

Minutes of the City Council Meeting
Jennings City Hall
April 23, 2018 – 7:00 pm

The two thousand three hundred seventy sixth meeting of the Jennings City Council was held on Monday April 23, 2018 at 7 p.m. at Jennings City Hall.

SWEARING IN

Deletra Hudson, City Clerk, started the Council meeting with the swearing in of newly elected/re-elected councilmembers: Allan Stichnote, ward one, Francie Dugger, ward two, Phyllis Anderson, ward three, and Rodney Epps, ward four. Ms. Hudson and the re-elected councilmembers read the Oath of Elected Officials out loud. Each re-elected councilmember signed the Oath of Elected Officials that was read out loud.

REGULAR MEETING:

Mayor Austin called the council meeting to order at 7:07 pm.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Mayor Yolanda Austin
Councilwoman Miranda Jones
Councilman Terry Wilson
Councilwoman Julia Roberts
Councilwoman Carol Epps

Councilman Allan Stichnote
Councilwoman Francine Dugger
Councilwoman Phyllis Anderson
Councilwoman Rodney Epps

Also, present: Interim City Attorney, Sam Alton; City Clerk, Deletra Hudson; Deputy City Clerk, Kareen McNeal.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On the motion made by Councilwoman Jones seconded by Councilman R. Epps the council voted to approve and amended the agenda for cause by adding number 8 under new business approval of Temporary Administrative Assistant for the Recreation Department. by the following roll call councilmembers in voting in favor: Stichnote, Jones, Wilson, Dugger, Roberts, Anderson, R. Epps, and C. Epps; none were opposing or absent.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 26, 2018 AND SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING OF APRIL 4, 2018

Councilwoman Dugger stated that there were some items missing from page 12 and 13 of the minutes, but she can go over what is missing with the Clerk at a later time.

On the motion made by Councilman R. Epps, seconded by Councilwoman Jones the council voted to approve the agenda by the following roll call councilmembers in voting in favor: Stichnote, Jones, Wilson, Anderson, R. Epps, C. Epps; councilmembers opposing: Dugger, Roberts; none were absent.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONERS, REMONSTRATIONS, COMPLAINTS AND REQUESTS:

Presentation from the St. Louis County Police Department Employee Recognition:

Captain Cox started by recognizing Officer Danielle Durham, and Officer Justin Nichols, who were promoted to Sergeant last week by Chief Belmar. Captain Cox stated that Officer Durham will be staying in Jennings, but we will briefly be parting ways with Officer Nichols. Captain Cox and Sgt. Perez presented the Officer of the Month Award to *Officer Lunatto*. Captain Cox stated that Officer Lunatto worked 18 days last month and made six felony arrest, 28 misdemeanor arrest, wrote 17 summons, wrote 27 moving violation citations, and 32 non-moving violation citations.

Captain Cox's stated that he is not all about numbers, and what he likes about Officer Lunatto is that he is Captain Cox most senior officer, and he is consistent every month. Officer Lunatto was presented with a plaque and a \$50.00 gift card. Officer Lunatto, responded by saying that it is a privilege to work in Jennings. Officer Lunatto continued saying that the community has been very supportive, and that all of the men and women in the police department are dedicated to keeping Jennings' streets safe.

Captain Cox thanked the City of Jennings for representing at the P.A.L. Boxing Show last Thursday. He stated that P.A.L. made a lot of money and, that when they make money the kids win. He thanked the Mayor and Councilman Wilson for coming to the event and acknowledged Councilman Stichnote for working at the Boxing Show. Captain Cox gave a special thanks to Ms. Brown, Ms. Carol, and Ms. Wiese who worked up front for the Boxing Show and kept everything organized

Presentation from the Dept. of Housing and Economic Development- City Recognition

Henry Johnson stated that the City of Jennings, through St. Louis County received a proclamation for the 24:1 Jennings Cooperative CDBG Demolition Project. Mr. Johnson read the proclamation. Mayor Austin thanked Mr. Johnson and stated that the 24:1 Jennings Cooperative CDBG Demolition Project started several years ago. She acknowledged Ms. Irvetta Williams, and stating that she was instrumental in the 24:1 Jennings Cooperative CDBG Demolition Project.

Comments by public:

Yolonda Henderson of 2437 Sharidge Drive stated that she wanted to say thank you for fixing the holes on Sharidge Dr. Ms. Henderson asked for a status update on the double yellow lines. Mayor Austin stated that the City has spoken with someone about the yellow lines, to have them come out and redo them. Mayor Austin advised Ms. Henderson that she would have the director of Public Works follow up with her to give her a timeline of the repair for the double yellow lines.

Ms. Henderson stated that on the agenda, listed under legal business, an ordinance of the City of Jennings, Missouri, adding Section 2-77 to Article III, Division 1 of the Jennings Municipal Code governing the removal and impeachment of certain appointed and elective officers and a prohibition against impeached officials running for and/or holding public office for the City of Jennings, Missouri. Ms. Henderson is asking everyone to look at Missouri State statute 77 for 3rd class city.

