

JENNINGS CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Meeting Minutes
October 24, 2016
7:00pm

The Two Thousand Three Hundred Fiftieth 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 - absent, Councilman Epps, and Councilwoman Epps - absent.

A motion was made to approve the agenda by Councilwomen Jones and seconded by Councilwoman Fortson. All in favor with no one opposed.

A motion was made to approve the minutes by Councilwoman Anderson and seconded by Councilwoman Fortson. All in favor with no one opposed

Councilman Epps began the council reports stating the Alternative School on West Florissant has joined the "WE" initiative. The "WE" Initiative is a group of young people all over the world who are trying to improve the world by giving back to their community. Councilman Epps said that they visited the Barbershop during their last clean up and he along with Councilwomen Epps provided refreshments, gloves and supplies for them. He also stated that the "WE" Initiative from Chicago came to mentor the group. He closed by thanking the residents for being in attendance.

Councilwoman Anderson began stating that the ward III Clean up will be on Saturday, November 4, 2016 from 9:00 am – 12:00pm. She announced the stop sign will be place at Hord and Xograph which will slow down the traffic. She thanked everyone who contributed to the event.

Councilman Stichnote started his comments with a question to the mayor asking her about employees being told that they could not talk to council. The mayor responded that she didn't say that but she would not answer any questions about an employee on the floor. He also let everyone know that crime is down by seven percent from August to September 2016.

Councilwoman Jones began her report and thanked the firemen for the social. She has also been working on a "Ground Zero" Initiative through Better Family life with the purpose to attack crime in the surrounding areas. Better Family Life is expanding the current facility on West Florissant and they have a food pantry along with other outreach programs like utility assistance for the 63135 and 63136 zip codes. If anyone is interested in any of the programming please feel free to contact her. She closed by mentioning she missed homecoming due to illness but it was reported to her that it was a great turn out.

Councilwoman Fortson started her report expressing her experience at the class reunion and stating it was a lot of fun. She thanked Officer Naughton and Office Voss, St. Louis Co Police and their military academy, her son and his friend for their participation in the ward II cleanup. It was approximately twenty in attendance. She also thanked Robert Cotton for cooking the food. In closing she mentioned that on Saturday, November 12, 2016 from 10:00am to 1:00pm there will be a City Wide Shredding Day.

Mayor Dugger combined her Council report and her Mayor's report and thanked Councilwoman Fortson for the heading the ward II cleaning up. Further, she mentioned that she visited residents in the ward and addressed their concerns. Next, she asked the council members who chair committees to begin their committee meetings soon. She thanked the firemen for the social and their creativity in the way that it was done. The mayor mentioned the Audit report and the conversations with the Director's in contacting the audit firm on the recommendation on how to correct the issues. She was happy to report that most of the Director's are already on track with the recommendation from the audit firm. The goal is when we get the audit report for next year those issues that have been plaguing the city for years will no longer appear on the audit report.

The mayor told the council that because of the holidays the dates for council meetings will be November 21, 2016 and December 19, 2016 for council meetings. The Ways and Means committee will meet every Monday from November 21, 2016 thru December 19, 2016 excluding November 28, 2016. She mentioned the City Wide Shredding event and opened it up to the entire city. She asked the other wards to pay for the project through the ward funds. Councilman Stichnote asked if electronics could be added and the mayor said this event has already been set up for a shredding event and he could initiate one at a different time. A motion was made by Councilwoman Anderson for the council to pay \$200 from each ward to have the City Wide Shredding event, seconded by Councilwoman Jones. All in favor and none opposed. Councilman Epps asked if the price would change and the mayor said no the price is set in the contract when Councilwoman Fortson called around to get the best price. The mayor informed the council that the Phase II Project is beginning and the possibility of 250 single family homes being built on that property. She stated that the developers have already been in talks with Taylor Morley about the development. She closed her comments by thanking the council and employees for completing the Health Insurance applications and Daniel and Henry is planning on coming before the council at a later date to express their results of shopping it around.

Councilwoman Jones asked the mayor if she could add something to her report. She wanted to tell everyone that Target is going to be auctioning off everything soon.

In discussing the Departmental reports, Councilwoman Jones asked if the grocery store had backed out of the plan to build here in Jennings but the mayor expressed that they are still building. The national chain is redesigning their stores and halting new stores developments until that design is complete. Councilman Epps mentioned that he noticed Corrections was \$300,000 higher than a year ago in revenue and he wanted to know if that was an accurate figure or a mistake.

Committee reports began with the mayor stating that Ways and Means will start the budget season and that was a recommendation from the auditor that the budget was approved late. The tech team has pulled together some technology to streamline that process to make the budget process better.

Councilwoman Fortson said the Public Works Committee didn't have a meeting but they are going to try to schedule a meeting in December.

No report from the Building Committee because the chairmen Councilwoman Cook is absent.

Mayor mentioned that there should be a Solid Waste Committee under the "Reports of Committees". She asked Councilman Epps to if he would tell Councilwoman Epps about the upcoming Trash Contract.

Councilwoman Jones said the Park Committee didn't have a meeting.

Councilwoman Fortson said the Municipal League didn't have a meeting. The mayor urged the Director's to attend the meeting if they desired and informed everyone that the next meeting is October 27, 2016.

