

Minutes of the City Council Meeting
Jennings City Hall
July 24, 2017 - 7:00 pm

The two thousand three hundred sixty-fifth meeting of the Jennings City Council was held on Monday, July 24, 2017 at 7 p.m. at Jennings City Hall.

Public Hearings:

Solicit public input for the construction of a basketball court, bridge, and pavilion in Koeneman Park

Ken Keitel, Terrespac Land and Park Planners, informed the public that the purpose of the hearing was to make a presentation on the improvements of Koeneman Park. This will be phase seven of improvements that started in 2000. Over the years, amenities have been slowly added to the park. He explained that a basketball court is planned to be added. The court will be placed over a portion of the existing parking lot. There are also plans to add a mid-size pavilion, in addition to the existing one, and add a bridge to the island by improving the existing bridge. A 10 foot wide bridge is planned to be constructed over the existing bridge. Ken directed the public's attention to a display with an aerial pictures of the existing park.

A 30 x 64 pavilion will be placed Ken said, at the north end of the lake. He pointed out the proposed rendition of the pavilion with the architecture details and two tone columns with decorations. The pavilion is expected to seat 16-20 picnic tables. He also pointed out a sketch of the island and of a fishing bridge that will go back to the new proposed pavilion.

Ken explained that this is the second and final public input session for this phase of construction. He encouraged the public to give input on additions or deletions to the proposed plans before the plans are submitted to the Grant Commission at the end of August.

Ken asked for questions and comments.

Public Input/Questions:

Q1: Councilman Epps inquired about the timeframe of the start and finish of construction.

A1: Ken could not address the concerns due to the fact that the City has not been awarded the grant. Ken explained the purpose of the hearings is to put together a preliminary plan and cost estimate to prepare a grant application to submit to St. Louis County Municipal Parks Grant Committee. He explained the committee will review the proposal in November and the City will know whether there will be a grant award. If the grant is awarded, paperwork will not be completed until around February, then the city can enter into a construction contracts to start work in the next spring, summer & fall.

Q2: Councilman Epps asked if the grant is not received, is it possible to apply for the grant again next year?

A2: Ken responded with that being a possibility to apply next year. He added that the City could pay for the project out of its own funds, which he didn't think the City would do. Ken explained there is no guarantee of being awarded the grant because grant funds are tight. He said the City was awarded a grant in round 16. He doesn't believe there was an application in round 17. This period is round 18. The City gets extra points if they do not receive the grant every year.

Ken said he was hopeful the City would receive the grant. Councilman Epps shared in his hopefulness and said the basketball court should have been included in the original construction when the City spent over \$3 million on the project.

Mayor Austin asked Ken to explain more about the bridge that is proposed to be constructed. Ken explained that there was originally an island on the lake for the maintenance. The maintenance crew was having to get in a boat to get to the island to perform any maintenance. About 5 years ago, the City built an 8 ft. wide connection to the island to get maintenance

equipment to the island. The proposal is to remove the land island and build the bridge or build the floating bridge over the land island.

Mayor Austin asked the public if there were any additional comments about the construction of the basketball court, the bridge and the pavilion in Koenenman Park.

Q3: Citizen- Will the bridge be made of wood or concrete?

A3: Ken responded that the bridge would be made of wood with steel beam supports. Similar to the bridges by the waterfall.

Q4: Citizen - What is the total cost?

A4: Ken responded that the grant amount varies per population. The City's grant amount is about \$380,000- \$400,000. The application is based upon points. The City needs to contribute at least 5% to get 1 point. Ken explained that in the past, the City has contributed more than 5%. However, you don't get more points for contributing more. If you have a phase that is \$750,000 and you only receive \$400,000, you would have to contribute more.

There was more discussion from the citizens.

Ken explained that the City had requirements from the Metropolitan Sewer District for storm water runoff. He said there are a lot of things that have been built over the years that haven't been taking into consideration the run offs. So some of the grant money will have to pay for putting in rain gardens to protect the run off that goes to the lake, which is a MSD requirement. The City can't move forward with any more development (at the park) until that is resolved.

Q5: Citizen questioned MSD requirements

A5: Ken responded with if there is no more construction, then no requirement would need to be met. It was built without MSD's knowledge. But if you want to do something else it has to be brought up to MSD code.

Councilwoman Jones asked Ken and Councilman Stichnote, Parks Committee Chair, to explain the Park Tax Fund because there is money that doesn't have to come out of the General Operating budget that can be spent on the park projects.

Councilman Stichnote said there is an average of \$25,000 – \$30,000 monthly that comes into the City for Park Sales Tax. Currently, Lions Park is owed \$325,000 from the grant that will go back to the Park fund.

