

**JENNINGS CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**October 11, 2016**  
**7:00pm**

The Two Thousand Three Hundred Forty Ninth meeting was brought to order by Mayor Francine Dugger. Roll call was as follows: Councilman Stichnote, Councilwoman Jones, Councilwoman Dugger, Councilwoman Fortson, Councilwoman Anderson, Councilwoman Cook, Councilman Epps - absent, and Councilwoman Epps - absent.

Mayor Dugger asked for a moment of silence for Officer Blake Snyder of the St. Louis Co. Police Dept.

A motion was made to approve the agenda by Councilwoman Fortson and seconded by Councilwoman Jones. All in favor with no one opposed. Councilman Epps – absent, Councilwoman Epps – absent

No minutes were prepared for approval.

Councilman Stichnote began the council reports by stating that he attended the grand opening of Trojan Park on the corner of Etzel at the corner of and Skinker. He suggested that everyone go by and look at it. He elaborated on the basketball court and how beautiful it is. His hope is someday the city can do it.

Councilwoman Jones began her report and mentioned Trojan Park and that she asked Councilman Stichnote to go and view the park because of so many elements that can be included in our parks. She also mentioned the park was named after the former Wellston High School Mascot a lot of corporate sponsors participated in building the park. She further stated that area is also a part of the promise zone. She closed by thanking the residents for attending the meeting.

Mayor Dugger allowed Councilwoman Fortson to give the report to represent Ward II. Councilwoman Fortson expressed her participation in voter registration drives and registering senior at Jennings and Soldan high school. She also met with Chantel Williams and the Forest Park Pharmacy who will give a presentation at tonight's meeting. Councilwoman Fortson mentioned that along with Councilman Stichnote they are still addressing the issues at the Food Pantry. They believe that the next alternative for the pantry is to only allow the residents from the 63136 area code to participate. She also spoke on being in attendance at the grand opening of Trojan Park.

Councilwoman Anderson began the Ward III comments with stating that along with Councilwoman Fortson have been monitoring the progress on the stop sign at Xograph and Hord.

Councilwoman Cook stated that she had been working on canvassing the neighborhood and handing out flyers for the upcoming meeting for Ward II on October 27, 2016 at City Hall.

The mayor began her report by mentioning that the departmental reports will be prepared for the second council meeting. She further stated that the grass cutting is a major issue and the City is trying to fix. There are no excuses but the process that was chosen didn't work out and the remedy to fix it will be addressed later in tonight's meeting. Further, the mayor stated the budget process will begin shortly and the goal is to spend tax dollars wisely. She also commented on the properties that were purchased and the responsibility the city has in maintain those properties. She mentioned that the properties were purchased by the city in order to go forward and to correct things that were done in the past therefore improving the city's credit rating. The mayor said she has been in contact with the owner of River Roads and getting the site ready to begin Phase II. He also told the mayor about some other interest including businesses coming into that area. Further, the mayor and the Econ Dev Director met with the owner of Buzz Westfall who came into town just to talk about the ideas associated the Buzz Westfall Plaza. She also

commented with stating that having the line of communication open with those owners lets them know that the city deserves some things and expects the best and they are willing to give it to us. In closing, she mentioned the ward II Shredding event on October 22, 2016 from 10:00 am – 1:00pm.

Next, were committee reports starting with Ways and Means. Councilwoman Dugger told the council that the committee has recommendation to the council. The first recommendation is to change the city cell phone carrier to Verizon specifically because of dropped calls and the issues with the Building Dept. Inspector's table with Sprint. Councilman Stichnote mentioned the bid for AT&T is cheaper so why not chose them. The mayor responded with AT&T wanted to lock us into a two year contract and we would have to buy our own phones. Verizon is replacing the phones free and will pick up any early termination fees from Sprint. Councilwoman Fortson made the motion to accept the bid from Verizon wireless and Councilwoman Jones seconded. All in favor and none opposed. Councilman Epps – absent, Councilwoman Epps – absent

The next recommendation is for the City Network Server and the emergency purchase needed to purchase the server that has crashed a couple of times already. The recommendation is to go with the Dell server that will be purchased directly from Dell. Councilwoman Jones made the motion to accept the bid to purchase the Dell Server and Councilwoman Fortson seconded it. All in favor no one opposed. Councilman Epps – absent, Councilwoman Epps – absent

The next recommendation is the bid for the grass cutting process and the equipment needed to maintain the grass cutting for the city. Due to the unsatisfactory work performed by the current grass cutting company. Councilwoman Anderson made the motion to accept the bid to bring the grass cutting process in house to Public Works. Councilwoman Jones seconded it. All in favor, no one opposed. Councilman Epps – absent, Councilwoman Epps – absent. Councilwoman Jones had a statement of clarity for the council about the recommendation. She explained there were a lot of comments and questions by Ways and Means about the process including how many houses would get cut. She expressed that an estimate was given that ten to twelve properties could be cut per day, per crew of four employees. That would total about 40 properties with the exceptions of properties that required debris clean up. She also expressed that they discussed crews going in and cleaning the debris prior to the cutting season to keep the cutting process flowing. Councilwoman Fortson asked if the retardant would still be used and applied by the city. Bill, the Director of Public Works, responded stating that it would still be done. The mayor stated that the amount of employees working the issues on the "streets" would not be affected but temporary employees would be hired for grass cutting process. A question by Councilman Stichnote was raised. He asked who will be supervising the crews and the mayor stated that Public Works will supervise the crew like it was in the past.