Ms. Henderson said, a few months ago, Councilwoman Roberts mentioned that the Councilmembers R. Epps and C. Epps were in violation for not paying their real estate taxes in two years. Ms. Henderson stated that section 773.0 states no person shall be elected or appointed to any office who shall at this time be in arrears for unpaid taxes. She stated that no one is above the law and expressed her disagreement for an ordinance of the City of Jennings, Missouri, adding Section 2-77 to Article III, Division 1 of the Jennings Municipal Code governing the removal and impeachment of certain appointed and elective officers and a prohibition against impeached officials running for and/or holding public office for the City of Jennings, Missouri listed under legal business on the April 23, 2018 agenda.

Teresa Lowman of 5513 Belridge Court stated that in 2015 she asked for "No Parking" on Belridge Court on the east side of the street and it was approved by Council. Ms. Lowman said, that parking on the east side of the street prevents emergency vehicles from being able to come down the street. She stated that there are cars parking in the area designated for "No Parking" on Belridge Court. Ms. Lowman added that she thinks they may be residents of Belridge, because it is the same two cars that keep parking in the designated "No Parking" area on Belridge Court. Ms. Lowman stated that she has called the non-emergency police number. She stated that she was told that there were no tickets issued. She said that tickets use to be issued for vehicles parked in the designated "No Parking" area on Belridge Court in 2015. Ms. Lowman stated that this is a continuous problem with the same two cars parking in front of the same two houses in front of the "No Parking" signs. Ms. Lowman stated that she was advised by Sgt. Perez that it is

up to the police officers discretion to write a ticket. Captain Cox confirmed that it is up to the officer's discretion to write a ticket. He stated that if these are neighbors or residents that live there and parking in "No Parking" areas and the police are continuing to be called for that issue he would like to see those people ticketed. Captain Cox stated that Sgt. Perez has addressed the issue with officers that will be responding to the call for "No Parking" on Belridge Court on the east side of the street. Councilman R. Epps asked if the ordinance says "No Parking" why is it up to the officer's discretion to write a ticket? Captain Cox advised that every officer stop is discretionary. Captain Cox continued to say that he would like for the officer to make contact and ask the people to move their car, but if it is a constant problem with the same car then a ticket should be issued.

Lorraine Clower of 5446 Helen Avenue asked what is the update on a tree being removed (from her neighboring property). Councilman R. Epps stated that he was hoping to see Mr. Kaeshamer (Public Works Director) at the Council Meeting. Councilman R. Epps asked Mr. Johnson (Director of Public Health, Planning, Development and Housing) if he could give an update. Mr. Johnson stated that there was a delay in getting the deed, but the City has it now and they will send a work order to Public Works to cut the tree down.

Ms. Clower continued to say that there are a whole bunch of trash bags sitting at Jennings Station Road and Emma across from the Police Station. She stated that in the 4th Ward there seems to be more trash and debris. She asked Councilman & Councilwoman Epps if there are any plans to get the 4th Ward cleaned up. Ms. Clower stated there is trash at 5416 Helen Avenue. She stated that she has made several phone calls to William Kaeshamer (Public Works Director), but she has not gotten a return phone call from him. She would like to know what the plan is to clean up Helen. Councilman R. Epps replied, advising Ms. Clower that the 4th Ward has most of the derelict properties in the City. Councilman R. Epps stated that the Mayor has implemented two men from Public Works to ride around the City once a month to pick up trash at his request. Ms. Clower asked what the process is for follow-up when there is a continual complaint. Mayor Austin responded with the complaints start in the Building Department. She asked Mr. Johnson if he recalled the complaint at 5416 Helen. Mr. Johnson responded that the address is familiar. Councilman Epps stated that he would follow up tomorrow morning with Mr. Johnson. It was determined that Mr. Johnson would also follow up with Ms. Clower.

Council member's Reports

Councilwoman C. Epps started and ended her report by thanking everyone for coming out.

Councilman R. Epps started his report by saying 2032 McLaren Avenue has dumped trash. 5649 Hamilton Avenue has a large hole in front of the property. 5509 Belridge Court has a van that has been sitting there for over a month. He stated that the van needs to be tagged or moved. Councilman R. Epps reiterated that there is trash in white trash bags at Emma and Jennings Station Road. Councilman R. Epps ended his report by saying he is not sure if the bags at Jennings Station Road and Emma were stacked up for removal by MSD, but he would like it checked out.

Councilwoman Roberts started her report with a short story of an experience she had at work regarding the power of touch and human connection that we have with one another. She asked if everyone could give someone a hug today and share some love.

Councilwoman Roberts thanked St. Louis County for the study on Carl Avenue and West Florissant Avenue. She went on to thank Mr. Johnson and Ms. Cooley for the list of the new 3rd Ward occupants, she stated that she and Councilwoman Anderson will be going to hand out welcome packages this weekend. Councilwoman Roberts continued, saying thank you to Public Works for the clean up on Theodore Avenue.