Mayor Austin asked if there were any additional questions. - No response.

Mayor Austin asked if there was anyone against the construction of the basketball court, bridge and pavilion in Koenenman Park. – No response

The public input hearing was closed at 7:15 p.m.

Request for the installation of two (2) stop signs at the intersection of College Avenue and Garesche Avenue

Councilwoman Julia Roberts reported to the public that College and Garesche has a three way intersection with only one stop sign. She said she requested St. Louis County Police Department complete a study due to safety concerns expressed by residents.

The study revealed Beulah opens the area up for more incoming traffic to enter onto College Avenue, which makes the area more accessible to through traffic. This, in turn, has created more vehicle traffic near the intersection of College and Garesche. The findings of the study included that there were no sidewalks for the pedestrian traffic in the area of College and Garesche. The stop signs would slow down the traffic in the area. In conclusion, it was found that two additional stop signs on College at the intersection of Garesche were recommended.

Q1: Councilman Epps asked for confirmation that the police records stated that the City needed stop signs at the intersection.

A1: Councilwoman Roberts confirmed that the report was from the St. Louis County Police Dept., who recommended the stop signs.

Q2: Councilman Epps asked if the council would be voting on the additional stop signs at the Council meeting.

A2: Councilwoman Roberts stated yes.

Mayor Austin asked the public if there were any questions about the installation of the stop signs at the intersection of College and Garasche.

Q3: Citizen Robert Cotton stated that going southbound on College, as you get to Garesche, should have a stop sign. But going northbound on College, there is a blind hill. If someone is stopped at the sign, there is a chance that someone will get rear ended from a car going too fast over the hill. He didn't think the northbound stop sign should be placed at the intersection. He is referring to the side of the street where the old Fairview Baptist Church sits. He said he was familiar with the area because he lives on Garesche and drives the area frequently.

Mayor Austin asked if there were any additional comments for or against the two stop signs at College and Garesche. There were no responses.

Public hearing was concluded at 7:20 p.m.

Meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING:

ROLL CALL

Present:

Mayor Yolanda Austin
Councilman Allan Stichnote
Councilwoman Miranda Jones
Councilwoman Phyllis Anderson

Councilwoman Julia Roberts
Councilman Rodney Epps
Councilwoman Carol Epps

Also present: City Attorney, Carla Allen-Hughes, and City Clerk, Deletra Hudson

Arriving after the roll call: Councilman Terry Wilson; Absent: Councilwoman Francine Dugger

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On the motion made by Councilman R. Epps, second by Councilwoman Jones, the City Council voted in favor to approve the agenda for July 24, 2017.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING OF June 26, 2017

On the motion made by Councilwoman Jones, second by Councilman R. Epps, the City Council voted in favor to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of June 26, 2017.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONERS, REMONSTRATIONS, COMPLAINTS AND REQUESTS:

A. Presentation from St. Louis County Police Department – Employee Recognition

Acting Commander Jim Schrand, presented two awards for the Officers of the Month for May and June. The officer of the Month for June, Officer Preston Marquart, was not present due to working his shift.

Mike Cavanaugh was selected as Officer of the Month for May. Officer Cavanaugh has been a St. Louis County Police for nine years. He has been assigned to Jennings for one and half years. During the month of May, he made 30 arrest and summons, including 6 felony arrest. He is a main field training instructor and crisis intervention team officer who deals with people who are in mental health crisis.

B. Presentation from Department Heads – Citizen Recognition

Mayor Austin asked Steve from STS Towing to join her at the podium for a citizen recognition for Jerry Barban. Mayor Austin presented Mr. Jerry Barban with a certificate of recognition for Jerry being a lifelong resident of Jennings and 40 year employee with STS Towing who demonstrated outstanding citizenship, acts of honesty, and good judgment when he found and surrendered \$4700 in cash while performing his duties at STS.

Steve, owner of STS Towing, also recognized Jerry. He told the story of the locked vehicle being towed from Riverview. The vehicle was not inventoried by the police, therefore they (STS) didn't know the vehicle had any money in it. They found out later that Family Dollar Store was missing money from December 17, 2016. STS towed the car in April 2017. It was a month ago when STS opened the car, Jerry looked in the glove box searching for an owner's manual that could be given to a new car owner that was missing a manual. Jerry discovered the bag of money in the glove box. The money was in a sealed box marked with the store number and deposit key.

