missionary Baptist Church in Riverview. He said there was a Ward meeting on June 22, 2019 that went well. He said there is the City’s website, the marquee outside, the bulletin board, the receptionist Ms. Thomas, and the Councilmembers. He said there is are at least five different ways we can find out information inside of Jennings. He said to make it a habit of call one of the resources and staying abreast of what is going on in Jennings. Councilwoman Anderson added not to forget that they will get shirts done for the North County Community Cleanup on October 5, 2019 she said that they can contact her for additional information. Councilman Johnson provided his phone number 314-637-9704.

Councilman Rodney Epps: Councilman Epps said to call City Hall for any information. He said Jim knows the issue is grass. He thanked Jim for going to 8601 Clifton and doing something. He said there is another problem on Minnie and Jennings Station Road and when you are trying to come through the intersection you are not able to see the oncoming cars due to the bushes being overgrown. He said it is dangerous and the City needs to take care of that. He said on Janet there is a nuisance house. Councilman Epps said he would give Capt. Cox or Henry Johnson the address after the council meeting. He said the gate on Beulah is the City’s. He said the gate needs to be locked, we need to put a chain on it. He said people are driving up and down the street all times of the day and White Castle bags are being thrown out on the street. He said he knows that it was said a chain was previously on the gate and someone hit it and drove through it. He said if they did that then they were probably drunk in the first place. He said you know people are going to White Castles 24 hours a day and Beulah is catching hell with the traffic and the trash. He said he would like to see, and he is asking the City to lock the gate again on Beulah. He said Ms. Sykes left but she was talking about gangs forming, he said those are our kids. He said the council and the police department that don’t start at home. He said we need to do something about it. He said even the speeding. He said that he hates to target anybody but if you take the Illinois license plates and expired temp tags, they are the worst driving people in the area. He said it is like that all over the City but when they are in the inner City they live here. He said sometimes we want the government and police to fix stuff that we don’t even report. He said you know when the neighborhood kids are on the front all night what they are doing while their momma is gone to work. He said then nobody calls anybody and then they say there’s some shooting. He said there is going to be some shooting because you know what they are doing. He said stop having a blind eye and deaf ear to stuff and call. He said you come in here and you are frustrated because you hear gun shots; Ms. Lee is catching heck because she is catching St. Louis City and St. Louis County part. He said but the people in the inner City, you know who they are, they live here and you don’t call but then you come to the council meetings and are mad at the police and the council for not fixing something that we used to fix as neighbors. He said call; if it is fireworks and it’s in

your neighborhood then call. He said so let's participate. He said he thinks what happens a lot of times is citizens come to the council meeting and jump all over the Council and forget the Council lives here to. He said the same stuff you are dealing with we are dealing with, but the difference is that we got involved, not only by running for office but by calling. He said he will call the police. He said blaming the Council is not going to change anything because first of all we need your help to fix the issues. He said get involved and do what you do to support the City.

