

The two thousand three hundred twenty ninth meeting of the Jennings City Council was held on Monday, February 22, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall. Present were Mayor Fountain Henderson, and councilmembers Yolanda Brown, Miranda Jones, Francine Dugger, Yolonda Fortson, David Schmerber, Nicole Cook, Rodney Epps and Carol Epps. Also present were City Attorney Jamis Kresyman and City Clerk Cheryl Balke.

Prior to the regular meeting, members of the Jennings City Council met in the Mayor's office for a brief training session on parliamentary procedures.

The meeting began with a public hearing, called to hear comments in favor of, or opposed to, two proposals. First considered was a request to amend the zoning code in the C-1 Neighborhood Commercial district to add NAICS code 541110, lawyer's offices, as a permitted use. The request was made by Lorenzo Hester of the Hester Group. Mr. Hester stated that he wanted to open a business office where legal matters will take place at 5603 Jennings Station Road. Councilman Schmerber noted that the Plan Commission had recommend approval. No one else spoke in favor of, or opposed to, the request.

Next considered was a request for a Conditional Use Permit to operate a fast food and carry out restaurant at 7365 W. Florissant, by Eid Hassan. Mr. Hassan stated that he had a similar business on Kingshighway. The hours of operation would be 10:00 am to 10:00 pm seven days a week, with a menu of fish, chicken, hamburgers and gyro. Councilwoman Cook spoke in favor of the request and it was noted that the Plan Commission recommended approval. No one else spoke in favor of, or opposed to, the request.

The public hearing was closed and the regular meeting called to order. The agenda was approved on a motion by Councilman Schmerber, second by Councilwoman Jones. The minutes of the previous meetings of January 25th and February 8th, and corrections to the minutes of January 4th, were approved on a motion by Councilman Schmerber, second by Councilwoman Jones.

Mayor Fountain Henderson introduced the new superintendent of the Jennings School District, Dr. Art McCoy, along with school board members Harold Austin and Miranda Jones.

Capt. Fuesting presented the St. Louis County Police Citizen Award to Mr. Gaylen Sniveley for helping the police apprehend a burglary suspect.

Mr. Frank Smith of Midland Bank at Westfall Plaza introduced himself and spoke about the bank.

The meeting was then opened to the public. Mr. Marcus Fountain of 8822 Sumter stated that Councilman Epps and Councilwoman Dugger should exempt themselves from voting on the impeachment of the Mayor. He stated that they were just trying to embarrass her, slandering her, and that the charges were trumped up. He questioned the Epps' about their application for employee health insurance.

Mr. Allan McDonald of 9314 Scottdale asked about the status of the police contract. He stated that he was disappointed about the impeachment charges and that the mayor should do the honorable thing and resign.

Mrs. Jane Brown of 2328 Ada Wortley stated that she and her husband were long-time residents and had seen much improvement since the St. Louis County Police took over police services. She stated that they were the best of the best and that the city will get what it pays for.

Mr. Steffon Miller of 1800 N. 2nd Street spoke about the Kiwanis and asked residents to consider helping the Kiwanis help young people in the community.

Mr. Roy Harris of Better Family Life spoke about resources available to the community.

Ms. Marietta Beck of 5476 Hodiamont thanked Public Works and spoke in favor of the St. Louis County Police, stating that she hoped the city would renew a contract with them. She also asked for enforcement against Jennings residents who have Illinois license plates on their cars to avoid paying taxes.

Mrs. Linda Schmerber spoke about the Jennings Historical Society. She announced the next meeting, stated that annual dues were due, and spoke about the history book. She noted her appreciation for

the “Coffee with the Commander” meetings, and stated that she was sorry to lose Superintendent Dr. Tiffany Anderson but glad to meet Superintendent Dr. McCoy.

Robert Cotton of 7119 Garesche also asked about the progress of the RFP for police services.

David Kuchenmeister of 2021 Hord asked for a traffic study on Idlewild due to speeding. He also recommended that the Mayor resign, noting that he had collected many signatures to have her recalled.