Steve explained that he was in a meeting with Mayor Austin and opened the bag and showed the Mayor the contents. He also informed her that he was going to turn the bag over to the St. Louis County Police Dept. to be returned to the owner. He didn't call the news crew because he decided to give Jerry thanks from the community. Steve presented Jerry with a card and a plaque. Sheldon Carlson, Regional Loss Prevention Manager for Family Dollar Stores, has been with Loss Prevention Division for 30 years. He said he received a phone call from St. Louis County Police who said they had a deposit from Family Dollar from December. St. Louis County Police said they wanted to turn the money over to Family Dollar. Sheldon said that had never happened to him before. He said he did his research to find out where the deposit belonged and provided the police department with documentation of proof that the deposit belonged to Family Dollar, so that he could pick up the money.

Steve contacted Sheldon regarding recognizing Jerry for his good act. Sheldon read a letter that he wrote to Jerry. The letter stated that Sheldon had never heard or experienced a case such as this during his 30 years of working in loss prevention. He thanked Jerry for being good, honest and hardworking. Sheldon also gave Jerry a gift.

C. Comments by public

Gary Becker of 5512 Helen – Mr. Becker stated that he had been a resident at 5512 Helen for 67 years. On W. Florissant, in front of the PCS Phone Store, cars are stopping in the street to run in the store. He said he has almost been hit by the cars from the issue of people parking their car in the street to running into the store.

Councilwoman Epps said she has the same problem with the PCS store. She said the store has been robbed twice and they play loud music. She reported it to the St. Louis County Commander at the meeting. She continued to report that they play loud rap music with profanity. She said

she feels sorry for the people living on Janet because the music is like a boom box. Councilwoman Epps expressed to Mr. Becker that she understands his complaint and would check into it.

Councilman Epps said they have called the police about six times and the police does respond. After they respond, they will turn the music down. But three to four days later, they are at it again. Mr. Becker recommended that the police start issuing the business owner tickets.

Mayor Austin asked if a no loud music ordinance or sign could be done. Bill, Public Works Director, responded that W. Florissant is a County road.

Councilman Epps stated that he didn't think it would be necessary to place a sign. He said they will call the police and send the inspectors to the location. They will have to comply.

Robert Cotton of 7119 Garesche – Mr. Cotton thanked the two Councilwoman in Ward 3 and Councilman Epps. He said he called them with several addresses for grass cutting and they got it done. He said he called Councilman Epps in reference to the fence behind the Urban league. The residents were adamant about fixing the fence. Since the City didn't want to go onto private property, Councilman Epps sent a guy to help Mr. Cotton to repair the fence. He said it took about an hour to put the fence up. It costs \$16.38. The fence is back up and the residents are happy.

Councilman Epps thanked Mr. Cotton.

Dorothy Howard of 5831 Janet – Ms. Howard reminded the public that she was at the previous month's meeting when there was a lot of discussion about the fireworks. She said about two weeks later she hears a loud boom. She thought it was gun fire. She and other neighbors started coming of their houses. Ms. Howard said she called the non-emergency police number, to date, no one has shown up or responded to her call. She said she was leaving home today and there was a young man about 14 years old driving a truck. She and her neighbors believe the vehicles he drives are stolen. She asked for clarity on the use of the non-emergency number. She said she didn't want to dial 911 if it is not a life or death situation.

Ms. Howard shared with the public that on the day she called regarding the fireworks, the dispatcher asked her if she wanted someone to call her back. She responded no. She said she wanted someone to come out to see what was going on. Ms. Howard said the house is a nuisance. She said she and her neighbor stayed outside for at least two hours. No police ever showed up. She though it was ridiculous.

Councilman Epps explained to Ms. Howard that both of the incidents were emergencies. He informed her that she should have called 911. He said a minor driving a vehicle is an emergency. He continued by saying that if she heard a loud bang and couldn't tell whether it was bullets or firecrackers, she should have called 911. Ms. Howard confirmed it was fireworks because the guy stayed outside continuing to pop the fireworks. Councilman Epps stated that she should have called 911. Ms. Howard asked for the reason why there was no response from the police.

Mayor Austin asked Sgt. Perez to address the question. Sgt. Perez stated that the officers are not going to ignore a call. They should respond when they get a call.

Ms. Howard said she and her neighbors stayed outside for about two hours waiting for the police. She explained that the house where the fireworks were being popped is the house where a guy was shot and police are always there. She said there are too many people living at the house.

Sgt. Perez asked for the address of the house. Ms. Howard responded with 5824 Janet. He asked for the date of the call. Ms. Howard didn't have the date. Mayor Austin asked her to call the City Clerk with the date of the call.