Councilwoman Aja Owens: Councilwoman Owens said she really empathizes with everyone and wants everyone to know their concerns are the Council's concerns. She said it takes a community effort, and the Council to work together to get things done. Councilwoman Owens stated the Serenity Prayer, "Lord, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change. The courage to change the things that I can. And the wisdom to know the difference." She thanked the City staff for sending condolences for the passing of my cousin, Calvin Owens. She would like to send continued prayers for all the City members who also lost a loved one. She would like to acknowledge the 4th Ward constituents that came out to the Council meeting. She said she participated in the Senior Bingo on May 30th at the Civic Center. She also participated in the Senior Picnic at Sievers Park that was well attended on May 31st. She thanked the City Clerk and everyone in the City that helped her get everything she needed to go to the Missouri Municipal League Training Conference she said it was wonderful and she won an award for the best participation. The event was organized by the Jennings Alive and Well Ambassadors. One of the Seniors, Lynda Swayze celebrated her birthday on that day. Special thanks to Mayor Austin and Councilwoman Dugger for attending as well. Also, special thanks to the many volunteers that came out and supported, Alpha Psi Kappa Fraternity, Inc. and Psi Sigma Upsilon Sorority, Inc. and many more. Participated in the 48th Annual Missouri Municipal League Training Conference in Columbia, MO on June 6-7. Met some wonderful elected officials and won an award for being the most engaged in a social media challenge. She said she participated in the Annual Fishing Derby sponsored by the Kiwanis' Club on June 8th. It was great getting out to support Councilwoman Dugger's most anticipated event of the year. She said it was awesome and amazing to see everyone from the community come together to support the Derby. She said she visited St. John's Senior facility with 3rd Ward Councilwoman Anderson on June 10th. She acknowledged several residents' birthdays. It was great meeting seniors in the 3rd ward. She met with several residents throughout the 4th Ward regarding issues ranging from squatters, high grass, speeding, shootings, domestic situations and the need for more police visibility. She provided popsicles to residents throughout the 4th Ward on a few hot days this month. Congratulated The St. Louis New Black Panther Party for purchasing a house in the 4th Ward through the city's auction to serve as their headquarters on June 10th. On June 8th, met with Mr. Turner in the 4th Ward to discuss doing block units in his area. On June 15th, she and Councilman Epps along with Alive and Well Communities were geared up to do a Street Clean Up. Unfortunately, due to the weather we cancelled it. There were still some volunteers interested in cleaning, so we did press forward to clean up and down West Florissant and Jennings Station Road. Special thanks to Councilman Epps, Alive and Well Communities, Councilwoman Anderson, The Public Works Department (especially Jim and Harold) and all the volunteers that sacrificed their time on that day. Stopped by and talked to a developer doing renovations to a church near McLaran and Clifton. He plans to have the project finished in a few weeks. Conducted an activity with Seniors at Fairview Village and youth from the community called, "Letters and Selfies" on June 16th. It was an opportunity to use both generations' communication styles to engage and interact with one another. It was an awesome experience. There is an abandoned property at 8601 Clifton that neighbors have been complaining about. Within a week, it was taken care of. Residents are still concerned about the up-keep, I plan to continue following up to try to avoid it getting more out of hand. Special thanks to the Mayor, the Building Department and Public Works for addressing this property with urgency. Met with Carrie Sanders, owner of Strategic Home Health Care at 5200 Helen Avenue. She has been asking for the City to fix the pavement surrounding her business. It is very dangerous and an eyesore. She has been speaking with Mr. Johnson about getting that situation addressed expeditiously. She would like to give a birthday shout out to Ms. Maggie Boyd and Lillian Hill, both turned 87. She would like to thank Ms. Glenda for inviting me to her church fundraiser for the homeless on June 22nd. She had a great time fellowshiping with her congregation and meeting her pastor. She even performed my, "Rock What You Got," poem. She is praying for a speedy recovery for Relda, a senior from Star Residences. She has just undergone surgery. On June 23rd, She went out to support Baucom Celebration, Cremation and Events Grand Opening. It was an immaculate experience.

She would like to thank Officer McCrary and Officer Perez for taking care of some concerns and issues throughout the 4th Ward. The seniors definitely appreciate their stronger visibility and are truly looking forward to the Senior Prom. She is going to continue looking into ways to address derelict properties. She is going to continue supporting businesses throughout the 4th Ward. She was happy to see overall crime at the lowest in the 4th Ward for 2 months in a row. She would like to acknowledge a 4th Ward Senior, Shirley Shelton, for all that she does to keep the streets clean around Corpus Christi, Jennings Station Road and Switzer. Seniors at Fairview Village are constantly complaining that they need more security and there have been many cases of people trespassing on the property and in the building. She would like to thank the Fire Department for coming and installing 2 new fire detectors in my home. They are good for 10 years. I want to encourage everyone in the City of Jennings to take advantage of that opportunity to get new fire detectors at no cost. Spread the word.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Austin thanked everyone for the cards, phone calls, text messages, and emails in the passing of her 90-year-old mother. She said she just returned yesterday from Flint, MI. She thanked the department heads, she said sometimes people come in and say what has not been done but there are records of what has been done and she wanted to let the department heads know that we thank you for the work that you do. She said that she was talking to her sister, she said her sister told her that their department heads do not attend their meetings. Mayor Austin said our department heads take the time after work to attend the meetings so they can capture the concerns that we have. She said on the second Monday of every month she meets with the department heads to see what has been done and what still needs to be done. She said she truly appreciates them for all the work they have done, even though a lot of times they get torn down or beat up. She recognized Councilwoman Jones for being honored with the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis salute to women. She said that it is good Councilwoman Jones is representing the City of Jennings, and that she is one of the School Board and Councilmembers. She said again we have a good representation throughout the City and County about what you are doing.