Councilwoman Roberts requested an update on 5513/5515 Fair Ridge Court by Fairview stadium. She also thanked Councilman Wilson, and Councilwoman Jones for giving the message to the School Board because Fairview Stadium has been cleaned up.

Councilwoman Roberts ended her report by stating, over the weekend she went to two children's book signings. She acknowledged City Clerk, Deletra Hudson and her son, who wrote and hosted one of the book signings that Councilwoman Roberts attended.

Councilwoman Anderson started and ended her report by thanking Sgt. Perez, his team, and the Building Department, for removing the squatters, and boarding up the house at 7206 Marge Avenue.

Councilwoman Dugger, started her report by thanking 2nd Ward members who are present, for coming out April 3rd, and voting their confidence in her, to serve for another two years in Jennings. She stated that she will continue to do the best that she can and follow the oath that was pledged tonight. Councilwoman Dugger said, it was good to see her mom, who is 89 years old, out tonight. Councilwoman Dugger, continued thanking her family and close friends that made it to the meeting along with her "soldiers".

Councilwoman Dugger thanked the Public Works Department for their efforts in working on the area behind the credit union. There has been discussions about trying to figure out if the credit union was responsible for repairing the area behind the credit union. It was determined that the City is going to take the responsibility for the area behind the credit union and Public Works has been out there repairing those potholes. She stated that the public will not be able to park in the area behind the credit union.

Councilwoman Dugger said, that when the council members are seeing the trash, and they report it to the Building Department, it is her understanding that the Building Department should be citing those people (with the trash in front of their property). She stated that citing has been done before with problem properties throughout the City of Jennings. Councilwoman Dugger added that when she calls the Building Department, or Public Works she usually is getting a response. She advised that if a resident calls her, she is immediately calling in to City Hall, to see where the City is with fixing the issue. Councilwoman Dugger went on to say there are issues if she does not get a response from a department head on what needs to be done. She added that most department heads here know that it is going to be a problem if they do not respond to her. She included that department heads should be responding to all of the council members. Councilwoman Dugger said that she cannot tell council members what they should be doing.

Councilwoman Dugger stated that there are some things that have been talked about in the last year that have not been resolved. She stated that it presents a problem, because the idea that she sees as representing the residents is to resolve their issues so that their quality of life is improved. Councilwoman Dugger continued saying that if she has asked for something for a year and there has been no resolution then the Council needs to look at what the staff is doing. She stated that we do have staff working very hard, but there is a problem when certain things are not getting done in a year. Councilwoman Dugger went on saying that we keep getting these same responses. She stated that the Urban League fence is four years of a problem for her. Councilwoman Dugger stated that she asked last year to get a response in writing from Mr. Johnson about the Urban League fence she requested the response be sent to herself and Councilman Wilson. She stated that she has not received a response in writing from Mr. Johnson. Councilwoman Dugger asked Mayor Austin what do we do when the residents call and say they do not expect for anything to happen. Mayor Austin replied by asking Councilwoman Dugger what suggestion does she have that is different from when she was serving as the Interim Mayor. Councilwoman Dugger stated that as Interim Mayor she did the same thing that she is trying to do now, by getting the department that is responsible to respond. Mayor Austin stated, that she has spoken to the owner of the property (were the Urban League fence is) and he has put up the fence that is there now. He also put up a gate so that trash could not be dumped. Mayor Austin gave the floor to Mr. Johnson to elaborate on the next steps in the process. Mr. Johnson stated that there are two owners of the property for the fencing issue. Mr. Johnson stated that technically there are three owners of the property responsible, one section of the fence is behind Walgreens. However, the owner of the property stated that he would be responsible for the fence all the way up to the Urban League. Mr. Johnson went on to say that Urban League stated that they have to get authority from their district headquarters to replace the fence. He stated

that Urban League has been working on getting approval from their district headquarters for the past six months. Mr. Johnson added that we cannot make them put in a new fence, just like any homeowner. He can write them up for a damaged or broken fence. He stated that if they (Urban League) patches the fence, that is as far as he can go with it. He cannot write them a ticket for a new fence. Mr. Johnson said, that he could cite someone for a damaged fence if they refuse to repair it. Councilwoman Dugger interjected stating that she has asked for something in writing in April and June, she added that for Mr. Johnson to come each month and give a verbal update about what he can and cannot do is not needed. Councilwoman Dugger stated that when she looks at the fence and sees “dog ears”, and the other part of the fence, she is not sure what you call the top of the fencing. She went on to say that there are broken pieces, and mismatched fencing. Councilwoman Dugger asked if they could just get something in writing that gives the status of the Urban League fencing issue. She stated that she is not interested in the Council Meeting tonight to hear who owns it. Mr. Johnson stated that he has sent something in writing. Councilwoman Dugger stated that she has not gotten anything in writing, and asked Councilman Wilson if he has gotten anything in writing. Councilman Wilson stated that he could not recall at this time.