Steve Pokorny of STS Towing - no comment

Ervin Cooper of 2031 Ranchdale Dr. – Mr. Cooper complained about the Urban League fence. He said the way they fixed the fence was by slapping another fence on the old fence. He said he thinks the fence that was repaired is about three doors down from him. He said the old fence is rotten. He said now he has two fences with weeds growing between the fences. He said he has been complaining but nothing is being done. He stated he didn't know why he was at the podium making the comments.

Mayor Austin asked Mr. Johnson to share the plan discussed with the owner. Mr. Johnson responded that the owner recently went through a divorce and now has permission from his wife to manage the property. Mr. Johnson said it is his understanding that the owner has been summoned and should be appearing in court.

The owner said he would be building a new chain link fence with two gates to stop the traffic. The gates will be at the Dickie Store and the Urban League. Mr. Johnson explained that the property is commercial and privately owned. He said the most the City could do is cite the owner. He further stated that the City and Mr. Cotton have tried to secure the fence, but can't repair or replace the fence on private property. There was a question regarding a permit being required for the repair of the fence. Mr. Johnson explained that a permit is required for a replacement of the fence, not the repair.

Councilman Epps asked Mr. Johnson if he knew when the court date will occur. Mr. Johnson responded that the citation was written to a LLC. He said he doubts that it will ever get to court. He explained that a citation cannot be written to a LLC. He further explained that Mr. Osher is not the owner of record, the LLC is.

Mr. Cooper talked about the garbage, trash and pallets on the other side of the fence. He asked if the inspectors are inspecting the area. He sees them driving around but no one is doing anything about the trash on the other side of the fence. Mayor Austin said Mr. Johnson also addressed that with the owner.

Councilman Epps asked if anyone sees someone dropping the pallets. Mayor Austin said some things are being dumped in the area. She saw mattresses and couches. Mr. Ervin responded that it is behind his house.

D. Councilmembers' Reports:

Councilman Allan Stichnoté started his report with congratulating Jerry Barban, STS Towing. He announced that he attended the Ward 3 meeting. He said the councilwoman of Ward 3 did a great job. There were over 30 people in attendance, which was one of the biggest Ward meetings he had seen.

Councilman Stichnoté informed the public that St. Louis County Police has a system called Shot Spotter. There has been a total of 30 calls for Shot Spotter. The system detects where shots occur and the caliber of weapon that fired the shots. The system helps the police locate the shooter if the person firing the weapon is still at the location when the police arrives. The system was able to capture one of the 30 calls.

The crime stats from June 15, 2016 to June 15, 2017 shows crime is down 20%.

Councilwoman Jones stated she received a letter of a complaint on Shannonaire Drive. Mayor Austin stated she called the resident and Councilman Stichnoté also addressed the complaint. She also stated she had a list of properties that she wanted to make sure Mr. Johnson received that relates to grass cutting issues. Councilwoman Jones said it has been a busy summer with things going on in the community. She stated she hasn't been present a lot in the community due to family issues. She thanked the City for the card sent in condolences of her losing her aunt.

Councilman Wilson started by apologizing for his tardiness to the meeting. He said he was taking his son to the Cardinals game for the Redbird Rookie Day for the Jennings League. He informed Sgt. Perez of a big issue on Riverwood. There are complaints of drug activity and people in the street from one house. He said he would forward the address. He requested that the police look into the house. He said he had spoken to the Captain about this issue a few months ago. Some police officers did address the area, but there is more that needs to be done. The community needs to feel safe in the neighborhood. He said if the problem is coming from people who don't live in the area, it needs to be addressed immediately.

Councilman Wilson said he has been touring some of the departments in the City. One of the departments was the jail. He said he got a chance to walk through and talk to the staff to get an idea of the day to day operations. He commended the staff on the job they do because it is a tough job. He said he wanted to understand the dynamics of the operations. Councilman Wilson stated that if he has to make decisions, he wants to make sure the proper decisions are being made. It helps to see the operations first hand. He thanked the staff for their hospitality and showing him around.

He commended the Parks and Recreations Departments for doing a great job with the Concerts in the Park. He also informed the public that it is great to see them attend the concerts.

Councilman Wilson announced the Back to School Jamboree is August 12, 2017 at Jennings High School from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Councilwoman Jones chimed in with stats about what is going on in the school district. She stressed the reason for understanding what goes on in the School District and how it helps to understand what goes on in the City. She acknowledged the school board members in attendance. She continued to report that the district graduated 100% of the students, who then went to jobs or post-secondary education. She said that was amazing. Councilwoman Jones also stated that Jennings had the highest graduation rate in St. Louis County. She informed the public that Fairview Elementary (the primary school) was voted as one of the top 20 schools for math, 5th in math, over all of the schools in the area.