Next were councilmember’s reports. Councilwoman Cook thanked everyone for attending.

Councilwoman Fortson also thanked everyone for attending.

Councilwoman Brown spoke about her and Councilwoman Jones holding their second quarterly Ward 1 meeting and stated that they planned to have a Ward 1 cleanup day soon. She also noted discussing with residents the condition of streets and property in Ward 1 and new businesses coming to the area. She noted attending an empowerment meeting at Midland Bank and participating in a voter registration drive.

Councilwoman Epps thanked everyone for attending.

Councilman Schmerber noted that he appreciated seeing a good turnout at the meeting.

Councilwoman Jones also spoke about the Ward 1 meeting, stating that they wanted to use yard signs to notify residents about future meetings, and that she hoped to see the city’s website and other forms of communication improved. She spoke about assistance available for payment of utility bills. She recognized school board member Mr. John Schlereth and thanked Mr. Harold Austin, president of the school board. She stated that she hoped working relations between the councilmembers would improve.

Councilman Epps stated that he wanted to put to rest the idea that the impeachment of the Mayor was personal for him or Councilwoman Epps but an investigation of the allegations as approved by the council.

Councilwoman Dugger noted that the Kiwanis would be holding a fishing derby at Koeneman Park, and encouraged residents to get involved in Kiwanis. She also stated that she tries to respond quickly to residents’ concerns.

Monthly departmental reports were approved on a motion by Councilman Epps, second by Councilwoman Fortson.

Reporting for their committees, Councilwoman Dugger stated that the Solid Waste Committee was recommending a one-year extension of the current contract with Waste Management that would include the addition of a senior citizen discount and an annual clean-up in each ward.

For the Municipal League, Councilwoman Dugger noted attending the Legislative Conference.

For the park Committee, Councilwoman Jones reported that the city received a Municipal Park Grant in the amount of \$368,000 to continue improvements to Lions Park.

For the Ways and Means Committee, Councilwoman Dugger reported that the committee was meeting weekly or twice a week to work on the budget. She also reported that the draft RFP for police services would be finalized soon and advertised.

Under legal business, Bill #2449, amending the zoning code to add NAICS code 541110 (lawyer’s offices) as a permitted use in the C-1 district, was given its first reading on a motion by Councilman Epps, second by Councilwoman Fortson. The second reading was done on a motion by Councilman Epps, second by Councilwoman Fortson. The bill was approved to become Ordinance #2398 by the following roll call vote: voting in favor were Councilmembers Brown, Jones, Dugger, Fortson, Schmerber, Cook, R. Epps and C. Epps; no one voting against or abstaining.

Bill #2450, authorizing a Conditional Use Permit to Eid Hassan to operate a fast food and carry out restaurant (Hawaiian Grill) at 7365 W. Florissant was given its first reading on a motion by Councilman

Epps, second by Councilwoman Fortson. The second reading was done on a motion by Councilman Epps, second by Councilwoman Fortson. The bill was approved to become Ordinance #2399 by the following roll call vote: voting in favor were Councilmembers Brown, Jones, Dugger, Fortson, Schmerber, Cook, R. Epps and C. Epps; no one voting against or abstaining.

Under unfinished business, the council considered results of a traffic study of Jennings Road and Shannon, requested because of accidents. The St. Louis County Police recommend consideration of a center turn lane on Jennings Road, a stop light, and an ordinance for “no parking” on both sides of Shannon from Jennings Road to the senior high school. It was noted that Jennings Road is a county road and that was doing their own traffic study. On a motion by Councilwoman Fortson, second by Councilwoman Cook, the matter will be tabled until the results of the St. Louis County traffic study are received.

Under new business, the council approved a city credit card for Interim Public Works Director for Housing and Economic Development Henry Johnson; this was done on a motion by Councilman Epps, second by Councilwoman Jones.