Councilwoman Dugger stated that she pulled her notes for the year, so she could make sure that the Council is doing what the Council needs to do. She stated that the next thing that she has asked for is on the minority participation program that was mentioned at the March 26, 2018 meeting. Councilwoman Dugger addressed Sam Alton (City Attorney), saying that from what she understands, there is a descent decree that has been used that requires that it be 25% minority owned businesses, 5% women. Councilwoman Dugger recapped that at the March 26, 2018 meeting the Council talked about having more development in the City of Jennings and making sure that the City is following the descent decree. She stated that she asked if an ordinance for minority participation could be put together by the Building or Policy Committee. Councilwoman Dugger stated that there has not been a full discussion on the minority participation ordinance in a full month. She stated that what she would like to ask, with the council's approval, is to authorize the City Attorney to prepare the ordinance so that the City can adopt that as law that we require the 25% minority owned businesses, 5% women. Councilwoman Dugger stated that she provided the City Attorney with a copy of the requirements of the descent decree. She advised that the copy she provided could be followed, that the City does no need to reinvent the wheel. Councilwoman Dugger said, that she is making the motion that we accept and adopt the minority participation. Councilwoman Jones advised that the minority participation program proposal did come before the Policy Committee, however it was not discussed, because of all of the other topics on the Policy Committee agenda. Councilwoman Dugger stated that she understands, and she wants to move forward because another month will go by and the minority participation will not be discussed.

On the motion made by Councilwoman Dugger and seconded by Councilwoman Roberts, the council voted all in favor the City preparing an ordinance to adopt minority participation ordinance and the legal language necessary.

Councilwoman Dugger stated that the next thing that she asked the council about was the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. She stated that she thinks it is a good thing to move forward with the Neighborhood Stabilization Program as well. Councilwoman Dugger stated that she is talking about adopting the City of Berkeley's Neighborhood Stabilization Program. She said, that this would offer the residents, from each ward, an opportunity to come put their names in a hat and the City would determine the amount they would like to award. Councilwoman Dugger continued saying that the residents would need to follow the guidelines and be checked off by the Code Enforcement Officers before a check is issued. Councilwoman Dugger stated that the only thing that she would like to remove from the Neighborhood Stabilization Program is that the council members can apply, so that the City does not get into an ethical issue. She stated that in the interest of moving forward she is making a motion to adopt the City of Berkeley's Neighborhood Stabilization Program with the removal of council members being able to apply. Councilman R. Epps stated that this program is only for the exterior. Councilwoman Dugger confirmed by stating parts of the program. Councilwoman Roberts stated that she has read through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program that was presented at the March 26, 2018 City

Council meeting. Councilwoman Roberts said, that she thinks that it is an awesome idea, but it is a bit premature to move forward without naming some of the specifics as to how the program would look on the ground in the City of Jennings. Councilwoman Jones stated that there is a somewhat similar program with the Crime Free Housing that she wanted to invite all the council members to come and hear about. Councilwoman Jones stated that would be a good opportunity to address the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. Councilwoman Jones went on to say that Mr. Johnson gave a large presentation, about the Crime Free Housing, but the Policy Committee, determined that it would be best to invite the entire council to hear the presentation, because they are asking for a registration, and it is a very in-depth program. Councilwoman Dugger interjected asking if the Crime Free Housing has anything to do with the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. Councilwoman Jones responded that what she is trying to say is that the Committee Meeting is a time when the entire council may be together to iron out the details of both the Crime Free Housing and the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. Councilman R. Epps stated that we have a program already through St. Louis County. Councilwoman Dugger stated that program with St. Louis County is income based, and the Neighborhood Stabilization Program that she is proposing would not be income based. She explained that the City would just be giving the residents money to improve the City.

Councilwoman Dugger stated that her next question is to Mr. Johnson. Councilwoman Dugger stated that she asked the City Clerk to ask Mr. Johnson to give the Council updates on the EPA for the Civic Center. Councilwoman Dugger stated that when she is looking at Mr. Johnson's departmental report for the month it says that the City Hall and the Recreation Center were being put on hold until further notice. Councilwoman Dugger stated that she didn't know that we were talking about a new City Hall, although she has been reading something about it. She stated that she does not know if the Council has said that the City is doing a new City Hall. She asked how is it that staff is telling council in a report that something is on hold when council is bringing it to staff to get it done. Mr. Johnson replied that he has a response to Councilwoman Dugger's previous statement of not getting something in writing. Councilwoman Dugger advised that she is in her Council Member's report right now and her question is about the EPA piece and the status of that. Mr. Johnson stated that he has an email from Todd H. Davis Brownfield, Assessment Coordinator with EPA stating, that the assessment is being done by Tera Tech and we should be contacted by Tera Tech soon. Mr. Johnson stated that on February 20, 2018, in a phone call follow-up with Todd H. Davis, he was advised that it could be two to three months for Tera Tech to contact Jennings to do the assessment. Mr. Johnson added that so far it has only been two months. He stated that he has not heard from Tera Tech, but he did send a follow-up email to Mr. Davis today to find out if Tera Tech has been notified that the City of Jennings is waiting to hear from them.