Councilwoman Phyllis Anderson reported a Ward 3 meeting on July 15th that turned out well. Some of the things discussed were: more police in the neighborhoods, Sapphire Park become active. Residents complained of:

- drug transactions in the 8300 block of Osborn;
- 7305 Esterbrook- there is a walkway behind a resident's home where weeds are growing out of control. When he calls city hall, he is told they don't own the property. Councilwoman Anderson informed Mr. Johnson that she would get with him on the issue;
- 5500 Albia Terrace residents concerned about the streets being torn up. The residents would like to see the streets paved and more police presence.
- 2713 Kinamore – vacant home and grass needs cutting
- 2619 Kinamore - home appears to be in a condemned state. The chimney is leaning and the residents are afraid that bad weather may cause it to fall onto their home
- 2500 Switzer – people are working on cars in the middle of the streets
- McLaran from Emilie to Esterbrook – needs paving. Councilwoman Anderson said she and Councilman Wilson were riding down McLaran, they thought their car door was open but it was the street.
- 8413 Carl - grass needs cutting.

Councilwoman Anderson gave shouts out to Ward 3 for forming seven block units:

- 2500 Block of Switzer
- 2600/2700 Block of Kinamore
- 7100 Block of Florence Place
- 8300 Block of Osborn
- 5400 Block of College
- 7000 Block of Idlewild
- 7300 Block Esterbrook

It was also suggested that the City host a fireworks display in Koeneeman Park during the Fourth of July. The residents also wanted to know the protocol for utility companies working on residents' property. Residents are complaining that the water was shut off without notice when work was being done in the neighborhood.

It was also suggested that the City sell vacant homes and give owners a certain time to bring them up to code for living standards.

Councilwoman Anderson said the Concerts in the Park have been a great time in Koeneeman Park, but some of the resident would like to see the waterfall on during the event. Councilwoman Anderson said Bill informed her that the fountain may not be turned on during the day. Mayor Austin asked Bill to explain. Bill stated that the fountain had been recently turned off due to the evaporation of the lake. The intake tube for the waterfall is out of the water. The fountains are accelerating the evaporation process. So the fountain has been off for a few days. He said the fountain will be turned back on now that the heat wave has passed.

Councilwoman Anderson concluded her report by thanking the public for coming out.

Councilwoman Julia Roberts stated that some of her report would be an extension of Councilwoman Anderson's report. She said she had one thing from the Ward 3 meeting. Councilwoman Roberts stated in addition to their presentation and the residents' contributions at the meeting, there was also someone present from the Missouri Environmental Coalition who wanted to know more about food access in the area. There were some concerns about the food choices and food deserts. They asked questions about the food selections. They are conducting a study in certain areas that have food limitations. The organization wanted to engage the residents to gather information. The information will be used to help promote legislation and create programs to obtain more fresh and nutritious foods. Based upon what residents said, the organization will provide a study and give the City the information. Councilwoman Roberts stated she will provide the information when she gets it.

Most people expressed their concerns about how expensive the food is at the Schnucks in the area. There are not that many organic choices nor grocery stores. The residents stated they would like to have more of options and selections of grocery stores. Additional comments also included more food selections, such as Qdoba or Chipotle, oppose to the regular fast food restaurants. The suggestions were to have quicker healthier options.

Councilwoman Roberts thanked Public Works and the Building Department for being responsive to the complaints she sent them. She did submit some addresses that she wanted to confirm were being addressed. All of the following are on Idlewild : 7013, 7015, 7036, 7037, 7047, 7060, 7065, 7117; College: 5339, 5343, 5427; Kinamore: 2701 debris removal needed.

There is a concern on Emma and College with overgrown debris. It is reported that you can't see the stop sign at the address of 5501 Fair Ridge. There is a request for more police presence on Beulah on the weekends. There are complaints of violence and fighting occurring on the weekends.

In addition to the two stop signs on College and Garesche, there is a recommendation being made for there to be no parking signs needed or added to include the curb inside the intersection and several yards. This will relieve unnecessary congestion inside the potential three way stop intersection. Councilwoman Roberts wanted to make a motion to have the No Parking signs added to include the curb inside the intersection and several yards beyond. The attorney recommended taking the request to the Public Works Committee first.

Councilman Rodney Epps stated to Mr. Kaeshamer, Public Works Director and asked him to address this with the employees, when riding around the city every day, if a stop sign is covered by debris, cut it so that the stop sign can be seen. It should be done without a work order. He asked the department head to implant that into the staffs head.