Mayor Austin said she wanted to talk about the bike patrol, they did start a few weeks ago and they started in the Buzz Westfall area and went around to the Walgreens, and all the other stores. She said she went a couple of days later and some of the workers said they were glad to see the bike patrol officers out and coming into the stores and talking to them and the people that were even just walking in the parking lot. She said she is glad Capt. Cox came up with that ideal for the City and for the residents of our City. She acknowledged some of the students from Jennings College Preparatory Academy for doing a cleanup in our area. She acknowledged the 4th Ward and said she appreciates the councilmembers who are doing small pockets which equal great things.

Mayor Austin also acknowledged Serena Mohammad for meeting with her and Councilman Johnson on some projects that can help clean up around our City. She said that she wanted to thank Serena and stated that would continue the conversation. She said the Business Watch meeting was last Friday June 21, 2019. She said that she was out of town, but she wanted to thank the City Clerk for stepping in and there was about 25 different businesses there. There were two speakers Theodore Gutierrez who is the small business specialist from the St. Louis Small Business Development Center, which is located in Ferguson, and Marco Tipton who is the community development specialist with Ameren energy efficient. He gave suggestions to the business for energy efficiency. She said she also met with Marco about the lights in the City they are trying to change the voltage of the lights. She said they are only doing it as lights go out. She said if you know of lights in your area or on your street that are out it will be replaced with a higher voltage, so be sure to turn that information in.

Mayor Austin thanked the Finance Director Brenda Williams. She said that we have been dealing with outdated equipment that has been in the Finance department for many, many years. She said the Finance Director along with the new Accounts Receivable Clerk, Ms. Stephanie Crayton presented to the Mayor, the Ways and Means Committee and the Council to vote on a new point of sales (cash register). She said we are now taking it to another level where we will be able to take credit and debit cards in the building department, recreation department, and finance department. She said cash payments will still need to come to the finance department. She said the information from the building and recreation departments will feed into the finance department so at the end of the day she will have a nice register of activity.

Mayor Austin said July 1st will be the kickoff for that She said that she attended Baucom's Celebration of Life Cremation Memorial & Event planning services grand opening. She said that he is looking at a different type of center instead of saying again, you are just coming to a funeral home. She said he had a birthday party there June 14, 2019 and you would not think that you were in a funeral home. She described the event's decorations. She encouraged everyone to take a moment and visit Mr. Baucom and see what he has done with the building.

Mayor Austin said she attended the Fishing Derby. She said she had a good time she said she got up early at 7:30 in the morning and stayed out there a couple of hours. She said the children and the parents were having a very good time. She the Youth Commission had a great crowd at the community block party which was in Lion's Park. She a lot of people here today say Jennings isn't doing anything with our tax dollars. She said that she is hoping that they will leave with a different view after the last hour and half of hearing what we are doing. She said the council members are having things they are going to do things and they are trying to put it out there as much as they can. She said that we need you to help spread the word of the many good things that are happening to move our city forward. She said in the 3rd Ward there is a lot of talk with the block units, she is also hearing more talk about block parties. She said if you would like to do a block party then see our City Clerk and fill out the application and do a block party and bring some of the residents together.