Councilwoman Dugger ended her report by stating last year the City did a shredding program. She stated that it was in the Council's budget. Councilwoman Dugger asked has there been any discussion about the shredding program. She stated that if there has been discussion about the shredding program she will call to set up the shredding program. Mayor Austin asked if it was in the budget about how much is it going to cost and where is the money coming from. Councilwoman Dugger responded that it was about \$200.00 per Ward and it would come out of the Ward money. Councilwoman Roberts asked would shredding be the most beneficial or would dumpsters be more beneficial with all of this trash. Councilwoman Dugger stated that it is for papers with personal information on it, and the way that the shredding company handled it, it is very private. There was a small discussion about the shredding program. Councilwoman Dugger gave a description of the program. Councilwoman Roberts reiterated that she thinks with the amount of trash that the City has it would be more beneficial to get dumpsters instead. Councilman Wilson asked if the City could look in to a program that could do the shredding for free before committing a monetary amount. Councilman R. Epps agreed, stating that he thinks the library also offers a shredding service. Councilman Stichnote, asked if the shredding is going to be done can the City also offer the electronic disposal at the same time, he stated that he is aware of an organization that would do the electronic disposal for free. Councilwoman Dugger stated that she would love to see the City do the electronics, and the medication disposal like the police do. She stated that the City could make a day of it. Councilman Stichnote agreed.

Councilman Wilson started his report by congratulating everyone who was re-elected. He acknowledged and congratulated Rose Mary Johnson who was recently re-elected to the School Board (for the Jennings School District).

Councilman Wilson asked who to report businesses to when the business has a trash issue. Mayor Austin stated that generally complaints start in the Building Department. Councilman Wilson advised Mr. Johnson that the Dollar Tree on Halls Ferry Road had trash overflowing where people are walking into the store.

Councilman Wilson stated that Councilwoman Roberts touched on the book signing for Mikey Wren (a 2nd Ward resident). Councilman Wilson advised that Mike Wren owns five vending machines and if anyone would like to know more about Mikey, or his book they can get that information at Mikey's website www.mikeyknowsbiz.com.

Councilman Wilson stated that the school district gave over \$102,000 from the School Districts Foundation. Councilman Wilson advised that Rose Mary Johnson heads up the biggest fundraiser for the foundation, the School Districts Annual Gala. He stated that the School District Foundation was able to award 12 scholarships. Councilman Wilson added that seven of the 12 students, to receive scholarships, got full rides. Councilman Wilson said to mark your calendar for May 11th at 10 am for a ribbon cutting at Gary Gore Community Education Center. He stated that Jennings has partnered with CVS, working toward the job training initiative. He added that CVS has been building a mock store in Gary Gore Community Education Center to teach young people in the community how to work in a CVS store. Councilman Wilson went on to say that the Jennings High School Graduation is May 24th at the Chaifetz Arena. He ended his report by thanking everyone for coming out, especially the mighty 2nd Ward.

Councilwoman Dugger interjected, stating that she needed to add to her report that on June 9th at 7 am is the Kiwanis Annual Fishing Derby in Koeneman Park. She asked if anyone knows how to fish to come out and teach the children how to fish on June 9th. Councilwoman Dugger gave a description of some of the activities that will be taking place at the Kiwanis Fishing Derby.

Councilwoman Dugger also stated that the Jennings Clergy Coalition is working with the school, because there are some families that need some things.

Councilwoman Jones started her report by thanking Captain Cox for giving her the addresses of really good areas to put the cameras in the 1st Ward. Councilwoman Jones asked for a show of hand of how many people are in the meeting from the 1st Ward. Two people raised their hands. She stated that what she and Councilman Stichnote have decided is to put up yard signs the week before the meetings, so people know when the meetings are, along with adding it to the website. Councilwoman Jones added that she gets very little calls and she sees the stuff going on, so she wants to make sure residents know how to get in contact with them both and that they are being proactive about letting residents know how they can come and get services. She stated that the signs are currently at the printer and should be out in time for the next meeting.

Councilwoman Jones stated that there is trash on Lucas and Hunt Road all the way to Buzz Westfall Boulevard. She stated we are aware that it is a St. Louis County Road, but we have got to do something to clean it up, because it is still Jennings. She stated that Yolanda, and Councilman Stichnote and some residents and students had cleaned it up in the fall, but it looks horrible again. Councilwoman Jones stated that she is trying to plan a Spring Cleanup.

Councilwoman Jones stated that by her and Councilman Wilson both being on the School Board, whoever goes first on the council report gets to report on the fun things. She stated that she wanted to recognize all of the School Board members. Councilwoman Jones stated that Rose Mary Johnson is entering her 25th year on the School Board. Councilwoman Jones acknowledged Yolonda Fountain Henderson, John Schlereth, Harold Austin, and Councilman Wilson. Councilwoman Jones stated that out of the seven School Board members six of them are at the Council meeting and that speaks a lot to the dedication to the School Board and the Community. She stated that she hopes to see more Councilmembers coming to School Board Meetings,

because it is important for the Councilmembers to support each other and see how the School Board functions as a unit. She added that the School Board does not always agree, but the School Board has talked about how to agree to disagree, how to respect each other, and how to get things done; because they put their children first. Councilwoman Jones stated that if something is not going to get the children academic achievement then why is it being done. Councilwoman Jones added that the Council should adopt a similar statement, saying that it's about the quality of life and putting the residents first. She stated that the Council needs to push for unity and working together as one team.