He asked the staff to clean up the debris behind the Urban League this one time. He also stated that if people are dropping couches and pallets, somebody sees something. The City can't keep taking manpower to clean up behind grown people. He stated with amazement that something as big as a couch is dropped off and no one sees anything. He reiterated his request to the City staff to clean up the debris. He encouraged the community to work together to open their eyes to see what's going on. He stated that Ms. Wayne can tell you that every time they clean up Janet, somebody comes back to dump. Councilman Epps said you may start to think the people calling, are the people dumping. He stressed working together.

Councilman Epps asked Mr. Kaeshamer if he or Jim could meet him for about 10 minutes tomorrow after 12 p.m. at 5516 Belridge Court. There is a tree on the resident's property. The tree is not from their property. It's on property that may be owned by the city or school. He wasn't sure how the insurance would work with this issue. It is not the property owner's tree but it is leaning on their fence. He asked if we could give them a hand or if we would be obligated to give them a hand. He wasn't sure, but wanted to show them where it was.

Councilman Epps addressed with Mr. Johnson a problem on Minnie. Councilman Epps said he knows Mr. Johnson has addressed the issue. He asked Mr. Johnson to follow up and make sure the person has trash service. He didn't want to publicly give the address. Councilman Epps also stated that the same address may be running an illegal day care out of the address. The other problem on Minnie with noise and arguing from one family is a police problem. So he recommended that the person, who called him, call the police.

Councilman Epps stated that earlier this year, the City chose Voice Pro to upgrade the phone computer systems. They were the only company to bid. Voice Pro needs a payment by the end of the month for the system in the Police Department and City Hall. Councilman Epps made a motion to pay Voice Pro for the work done for the Police Department and City Hall, seconded by Councilwoman Jones. The Council voted in favor of paying Voice Pro.

Councilwoman Carol Epps reported grass cutting request at Belridge Court: 5506, 5509 needs trash removed at the front and on the side of the building. She stated as Chair of the Waste Committee, if there are issues with waste being picked up or if a neighbor is putting waste in your trash can, please call 385-9669, Rodney and Carols Barber Shop.

Monthly Reports

Mayor Austin asked if there were any updates from the previous month before the monthly reports are approved. There were no responses.

On the motion made by Councilman R. Epps, second by Councilwoman Anderson, the Council voted in favor to accept the monthly reports; none opposing.

Reports of Committees:

Ways & Means Committee – Councilman Epps reported the Ways & Means committee did not meet. The committee was waiting on quarterly numbers to see if the budget is in line. The budget last day was March 31st. Now that three months have past, the committee will meet to make sure the budget is in line. There will be a meeting set for this coming week.

Public Works Committee – Councilwoman Anderson reported that the Public Works Committee did not meet. But she has been working with Bill, Public Works Director, all summer. She reported that 50 yards were cleaned and cut by the contract, in addition to the lots being cut by the Public Works Department. Missing street signs at the following locations are being addressed: Carl and Ada; McLaran and Main; College and Marge.

The Public Works Committee meeting will be held on the first Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. starting August 3, 2017.

Building Committee – Councilwoman Jones reported a meeting was held before the Council meeting today. Things discussed were: the demolition of the Old Firehouse towards the expansion of Sievers Park. The plan is to add parking spaces. Councilwoman Jones recommended a motion to approve Phase 1, which would be the remediation and study of the property for contaminants done by the EPA.

On the motion made by Councilwoman Jones, seconded by Councilman Stichnote, the City Council voted all in favor to enter into Phase 1 of the demolition of the Old Firehouse.

An additional item discussed was the properties bought by the City located on Jennings Station Road. The properties are all adjacent to the Civic Center. The hope was that the City was going to make a state of the art Civic Center or Recreation Center. The City is reviewing the property and realizing that it is not enough space to do all of the things that is desired to do with a Recreation Center on that property. Phase 1 remediation has been completed at the site regarding the contaminants and future use of the site.

The committee also discussed the lease agreement for 8716 Jennings Station Road. Councilwoman Jones reported the Mayor is working to make sure the City has a proper lease agreement for the tenant and that the building is up to par and with proper insurances. There was also a discussion about the roof being repaired on the building. The committee also discussed the remediation of the old service station that was on the site. The service station later turned into an old auto mechanic shop. In order to do anything with the property, the City will have to do some serious remediation to the site.

The committee discussed a process for acquiring city owned property. The Mayor and Mr. Johnson are working on creating a fair and equitable process. The Building Committee will be supporting them in the process. The City has 800 plus properties to be addressed. The grass cutting and nuisance properties come into play. Coming up with processes and programs by which people can start to acquire the properties is what the committee is working on.

