

The two thousand three hundred fifty fifth meeting of the Jennings City Council was held on Monday, January 9, 2017 at 7: p.m. at City Hall. Present were Mayor Pro Tem Dugger, and councilmembers Allan Stichnote, Miranda Jones, Yolonda Fortson, Phyllis Anderson, Nicole Cook, Rodney Epps and Carol Epps. Also present were City Attorney Carla Allen and City Clerk Cheryl Balke.

The agenda was approved on a motion by Councilwoman Jones, second by Councilman Epps. The minutes of the previous meetings of December 19, 2017, December 29, 2016 and January 4, 2017 were approved on a motion by Councilwoman Jones, second by Councilwoman Anderson.

Under councilmembers reports, Councilwoman Jones wished everyone a happy new year and stated that she would be leaving early for a school board meeting regarding changes to the law that will affect the schools.

Councilman Stichnote noted that this was City Clerk Cheryl Balke's last meeting after 24 years as City Clerk. He also reported that, at the January 23rd meeting, a plaque would be presented in memory of Jennings Police Sgt. Kenneth Koeller, who was killed in the line of duty in January, 1987.

Councilwoman Fortson said that she hoped everyone had a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Councilwoman Anderson reported that she was working to help students find jobs, and asked residents to let her know if they knew of jobs that would be available for students. She also thanked Cheryl Balke and said she would be missed.

Councilman Epps thanked Cheryl Balke for her service and help, and said she would be surely and sorely missed.

Councilwoman Dugger said that she was happy to see the progress being made at River Roads in the second phase of the senior apartments. For the Mayor's report, she spoke about the Clergy Coalition, a group of local clergy who are getting together with her and compiling a list of all the services offered by each church. The list will also include other service providers, and will be available at City Hall.

Reporting for their committees, Mayor Pro Tem Dugger reported that Ways and means had met earlier in the evening and that they were meeting weekly with the department heads to discuss the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. She noted that the committee also voted to recommend two budget transfers. A budget amendment to move \$1,636 from 950-45-01 (training) to 804-45-01 (commissary) was approved on a motion by Councilwoman Jones, second by Councilwoman Fortson. A budget amendment to increase the meal line item (805-45-01) by \$35,000 from the general revenue fund was approved on a motion by Councilwoman Jones, second by Councilman Epps.

For the Municipal League, Councilwoman Fortson noted that there would be a meeting on January 12th and several training opportunities coming up.

For the Policy Committee, Councilwoman Fortson reported that they will meet soon. Councilwoman Epps also reported that the Solid Waste Committee would meet at 6:30 on Wednesday, January 11th.

Next were public comments. Allan McDonnell of 9314 Scottdale thanked Cheryl Balke and said she would be missed. He cautioned the councilmembers about comments that sound like they are campaigning during the council meeting. He also asked why the city continued to hold two meetings per month even if there is nothing on the agenda. Getting no answer, he asked again and Councilmembers Stichnote and Epps stated that they did not vote in favor of two meetings per month. He asked Mayor Pro Tem Dugger to answer, and she declined. Councilwoman Anderson stated that, because she was a new councilperson and still learning, she thought it helped her to have two meetings a month.

Robert Cotton of 7119 Garesche asked for a moment of silence for the police officers who lost their life earlier that day. He also thanked the city for their response to his complaint about a cleanup on Garesche.

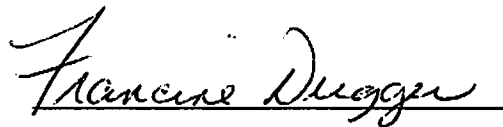
There was no legal, unfinished or new business so Mayor Pro Tem Dugger made her report, thanking Cheryl Balke for her service and presenting her with flowers.

On a motion by Councilwoman Anderson, second by Councilman Epps, a closed session for personnel and legal matters (RSMO 610:021, 1 and 3) was called and approved by the following roll call vote: voting in favor were Councilmembers Stichnote, Jones, Dugger, Fortson, Anderson, Cook, R. Epps and C. Epps; no one voting against or abstaining.

In closed session, the council interviewed another candidate to fill in temporarily for the City Clerk. After discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Anderson, second by Councilman Epps, to offer the position to Deletra Hudson at \$30 per hour, either as an employee or a contractor. This was approved by the following roll call vote: voting in favor were Councilmembers Stichnote, Jones, Dugger, Fortson, Anderson, Cook, R. Epps and C. Epps; no one voting against or abstaining.

On a motion by Councilman Epps, second by Councilwoman Fortson, the council agreed to designate 5 % of a \$30,889 settlement of a class action suit to the Municipal League toward the costs of defending against the lawsuit. This was approved by the following roll call vote: voting in favor were Councilmembers Stichnote, Jones, Dugger, Fortson, Anderson, Cook, R. Epps and C. Epps; no one voting against or abstaining.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Councilwoman Fortson, second by Councilwoman Anderson.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Francine Dugger", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor Pro Tem Francine Dugger

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Cheryl Balke", written over a horizontal line.

Cheryl Balke, City Clerk