Mayor Austin said that she also got information at 8601 Clifton, and the taxes have been paid up until 2018 that is another reason; you say that it has been empty all these years, but somebody is paying the taxes. She said we just looked at the computer and they are keeping it up as far as paying taxes, but we are trying to hold them accountable for cutting the grass. She said that when we first spoke about it, she thought that it was being said that they have not paid taxes in years and the City should own the house. She reiterated the City is working on it. She encouraged everyone to visit the City's website for information. She said the City is also getting on top of the dogs. She said the dogs we actually have registered was maybe 8 or 9, but she knows we have many more dogs than that. She said we need your help as residents, if you see some with a dog call the Finance Department because Stephanie is sending letters out to the dog owners. Mayor Austin stated Mike Vilmer; Deputy Building Commissioner will be retiring July 12th after twenty plus years of dedicated service to the City. She said Corey Reed has replaced Mr. Vilmer as the Deputy Building Commissioner. She said there was a total of 58 houses sold in the month of May for a total of \$273,948.66, which goes into the general fund. She said the money has been collected from the people who have purchased homes.

MONTHLY DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson and seconded by Councilwoman Jones the Council voted all in favor to approve the monthly departmental reports.

E. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Ways and Means & Public Safety Committee: Chairman Wilson reviewed the committee meeting from June 3, 2019. He reviewed the committee's discussion for approving a loan from the general revenue fund to the sewer lateral fund. He reviewed the committee's discussion and approval of the emergency sewer lateral repairs. He also reviewed the committee's discussion about the pending sewer lateral repairs.

Chairman Wilson reviewed the committee meeting from June 24, 2019. He reviewed the committee's discussion and recommendation of approval of the towing contract and linen contract. He reviewed the committee's discussion about the janitorial cleaning service, which will be discussed further in closed session.

On the motion made by Councilman Epps and seconded by Councilwoman Anderson the Council voted all in favor to approve a loan of \$60,000 from the general revenue fund to the sewer lateral fund.

Councilman Epps asked if the sewer lateral is reopened, where people can apply for funds again. Chairman Wilson stated the committee was waiting on the Council's approval of the loan for the sewer lateral program. He said now that the loan has been approved the program can start taking applications again. He said the committee also discussed capping what is paid out at about \$5,000.00. Sam said the ordinance to capping the sewer lateral payout is drafted and can be voted on at the July Council meeting. Sam reviewed the emergency contingencies that are drafted in the ordinance for the sewer lateral program. Chairman Wilson reviewed the committee's discussion of the sewer lateral assessed fee.

Public Works & Building Committee: Chairman Epps reviewed the committee's meeting from June 11, 2019. He reviewed the committee's discussion about the solid waste contract. He also reviewed the committee's discussion about North County Community Cleanup. He said the committee voted all in favor of committee member Jones to be the committee's Vice Chairwoman.

Parks & Recreation Committee- Chairman Stichnote reviewed the Parks & Recreation Committee meeting from July 13, 2019. He reviewed the committee's discussion about the sod around the lake side pavilion. He also reviewed the committee's discussion about the removal of the trees at Sievers' Park. Chairman Stichnote also reviewed the committee's discussion about the RFP for Sievers' Park improvements. He reviewed the committee's discussion about the Kaboom playground grant.

Municipal League- Council representative Terry Wilson reported no meeting

Planning Commission- Councilman Johnson, reported no meeting.

Policy Committee- Chairwoman Jones reviewed the Policy Committee meeting from June 24, 2019. She reviewed the committee discussion and recommendation for the revised Holiday Policy.

On the motion made by Councilwoman Jones and seconded by Councilman Wilson the Council voted all in favor of approving the revised Holiday Policy as presented.

Chairwoman Jones reviewed the committee's discussion and recommendation for the revised City Vehicle Policy.

On the motion made by Councilwoman Jones and seconded by Councilwoman Anderson the Council voted all in favor of approving the revised City Vehicle Policy as presented.