Next discussed was the portable barricade that was placed in the front of the council dais. Mayor Fountain Henderson stated that the barricade was put in place for security reasons. Councilman Epps and Councilwoman Dugger stated that the barricades would not prevent anything and that they did not want to prevent residents from coming up to talk to the councilmembers. Captain Fuesting stated that officers were on duty during council meetings for security. On a motion by Councilman Schmerber, second by Councilman Epps, the council voted to remove the barricade.

On a motion by Councilman Epps, second by Councilwoman Jones, the council approved extending the contract with Waste Management for trash removal for one year at the current rates.

On a motion by Councilman Epps, second by Councilman Schmerber, the council approved the appointment of architect Richard Atkins to the Architectural Review Board, for the remainder of the unexpired term of Gretchen Wesenber, expiring in May, 2018.

Next considered was a liquor license previously approved for Danielle McNeill for D’s Place Banquet and Catering at 6805 W. Florissant. Letters had to be sent to all property owners within 100 feet due to the license being issued to a location within 100 feet of a church. No one appeared at the meeting tonight to protest the issuance of the license, and so final approval was granted on a motion by Councilwoman Epps, second by Councilman Epps.

On a motion by Councilwoman Dugger, second by Councilman Epps, the council approved an outdoor special event permit requested by the Kiwanis for a fishing derby in Koeneman Park on June 11th.

On a motion by Councilwoman Jones, second by Councilman Epps, the council approved an application for a grant for a new senior citizen bus through East-West Gateway. It was noted that the grant required a 20% match by the city, estimated to be \$15,000.

On a motion by Councilwoman Epps, second by Councilwoman Brown, the committee approved a request to fill the position of seasonal inspector in the Building Department with the alternate selection from the existing hiring list.

Bills as submitted were approved for payment on a motion by Councilwoman Epps, second by Councilwoman Brown.

A motion was made by Councilman Epps, second by Councilwoman Jones, for a closed session for personnel and legal matters (RSMO 610:021.1 & 3) This was approved by the following roll call vote: voting in favor were Councilmembers Brown, Jones, Dugger, Fortson, Schmerber, Cook, R. Epps and C. Epps; no one voting against or abstaining.

For the Mayor’s report, Mayor Fountain Henderson noted attending a SIRV meeting, a NACA meeting, an economic development meeting at St. Louis County, and plans to tour the St. Louis County emergency management center. She asked everyone to show respect to others and let everyone speak without personal attacks. She spoke about new developments in the city, and noted that the RFP for police services would be advertised soon.

After a brief recess, the council met in closed session (RSMO 610:021. 1 & 3) On a motion by Councilman Schmerber , second by Councilwoman Epps, Iris Hunter was approved to be hired as a temporary employee in the Recreation Department at \$15 per hour. This was approved by the following roll call vote: voting in favor were Councilmembers Brown, Schmerber, R. Epps and C. Epps; Councilmembers Jones, Dugger, Fortson and Cook voting against, no one abstaining and Mayor Fountain Henderson breaking the tie by voting in favor.

At this point in the meeting, city attorney Jamis Kresyman and City Clerk Cheryl Balke were asked to leave the meeting. On a motion by Councilwoman Dugger, second by Councilwoman Cook, the council voted to go out for legal services based on a salary recommendation from the Ways and Means Committee. This was approved by the following roll call vote: voting in favor were Councilmembers Brown, Jones, Dugger, Fortson and Cook, Councilmembers Schmerber, R. Epps and C. Epps voting against, no one abstaining.

On a motion by Councilwoman Dugger, second by Councilwoman Jones, the council voted to give a strong warning about insubordination and job duties to City Clerk Cheryl Balke. This was approved by the following roll call vote: voting in favor were Councilmembers Brown, Jones, Dugger, Fortson, Schmerber and Cook; Councilmembers R. Epps and C. Epps voting against, no one abstaining.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Councilman Epps, second by Councilwoman Jones.

Mayor Yolonda Fountain Henderson

ATTEST:

City Clerk