

The two thousand three hundred twenty fifth meeting of the Jennings City Council was held on Monday, January 4, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.at City Hall. Present were Mayor Fountain Henderson, and councilmembers Yolanda Brown, Miranda Jones, Francine Dugger, Yolonda Fortson, David Schmerber, Rodney Epps and Carol Epps. Also present were City Attorney Jamis Kresyman and City Clerk Cheryl Balke. Councilwoman Cook was absent.

This was a special meeting, called to consider beginning an impeachment process against the Mayor. A motion was made by Councilwoman Fortson , second by Councilwoman Brown, for a closed session for legal business (RSMO 610:021-1) and approved by the following roll call vote: voting in favor were Councilmembers Brown, Jones, Dugger, Fortson, Schmerber; Councilmembers R. Epps and C. Epps voting against, no one abstaining. A motion was then made by Councilman Epps, second by Councilwoman Epps, for a closed session for legal matters (RSMO 610:021-1), to be held without the Mayor. Mayor Fountain Henderson stated that they could not do that, and declined to call for the vote. The motion was made again by Councilman Epps, second by Councilwoman Epps, and made a third time by Councilman Epps, second by Councilwoman Epps. It was then approved by the following roll call vote: voting in favor were Councilmembers Jones, Dugger, Schmerber, R. Epps and C. Epps; Councilmembers Brown and Fortson voting against, no one abstaining.

The council then met in closed session with special counsel John Hessel to discuss a legal matter, and afterward reconvened in open session. Bill #2445, consenting to an engagement letter for legal services with John Hessel as Special Counsel in connection with impeachment proceedings against Mayor Yolonda Fountain Henderson, 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 Epps. The bill was approved to become Ordinance #2394 by the following roll call vote: voting in favor were Councilmembers Jones, Dugger, Fortson, Schmerber, R. Epps and C. Epps; Councilwoman Brown voting against, no one abstaining.

Councilwoman Brown stated that the cost of an impeachment would be high and she would like to have a town hall meeting about it first. Mayor Fountain Henderson asked who would represent her and who would pay for her attorney.

Bill #2446, consenting to an engagement letter for legal services with Paul Martin as special prosecutor in connection with an investigation and impeachment proceedings if warranted against Mayor Yolonda Fountain Henderson, was given its first reading on a motion by Councilman Epps, second by Councilwoman Epps. Councilwoman Jones noted that the ordinance stated "if warranted" and that the Council needed to hire the attorneys to look into the matter but that the council could also decide later not to go further. The second reading was done on a motion by Councilwoman Jones, second by Councilman Epps. The bill was approved to become Ordinance #2395 by the following roll call vote: voting in favor were Councilmembers Jones, Dugger, Fortson, Schmerber, R. Epps and C. Epps; Councilwoman Brown voting against, no one abstaining.

Mayor Fountain Henderson stated that she was vetoing both ordinances and would put her veto in writing and give it to the City Clerk.

The council then approved holding a town hall meeting on Saturday, January 16th at 10:00 a.m. at the Police Department (courtroom). The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Councilwoman Fortson, second by Councilman Epps.

Mayor Yolonda Fountain Henderson

ATTEST:

City Clerk