Councilwoman Jones acknowledged a Jennings youth resident who went to New York to participate in Young Entrepreneurs. She stated that the young lady came in second place. She said that it so amazing that Jennings has young authors and entrepreneurs and the City should be so proud of them.

Councilwoman Jones ended her report by thanking Mr. Willie Brandon, Contracted Recreation Department Director. She stated that she read his report from the Recreation Department and it is the most thorough report that she has ever seen.

Councilman Stichnote, started his report by thanking everyone who supported him during the election. He stated that on April 20th he and the Mayor attended the Jennings Business Watch meeting. Councilman Stichnote stated that there were over 35 people there and that is the most he has ever seen. He stated on April 19th, he worked the P.A.L. Boxing event, he only got to watch the last two rounds. Councilman Stichnote thanked Public Works for cleaning up all the litter on Hord and Blewett within forty-eight hours. He stated that the person stealing license plates has been caught. Councilman Stichnote ended his report by stating that Jennings' crime is down 12%. He stated that calls per service (sick calls) is still a little high. Sgt. Perez said, that the police try to help out the ambulance service as much as possible, but he cannot pinpoint why the sick calls are so high. Sgt. Perez gave a description of times when the police would assist with sick calls. Councilman Stichnote stated the number of burglar alarms has also increased. Sgt. Perez stated that could be related to weather, things like thunder storms, high winds, etc... Sgt. Perez said the police respond to every call, but if they can equate the burglar alarm to weather they try not to bill the resident for that call, because it is not their fault.

Councilwoman Jones stated that the yellow cages in the yards is a School District project where the School District is getting infrastructure work done, and new fiber optics from 1gb to 10gb. She stated that it will help Jennings moving forward with technology. Councilwoman Jones stated that she is aware that the School District project was not done exactly how it should have been, as far as people being notified, but she wanted to notify people what was going on.

Monthly Departmental Reports

On the motion made by Councilman R. Epps and seconded by Councilman Wilson, the council voted to approve the monthly departmental reports with the exception of the finance report, due the absence of a finance director by the following roll call vote councilmembers in favor: Stichnote, Jones, Wilson, Anderson, Roberts, R. Epps, C. Epps; councilmembers opposing Dugger, none were absent.

Councilwoman Dugger stated that she is opposing the Building Department Report.

Committee Reports

Ways and Means, Chairman Epps reviewed the meeting minutes from February 26, 2018- March 19, 2018. There was no Ways and Means meeting after March 26, 2018

Public Works, Chairwoman Anderson reported that Public Works met on April 18th. Chairwoman Anderson reviewed the minutes from the April 18th Public Works meeting.

Building Committee, Chairwoman Jones reported that there was no meeting

Parks Committee, Chairman Stichnote reported that there was a Park Committee Meeting on April 11th at 5:30. Chairman Stichnote reviewed the meeting minutes from the April 11th meeting. There will be a Public Input Hearing for Sievers Park on May 21, 2018 at 1:00 pm. The public would meet at City Hall on May 21st and go out to the park.

Municipal League Council Representative, Councilman Wilson reported that the Municipal League meeting will be on April 26, 2018 at the Maryland Heights Community Center. Councilman Wilson stated the Municipal League give a monthly legislative report. He stated that currently there are bills in Jefferson City that could affect municipalities if they are passed. Councilman Wilson stated that he will email the legislation for the council to review. He stated that the Municipal League will have training in June and he plans to attend and thinks that the rest of the Council should attend as well. Councilman Wilson stated that it is a good professional development.

Planning Commission, Councilman Stichnote reported there was no meeting, however there was a workshop for the Planning Commission to get a better understanding of how the Planning Commission works. Councilman Stichnote stated that the workshop discussed types of zoning, types of applications that should come before the Planning Commission, how to conduct a meeting, and updating the comprehensive plan for West Florissant Avenue. Councilman Stichnote stated that the next workshop will be held on May 3rd at 5 pm.

Policy Committee, Chairwoman Jones reported that the Policy Committee met April 17th at 6:30 pm. Chairwoman Jones reviewed the Policy Committee meeting minutes.

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson and seconded by Councilman R. Epps, the Council voted all in favor to approve the Park Applications as presented by Policy Committee.

Councilwoman Roberts asked if the Funeral Leave would be part of the Employee Leave Policy or is it a separate policy. Councilwoman Jones advised that the Funeral Leave Policy is separate from the Employee Leave Policy. Councilwoman Roberts asked if the Funeral Leave Policy and the Employee Leave Policy would be merged together or remain separate. Councilwoman Jones stated that she is being told by the Mayor that the two policies would remain separate.