Chairwoman Jones reviewed the committee's discussion and recommendation for the revised Dress Code. After a discussion amongst the Council a motion was made to amend the City's Dress Code policy to include the prohibition of prohibiting flip flops and slide in shoes and all shoes must be secure with a strap to your foot. Councilwoman Dugger discussed different types of shoes that should be allowed with out a strap. It was decided the motion would be to revise the City's Dress Code policy by adding no flip flops or slides.

On the motion made by Councilwoman Jones and seconded by Councilman Epps the Council voted all in favor of approving the revised Dress Code Policy adding no flip flops or slides.

Chairwoman Jones asked if the Policy and Ordinance committee report could be moved after the Parks and Recreation Committee report going forward on the agenda.

Youth Commission- Meeting minutes were provided in the Council packets.

Senior Commission -Meeting minutes were provided in the Council packets.

F. LEGAL BUSINESS (Proposed Ordinances)

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

H. NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of the towing contract

Councilman Wilson made a motion to approve the towing contract, which was seconded by Councilman Stichnote. Councilman Johnson asked about the City only receiving two bids for the towing contract. Deletra Hudson reviewed the RFP process. She described the advertisement the City sent out to get bids.

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson and seconded by Councilman Stichnote the Council voted in favor of approving the towing contract with STS by the following roll call vote; Councilmembers voting in favor: Allan Stichnote, Miranda Jones, Terry Wilson, Francine Dugger, Phyllis Anderson, Rodeny Epps, Aja Owens; Councilmembers opposed: Gary Johnson; none were absent or abstained.

Councilwoman Dugger said there has been a question about how the City is getting the information out to companies for bids. She said her concern is it is incumbent upon a company to find out if the City is doing an RFP. She expressed her concerns with the way information is currently sent out for RFP's. Councilman Wilson said if it is online any business can go and get the information. He said the City is advertising online at the City's website. He said it is not the City's responsibility to contact companies and say hey come get our business. Councilwoman Dugger said that she is not talking about anyone in particular she is just saying overall the City is getting the information for the RFP's to companies. Councilman Wilson asked what else the City should be doing to get the information to companies. Councilman Epps said there are legal guidelines and the City Clerk makes sure that the City follows the legal guidelines. Mayor Austin said the City Clerk also announce RFPs to the councilmembers. Councilman Wilson said that he thinks the City is doing more than most municipalities in terms of getting the word out. Councilwoman Owens asked if the information was on Facebook. Councilman Wilson said it is on Facebook, the City's website, the St. Louis American newspaper, and the Bulletin board at City Hall, and the Chamber of Commerce. Sam said that he believes there is a monitory limit to the contract for minority participation. Sam said that he thinks the towing contract and lien contract are outside of the dollar limit requiring minority contracts. Councilwoman Dugger said the St. Louis American is not the only newspaper to advertise in. She said what the Council/City may not know is marketing. She said you have to think about print as opposed to online or word of mouth. She said that she retired from doing this and that today people have been hit with about 20,000 pieces of advertisement that no one paid attention to unless they were looking for it. Mayor Austin said the City hears Councilwoman Dugger's comments and concerns and she thinks the City is already doing everything we are supposed to get the information out.

2. Approval of the linen contract

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson and seconded by Councilwoman Jones the Council voted all in favor of approving the linen contract with Alsco Linen.

3. Special Event Permit People United for Christ Church

On the motion made by Councilwoman Jones and seconded by Councilman Stichnote the Council voted all in favor of approving the Special Event Permit for People United for Christ Church.

4. Special Event Permit Metropolitan MB Church

On the motion made by Councilman Epps and seconded by Councilwoman Jones the Council voted all in favor of approving the Special Event Permit for Metropolitan MB Church.

5. Special Event Permit Gary Johnson

On the motion made by Councilwoman Jones and seconded by Councilman Epps the Council voted all in favor of approving the Special Event Permit for Gary Johnson.