Next, the mayor addressed the committee and asked if they would schedule their meeting prior to the day of council which is reserved for Ways and Means. There were no reports or meetings from Public Works, Building, Parks Committee had no meeting but Councilwoman Jones mentioned that Lions Park is closed due to raw sewage at the park. Mayor Dugger urged the residents to stay out of the park until the Dept. of Natural Resources contacts the city about the situation. The Municipal League and the Plan Commission had no meetings.

The public comments began with Allen McDonnell, of 9314 Scottdale, who thanked the council for having two meetings a month. He also talked about the audit and the deficiencies and the approval of the budget after the fiscal year. He commented on the meeting starting late and the next meeting better start on time.

Robert Cotton of 7119 Garesche spoke on the pantry at the Urban League in comparing it to the way the good News Bapt. Church food pantry. He then talked about the grass cutting at 7037 Garesche and why the property still hasn't been cut. He also mentioned the photos and his desire to see them put back up.

Charlotta Williams of 1815 Grape spoke on trash concerns and the desire to know the contact person for the city.

Next Chantel Williams with Forest Park Pharmacy spoke on a free pharmacy service for any age participation. They will deliver the prescription free of charge to the participant. The Seniors are the ones who normally taking advantage of the free service. Councilwoman Fortson asked her to explain the pricing and she stated that the price of the prescription will remain the same and the delivery service free.

The unfinished business with the St. Louis Co. board of elections was presented and the mayor asked the council if they would like to go forward with the offer. The City Attorney spoke and said that unless there were previous issues with filing she doesn't see the benefit to send candidates further out.

**Ordinance authorizing the purchase of property at 8716 Jennings Station Road: Bill# 2474, Ordinance# 2422** first reading – Councilwoman Cook, and seconded by Councilwoman Fortson. Second reading – Councilman Fortson, Seconded by Councilwoman Cook. Roll call: Councilman Stichnote – yes, Councilwoman Jones – yes, Councilwoman Fortson – yes, Councilwoman Dugger – yes, Councilwoman Anderson - yes, Councilwoman – Cook – yes, Councilman Epps – absent, Councilwoman Epps – absent

**Ordinance authorizing the purchasing of the property at 8730 Jennings Station Road: Bill# 2475, Ordinance# 2424**(see below for correct ordinance number) first reading – Councilwoman Jones, and seconded by Councilwoman Fortson. Second reading – Councilman Fortson, Seconded by Councilwoman Jones. Roll call: Councilman Stichnote – yes, Councilwoman Jones – yes, Councilwoman Fortson – yes, Councilwoman Dugger – yes, Councilwoman Anderson - yes, Councilwoman – Cook – yes, Councilman Epps – absent, Councilwoman Epps – absent

New business was to appoint a representative to Lagers. Motion was made by Councilman Stichnote and seconded by Councilwoman Jones to appoint Rise' Johnson, Finance Director, as the council delegate to Lagers. All in favor and none opposed. Councilman Epps – absent, Councilwoman Epps – absent

A motion for closed session (RSMO 610:021– 3) was made by Councilwoman Fortson and seconded by Councilwoman Anderson at 9:10pm. Roll call: Roll call: Councilman Stichnote – yes, Councilwoman Jones – yes, Councilwoman Fortson – yes, Councilwoman Dugger – yes, Councilwoman Anderson - yes, Councilwoman Cook – yes, Councilman Epps – absent, Councilwoman Epps – absent

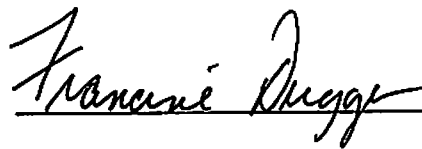
The mayor closed the meeting for Closed Session (RSMO 610:021– 3).

The council reconvened to correct an ordinance number for 8730 Jennings Station Road that was used out of sequence. **Ordinance authorizing the approval of purchasing the property at 8730 Jennings Station Road:** Should read as: Bill# 2475, Ordinance# 2423

The mayor closed the meeting for Closed Session (RSMO 610:021– 3).

The council met in a closed session for (RSMO 610:021– 3) for personal concerns. On a motion made by Councilwoman Jones and Seconded by Councilwoman Fortson, the council voted to hire Alona Hubbard for the City Hall receptionist position. Roll call: Roll call: Councilman Stichnote – yes, Councilwoman Jones – yes, Councilwoman Fortson – yes, Councilwoman Dugger – yes, Councilwoman Anderson - yes, Councilwoman Cook – yes, Councilman Epps – absent, Councilwoman Epps – absent.

Next, a motion was made by Councilwoman Jones to place a ninety day probationary period on all employees hired by the city in the future. Roll call: Roll call: Councilman Stichnote – yes, Councilwoman Jones – yes, Councilwoman Fortson – yes, Councilwoman Dugger – yes, Councilwoman Anderson - yes, Councilwoman Cook – yes, Councilman Epps – absent, Councilwoman Epps – absent.



Mayor Francine Dugger

ATTEST:



Finance Director/ Deputy City Clerk