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson and seconded by Councilman R. Epps, the Council voted all in favor to approve the Employee Leave Policy as presented by the Policy Committee.

Councilwoman Jones stated that the next meeting would be May 14, 2018.

Solid Waste Committee, Chairwoman C. Epps reported that there was no meeting.

Beautification Committee, Councilwoman Dugger reported that there was no meeting.

Mayor Austin reported that there was no Youth Commission meeting and that the Senior Commission meeting minutes are available for review in the Council's packets.

Legal Business

1. An ordinance of the City of Jennings, Missouri, adding Section 2-77 to Article III, Division 1 of the Jennings Municipal Code governing the removal and impeachment of certain appointed and elective officers and a prohibition against impeached officials running for and/or holding public office for the City of Jennings, Missouri.

Councilwoman Dugger asked who the author of the bill is. Sam Alton, City Attorney, advised that he drafted the bill, and before there is a reading there should be a motion to amend the bill by moving number two to number three and removing the last sentence under F number 2.

Councilwoman Jones made a motion to table the ordinance until closed session so that it can be discussed and reviewed further.

Councilwoman Dugger stated that her question was who the author of the bill is not who drafted the bill. Mr. Alton stated that he is not the original author of the bill, that it came from the Municipal League. Councilwoman Dugger stated that she is asking who asked for the bill to be presented to the Council. Mr. Alton stated that he received an email from the City Clerk asking that it be placed on the agenda. Councilwoman Dugger stated that the City Clerk is asking for a bill to be presented to the Council. Mr. Alton stated that is typically how he is notified that something needs to be drafted. Mayor Austin stated that Councilman Stichnote asked for the bill. Councilwoman Dugger stated that as a City, the Council needs to put the requestor of a bill before they come to the Council for whatever the State requires. Mr. Alton stated that his is unaware of any State statute that requires when a bill is presented that the bill name the sponsors of the bill. Councilwoman Dugger replied that the statute does not say that, but she is asking that it be done in Jennings. Attorney Alton responded with that is up to the Council if they would like to pass that as an ordinance. Councilwoman Roberts asked why does the Council need to review this ordinance in closed session. Councilwoman Jones replied because of all of the amendments, and there are questions about it. She stated that the bill is a legal issue and the Council should be able to discuss it as a legal issue in closed session. Councilman Wilson stated that he agrees with Councilwoman Dugger's request and asked if the Council would need to pass an ordinance to have who sponsors a bill added when presenting a bill to the Council or is that something that they would just start doing. Mr. Alton stated that his recommendation is to pass an ordinance because moving forward it would say that no bill or ordinance is valid unless the sponsor is named.

On the motion made by Councilwoman Jones and seconded by Councilman R. Epps the council voted all in favor to table the ordinance until closed session so that it can be discussed and reviewed further.

Councilwoman Dugger asked if a motion should be made to address who the sponsor is. Mr. Alton advised to discuss the bill and the sponsors in closed session.

2. An ordinance authorizing the installation of "No Parking" and/or "No Parking from Here to the Corner" signs at the intersection of Carl Avenue and West Florissant Avenue in the City of Jennings, Missouri.

First reading-on the motion made by Councilwoman C. Epps and seconded by Councilman Wilson:

Bill #2522- An ordinance authorizing the installation of "No Parking" and/or "No Parking from Here to the Corner" signs at the intersection of Carl Avenue and West Florissant Avenue in the City of Jennings, Missouri.

Second reading – on the motion made by Councilwoman Roberts and seconded by Councilwoman Jones.

The bill was approved to become Ordinance #2468 by the following roll call vote; voting in favor councilmembers Stichnote, Jones, Wilson, Dugger, Anderson, Roberts, C. Epps, R. Epps.; none opposed; none abstained

3. An ordinance authorizing the installation of "No Parking" signs on both sides of Steamboat Pass Road in the City of Jennings, Missouri.

First reading- on the motion made by Councilwoman C. Epps and seconded by Councilman Wilson:

Bill #2523- An ordinance authorizing the installation of "No Parking" signs on both sides of Steamboat Pass Road in the City of Jennings, Missouri.

Second reading- on the motion made by Councilman R. Epps and seconded by Councilman Wilson

The bill was approved to become Ordinance # 2469 by the following roll call vote; voting in favor councilmembers Stichnote, Jones, Wilson, Dugger, Anderson, Roberts, C. Epps, R. Epps.; none opposed; none abstained

Unfinished Business - None

New Business

Election of Mayor Pro-Tem:

On the motion made by C. Epps and seconded by Councilman Wilson, the council voted all in favor to elect Councilman Rodney Epps as Mayor Pro-Tem.

Committee Appointments:

Mayor Austin reviewed the committee appointments and Council Representatives. On a motion made by Councilwoman C. Epps and seconded by Councilman R. Epps, the Council approved the appointment of Councilman Allan Stichnote to be the Council representative on the Planning Commission.