6. Approval of the monthly bills for payment

On the motion made Councilman Wilson and seconded by Councilwoman Anderson the Council voted in favor of approving the monthly bills for payment by the following roll call vote; Councilmembers voting in favor: Allan Stichnote, Miranda Jones, Terry Wilson, Phyllis Anderson, Gary Johnson, Rodeny Epps, Aja Owens; Councilmember abstained: Francine Dugger; none opposed or were absent from voting.

7. Motion for closed session, legal and personnel (RSMO 610:021-1,3)

On the motion made by Councilwoman Jones and seconded by Councilman Johnson the Council voted in favor closed session legal and personnel (RSMO 610:021-1,3) by the following roll call vote; Councilmembers voting in favor: Allan Stichnote, Miranda Jones, Terry Wilson, Francine Dugger, Phyllis Anderson, Gary Johnson, Rodney Epps, Aja Owens; none were absent, opposed or abstained from voting.

I. MAYOR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Mayor Austin thanked those who stayed to the end of the meeting and encouraged them to invite someone to the next meeting. Mayor Austin provided a three-minute break before going into the closed session, legal and personnel (RSMO 610:021-1,3)

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

Hire Part Time Bus Driver

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson and seconded by Councilwoman Jones the Council voted in favor of hiring Donald Logan as a Part Time Bus Driver pending the successfully completion of pre-employment screenings with Terri Newsome as the first alternate by the following roll call vote; Councilmembers voting in favor: Allan Stichnote, Miranda Jones, Terry Wilson, Francine Dugger, Phyllis Anderson, Gary Johnson, Rodney Epps, Aja Owens; none were absent, opposed or abstained from voting.

Hire Part Time Umpire

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson and seconded by Councilwoman Stichnote the Council voted in favor of hiring Darius Crawford as a part time umpire pending the successfully completion of pre-employment screenings by the following roll call vote; Councilmembers voting in favor: Allan Stichnote, Miranda Jones, Terry Wilson, Francine Dugger, Phyllis Anderson, Gary Johnson, Rodney Epps, Aja Owens; none were absent, opposed or abstained from voting.

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson and seconded by Councilwoman Stichnote the Council voted in favor of hiring Rolando Merriweather as a part time umpire pending the successfully completion of pre-employment screenings by the following roll call vote; Councilmembers voting in favor: Allan Stichnote, Miranda Jones, Terry Wilson, Francine Dugger, Phyllis Anderson, Gary Johnson, Rodney Epps, Aja Owens; none were absent, opposed or abstained from voting.

Accepting Resignation Letter from Judge John Duepner Jr.

On the motion made by Councilwoman Jones and seconded by Councilman Wilson the Council voted in favor to accept the resignation letter from Judge John Duepner Jr. effective July 1, 2019 by the following roll call vote; Councilmember voting in favor: Allan Stichnote, Miranda Jones, Terry Wilson, Gary Johnson, Rodney Epps, Aja Owens; Councilmembers opposed: Francine Dugger, Phyllis Anderson; none were absent or abstained from voting.

Appointing provisional Judge

On the motion made by Councilwoman Jones and seconded by Councilman Wilson the Council voted in favor of appointing Felicia Ezell-Gillespie as a provisional judge starting July 1, 2019 by the following roll call vote; Councilmember voting in favor: Allan Stichnote, Miranda Jones,

Terry Wilson, Gary Johnson, Rodney Epps, Aja Owens; Councilmembers opposed: Francine Dugger, Phyllis Anderson; none were absent or abstained from voting.

Adjournment

On the motion made by the Councilwoman Jones and seconded by Councilman Wilson the Council voted to adjourn the closed session, legal and personnel (RSMO 610:021-1,3) at 10:06 pm on Monday, June 24, 2019 by the following roll call vote; Councilmembers voting in favor: Allan Stichnote, Miranda Jones, Terry Wilson, Francine Dugger, Phyllis Anderson, Gary Johnson, Rodney Epps, Aja Owens; none were absent, opposed or abstained from voting

ATTEST:



Mayor Yolanda Austin



Kareen McNeal, Deputy City Clerk