Parks Committee – Councilman Stichnote reported that the Parks Committee did not meet this month. The committee will meet August 16th at 5:30 p.m.

Municipal League Committee – Councilman Wilson reported that the Municipal League meetings will resume in August. They are off for the summer.

Planning Commission – Councilman Stichnote reported no meeting.

Policy Committee – Councilwoman Jones reported no meeting. She is looking to have a meeting on August 9th.

Solid Waste Committee – Councilwoman Carol Epps reported no meeting. Councilwoman Epps informed the public that if they had problems with trash or others putting trash in other peoples container, call Rodney and Carols Barber Shop at 385-9669.

Beautification Committee – no report

LEGAL BUSINESS

A. An ordinance amending ordinance #1455

First reading - On the motion made by Councilman R. Epps, second by Councilwoman Jones. The Council voted in favor of the first reading.

Bill #2503 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 1455, AN ORDINANCE VACATING A PORTION OF JENNINGS STATION ROAD OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE CITY OF JENNINGS, STATE OF MISSOURI, DATED AUGUST 27, 1984.

Second reading – On the motion made by Councilman R. Epps, seconded by Councilwoman Anderson.

The bill was approved to become Ordinance # 2450 by the following roll call vote: voting in favor were council members: Stichnote, Jones, Wilson, Anderson, Roberts, R. Epps, C. Epps; Dugger was absent; none voting against nor abstaining.

B. An ordinance approving the installation of two (2) stop signs at the intersection of College Avenue and Garesche Avenue

First reading – On the motion made by Councilman R. Epps, second by Councilwoman Jones, the Council voted in favor of the first reading.

Bill #2504 – AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE INSTALLATION OF TWO (2) STOP SIGNS AT THE INTERSECTION OF COLLEGE AVENUE AND GARESCHE AVENUE IN THE CITY OF JENNINGS, MISSOURI.

Second reading – On the motion made by Councilwoman C. Epps, second by Councilman R. Epps.

On the question by Councilwoman Jones, she asked Councilwoman Roberts if the study addressed the blind spot issue that was discussed in the public hearing. Councilwoman Roberts responded that the study did not mention anything about the downhill blind spot. She said she spoke to the officer. It was suggested that a warning sign would be beneficial. Councilwoman Roberts said she would present that to Public Works when she presents the need for no parking signs.

Councilwoman Jones asked the Council if they pass this ordinance, should they include the warning signs so there is no problem with stopping at the stop signs. (*referencing the discussion from the public hearing*)

Mayor Austin stated that the officers did the study and saw what was occurring at the intersection and provided a report.

Councilman R. Epps added that the officers provided their professional opinion. It is understood that there was an opinion from Mr. Cotton. He continued to state that if the officers thought it would be any danger at the location they would have addressed it.

Lt. McCarthy, Department of Corrections, pointed out an error in the ordinance that stated the Corrections Department recommended the stop signs, when the St. Louis County Police Department performed the study and recommended the stop signs.

On the motion made by Councilwoman Anderson, seconded by Councilwoman Jones, the Council voted in favor to correct the language in the ordinance.

Second reading - On the motion made by Councilman R. Epps, second by Councilwoman Jones, the Council voted in favor of the second reading.

The bill was approved to become Ordinance # 2451 by the following roll call vote: voting in favor were council members: Stichnote, Jones, Wilson, Anderson, Roberts, R. Epps, C. Epps; Dugger was absent; none voting against nor abstaining.

C. Resolution to apply and execute an agreement for grant in aid from the Municipal Park Grant Commission for Koeneman Park

On the motion made by Councilwoman Jones, second by Councilman Stichnote, the Council voted all in favor to approve the resolution for the City of Jennings MO for Koeneman Park upgrades.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Approve the re-appointment of John Schlereth to the Planning Commission

On the motion made by Councilwoman Jones, seconded by Councilman Stichnote, the Council voted in favor of approving the reappointment of John Schlereth to the Planning Commission; none voting against nor abstaining.

B. Approve the appointments to the Youth Commission

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman C. Epps, the Council voted in favor of approving the following appointments to the Youth Commission; none voting against nor abstaining:

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|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Carl Kirkwood | - 2 years (expire 2019) |
| 2. Patricia Williams | - 3 years (expire 2020) |
| 3. Brian A. Bohlen Sr. | - 4 years (expire 2021) |
| 4. Erika Hankins | - 4 years (expire 2021) |

Mayor Austin congratulated the new commissioners and provided them each with a photo badge.