Approval of the Senior Commission Appointment:

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson and seconded by Councilwoman C. Epps, the council voted all in favor of appointing Carol Weusthoff to the Senior Commission.

Approval of the Planning Commission Appointment:

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson and seconded by Councilwoman C. Epps, the council voted all in favor of appointing Rodney Patrick, to the Planning Commission, with a term to expire April 2022.

Approval of Deletra Hudson, City Clerk to the Community Improvement District Board:

Councilwoman Dugger asked what the Community Improvement District Board is. Mayor Austin advised that the Community Improvement District Board is the business district on the south end near the White Castle (by Interstate 70 and Jennings Station Road). Mayor Austin stated that the Community Improvement District Board need a member from the City to represent the City of Jennings. Mayor Austin added that Rise' Johnson was on the board (prior to her passing away in January of 2018), but the Community Improvement District Board had one open seat.

On the motion made by Councilwoman Jones and seconded by Councilwoman C. Epps the council voted all in favor of appointing Deletra Hudson to the Community Improvement District Board.

Councilwoman Dugger asked if the city contracts can be reviewed, and which city contracts may be coming due? She also asked about the businesses delinquent on taxes. Councilwoman Dugger stated that there is a list in the finance department.

Approval of monthly bills for payment:

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson and seconded by Councilwoman C. Epps the council voted all in favor of approving payment of the monthly bills.

Approval of Temporary Administrative Assistant form a temporary agency for the Recreation Center:

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson seconded by Councilman R. Epps the council voted all in favor of approving use of a temporary administrative assistant at the Recreation Center from a temporary agency.

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

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilman R. Epps, the City Council voted to approve the motion for closed session legal, and personnel (RSMO 610:021-1, 3) by roll call vote of the following councilmembers: Stichnote, Jones, Wilson, Dugger, Anderson, Roberts, E. Epps; C. Epps present but not voting; none absent or abstaining.

Mayors Report

Mayor Austin announced that the May Council meeting will be held on May 21, 2018 at 7:00 pm due to Memorial Day. On April 26, 2018 there will be a Special Council Meeting at 6:00 pm. She thanked all of the department heads for their fine work last month. Mayor Austin stated that she did enjoy the P.A.L. Boxing event. She advised that on April 20, 2018 the Youth Commission had a Craft Night at the Civic Center that was well attended. Mayor Austin continued saying that on April 21, 2018, she participated in the book signing for Mikey at Gary Gore. She thanked the Senior Commission that helped with registration and whatever else was needed. Mayor Austin stated that Mr. Bandon had someone working a table at the book signing, representing the City. She went on to agree with Councilman Stichnote that the Business Watch Meeting was well attended. Mayor Austin stated that she thinks that is because she and Sgt. Perez went out knocking on doors to make sure that the Business Watch Meeting was well attended, and it was. Mayor Austin stated that at the last meeting they mentioned a Drug hot-line and the flyers are out. If anyone sees any drug activity, please call the hot-line. Mayor Austin said to continue to visit the City's website at www.cityoffennings.org or leave contact information with the City Clerk for email or phone updates. Mayor Austin ended her report stating that when the auditor was going over the finances she noticed that for some years there was money that was left in a TIF account. The auditor advised that the money should be distributed because that TIF fund as over. Mayor Austin advised that the School District received \$172,366.28 from that fund. She read an email from the Superintendent of the Jennings School District, Dr. McCoy, which thanked the City and advised what the School District planned to do with the \$172,366.28

Councilwoman Dugger asked Mayor Austin if the policy for the Mayor Pro Tem is being changed. The Mayor and the Council advised Councilwoman Dugger that the Mayor Pro Tem was voted on and passed.

Closed Session:

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

After a brief recess, the City Council members were all present and met in closed session. Also present were the Interim City Attorney, Sam Alton, City Clerk, Deletra Hudson, and Deputy City Clerk, Kareen McNeal.

The following actions were taken:

PERSONNEL

On a motion made by Councilwoman C. Epps and seconded by Councilman R. Epps the council voted in favor of hiring Celeste Metcalf as the Finance Director pending pre-employment screening. Laura Estes was approved as an alternate by the following roll call vote: voting in favor councilmembers Stichnote, Jones, Wilson, Dugger, Anderson, Roberts, R. Epps, C. Epps; none opposed; none absent.

On a motion made by Councilwoman C. Epps and seconded by Councilman R. Epps the council voted in favor of hiring James Stubits, as the part-time Bus Driver pending pre-employment screening by the following roll call vote: voting in favor councilmembers Stichnote, Jones, Wilson, Dugger, Anderson, Roberts, R. Epps, C. Epps; none opposed; none absent.

On the motion made by Councilwoman Jones and seconded by Councilman R. Epps, the council voted in favor of adjourning at 10:17 pm on April 23, 2018.

Attest: Kareen McNeal
Kareen McNeal, Deputy City Clerk

Yolanda Austin
Mayor, Yolanda Austin