The Public comments began with Mr. Henry Robinson of 7355 Jenwood Ave. proud owner of ward III commenting on an unlicensed mechanics shop on the 7300 block of Jenwood. The Police department and City hall have responded to the issue but they continue bringing in new cars. They are hoping something can be done and the owner is a renter and not an owner. Councilman Epps mentioned couldn't STS tow them and the mayor mentioned the police are towing them. She mentioned that Kim Smith will address the issue and take care of it because it is a problem with the owner of the property.

Mr. Herbert McKinney of 7353 Jenwood Ave. was there in support of the mechanic shop issue. He stated that they needed help solving the issue.

Charlotta Williams of 1815 Grape spoke on the trash issue and she spoke with the trash company and Henry Johnson about the issue but it was resolved. She was hoping that when the contract comes up for bid is some of the seniors could be a part of it. She then spoke on the "Core" program at the civic center and wanted to know why that representative was no longer there.

Percillia Jones of 5516 Janet, spoke on Mr. and Mrs. Austin's event was outstanding. She said a lot of businesses, and representatives from all the wards were present. She stated that the food was great and the Capt. and St. Louis Co were also there. Further, she stated that its about what you do in the community weather you are in office or not and Mrs. Austin also has a Food Pantry.

Allen McDonnell of 9314 Scottdale Ave. commented on the issue with that Allen Stichnote referred to on city employees talking with the elected officials. He said you can't tell an employee that they can't talk to a council member who is over a committee that is associated with that employee. He also said that he would be willing to help Allen Stichnote file a claim with the Ethics Commission about the issue.

Yolanda Austin of 2483 Alexandria, spoke on her organization having information for anyone 18 to 24 years old looking for employment. They are taking applications for Toys for Tots until this Friday October 28, 2016. They are also starting their can food drive along with toys and gifts and can be dropped off at 6614 West Florissant.

Legal Department:

Ordinance Authorizing the approval and execution of the MODOT Capital Assistance Grant Bill# 2476, Ordinance# 2424 First reading – Councilwoman Dugger, seconded by Councilwoman Fortson. **Second reading** – Councilwoman Fortson, seconded by Councilman Epps. Roll call: Councilman Stichnote – yes, Councilwoman Jones – yes, Councilwoman Fortson – yes, Councilwoman Dugger – yes, Councilwoman Anderson - yes, Councilwoman Cook – absent, Councilman Epps – yes, Councilwoman Epps – absent

Ordinances Authorizing the approval and purchase of multiple Real Properties situated within the City of Jennings Bill# 2477, Ordinance# 2425 First reading – Councilwoman Dugger, seconded by Councilman Epps. Councilman Stichnote had a question regarding the amount of money the city would have to pay for the properties. City attorney responded with \$900. **Second reading** – Councilwoman Fortson, seconded by Councilman Epps. Roll call: Councilman Stichnote – yes, Councilwoman Jones – yes, Councilwoman Fortson – yes, Councilwoman Dugger – yes, Councilwoman Anderson - yes, Councilwoman Cook – absent, Councilman Epps – yes, Councilwoman Epps – absent

Authorizing the approval of the placement of a Stop Sign at the intersection of Hord and Xograph Bill# 2478, Ordinance# 2426 First reading – Councilwoman Dugger, seconded by Councilman Epps. **Second reading** – Councilwoman Fortson, seconded by Councilman Epps. Roll call: Councilman Stichnote – yes, Councilwoman Jones – yes, Councilwoman Fortson – yes, Councilwoman Dugger – yes, Councilwoman Anderson - yes, Councilwoman Cook – absent, Councilman Epps – yes, Councilwoman Epps – absent

New business: A motion to reappoint Precillia Jones to the Board of Adjustment for a five year term was made by Councilwoman Jones, seconded by Councilman Stichnote. All in favor and none opposed.

A motion was made to except the bid from Messenger Printing to publish the Jennings News by Councilman Epps , seconded by Councilwoman Jones. All in favor none opposed.

A motion was made to approve the payment of the bills by Councilwoman Fortson, seconded by Councilwoman Jones. All in favor and none opposed.

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

The mayor thanked the residents for coming out and asked for them to invite others to come out. She thanked St. L Co. for the Active Shooter Training and stated how important it was right now.

In closed session a motion was made to hire Officer Willaby for the Corrections Dept by Councilwoman Jones and seconded by Councilwoman Fortson. All were in favor and none opposed. A motion was made to hire Officer Geasley as Sergeant for the Corrections Dept by Councilman Epps and seconded by Councilwoman Stichnote. Roll Call: Councilman Stichnote – yes, Councilwoman Jones – yes, Councilwoman Fortson – yes, Councilwoman Dugger – yes, Councilwoman Anderson - no, Councilwoman Cook – absent, Councilman Epps – yes, Councilwoman Epps – absent

A motion was made to hire Lolita Thomas as the City Hall Receptionist by COUNCILWOMAN Jones and seconded by Councilwoman Fortson. All in favor and none opposed.

Motion was made to adjourn closed session by Councilwoman Fortson and seconded by Councilwoman Anderson. All in favor and none opposed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Francine Dugger", is written over a horizontal line.

Mayor Francine Dugger

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink is written over a horizontal line.

Finance Director/ Deputy City Clerk