C. Approve the appointments to the Grant Oversight Committee

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman C. Epps, the Council voted in favor of approving the following appointments to the Grant Oversight Committee; none voting against nor abstaining:

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|------------------------------------|
| 1. Deletra Hudson, City Clerk |
| 2. Rise' Johnson, Finance Director |

D. Approval to apply for the Lowes Grant

On the motion made by Councilwoman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Wilson, the Council voted in favor of approving the City departments to complete application(s) for the Lowes Grant; none voting against nor abstaining.

E. Approval of bills for payment

On the motion by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman Jones, the City Council voted all in favor to approve the payment of the City bills presented for the period of June 21, 2017 – July 21, 2017; none voting against nor abstaining.

F. Motion for closed session personnel (RSMO 610:021- 3)

On the motion made by Councilwoman Anderson, seconded by Councilwoman C. Epps, the City Council voted to approve the motion for closed session personnel (RSMO 610:021- 3) by roll call vote of the following councilmembers: Stichnote, Jones, Wilson, Anderson, Roberts, E. Epps, C. Epps; Dugger was absent; none voting against nor abstaining.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Austin welcomed the new City Clerk, Deletra Hudson, who has been working for the City since January. She stated that Deletra has been doing an awesome job working with Mayor Austin since she took office in April.

She thanked the Department Heads who have been working hard to make sure their positions are filled. Most of the department heads have filled all open positions.

Mayor Austin thanked the City Council for working hard. She said she told the Council that she is a mayor that empowers the Council. She said she gets complaints, sends them to the Council persons and makes sure they follow up. She thanked the Council for coming together to work together to move the City of Jennings forward. We are here for the residents, businesses, and employees.

Working together; we can get a lot done. When we stand on an island we don't get much done.

Mayor again thanked the department heads. She reported that she meets with them monthly and together they come up with suggestions and different things being done in the departments to building morale. As you can see, we are recognizing employees in the departments and citizens in the community.

Mayor Austin reported a meeting with Public Works and Building Departments discussing the process with grass cutting. There is a new staff member in the Public Works department. She has started working with the MyGov System. Things that were going through the Building Department that may have had things hung up, can now be done in the Public Works Department.

Mayor Austin reported there are a lot of policies and procedures that are not in place or outdated. She finds herself looking for things only to be told by the Clerk that the Clerk's Office can't locate it. She said she hopes there will be a meeting soon (Policy Committee Meeting). She requested that each department head provide at least two policies that they would like to work on with the Policy Committee so that we can move Jennings forward. She feels that is very important.

Mayor Austin thanked the public for coming out. She stated a five minute brief recess before going into closed session for personnel.

Closed Session

After a brief recess, the City Council met in closed session.

Hire Part time Prosecuting Clerk

On the motion made by Councilwoman Anderson, seconded by Councilwoman C. Epps, the Council voted to approve the recommendation of Sam Alton, Prosecuting Attorney, to hire Julie Stichnote as the part time Prosecuting Clerk. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of the following council members voting in favor: Jones, Wilson, Anderson, Roberts, R. Epps, C. Epps; Dugger, absent; no one opposing; Councilman Stichnote was excused from the meeting during the vote and did not vote.

Terminate City Attorney

On the motion made by Councilwoman C. Epps, seconded by Councilman Stichnote, the Council voted to approve the recommendation of Mayor Austin to terminate Carla Allen-Hughes, City Attorney effective immediately. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of the following council members: Stichnote, Jones, Wilson, Anderson, Roberts, R. Epps, C. Epps; Dugger, absent; no one opposing; no one abstaining.

Hire Interim City Attorney

On the motion made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman Jones, the City Council voted to approve the recommendation of Mayor Austin to hire Sam Alton, Prosecuting Attorney, as the Interim City Attorney/Prosecutor while the City conducts a search to replace the City Attorney and

compensate him with the annual salary of \$69,000 with no additional cost for per hour for certified cases.

In the event that Sam is not selected as the permanent City Attorney, he will resume his duties as Prosecuting Attorney at the annual salary and per hour rate agreed upon when hired in April, 2016. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of the following council members: Stichnote, Jones, Wilson, Anderson, R. Epps, C. Epps; Dugger absent; no one opposing; abstaining.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:23 pm on a motion by Councilwoman Anderson, second by Councilwoman Jones. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of the following council members: Stichnote, Jones, Wilson, Anderson, R. Epps, C. Epps; Dugger absent; no one opposing; Roberts, abstaining.


Mayor Yolanda Austin


Attest:
City Clerk