## JENNINGS CITY COUNCIL – JULY 14, 2016

The two thousand three hundred forty first meeting of the Jennings City Council was held on Thursday, July 14, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. Present were Mayor Pro Tem Francine Dugger, and councilmembers Allan Stichnote, Miranda Jones, Yolonda Fortson, Phyllis Anderson, Nicole Cook, Rodney Epps and Carol Epps. Also present were City Attorney Carla Allen and City Clerk Cheryl Balke. This was a special meeting.

The meeting began with public comments. Marietta Beck of 5476 Hodiamont spoke in favor of having an election in November to fill the remainder of the term for the office of Mayor and quoted from several statutes including 77.040, 77.450, 77.240 and 77.050. She also stated that all elected officials should be current on their taxes.

John Schlereth stated that he was in favor of having an election, and that the city needed a leader, not a boss. He spoke about former Jennings School District Superintendent Dr. Tiffany Anderson as an example of a leader who helped her employees and promoting harmony.

Serena Muhammad recommended that the council raise the level of community engagement To hear from other residents and not just those who came to council meetings. She recommended that the council stop power grabbing and work together, and recommended holding the election for Mayor in April.

David Kuchenmeister stated that elected officials who have past due taxes should not be in office, and agreed with Marietta Beck regarding the statutes.

Mary Brock asked that the council do a better job of communicating with residents and commended Councilwoman Anderson for doing so. She stating that fighting among the council was bad.

Allan McDonnell stated he was glad to see the City Clerk back and also spoke about elected officials owing back taxes.

Councilman Epps noted that it would not be possible for councilmembers to get in touch with all residents and recommended that residents attend council meetings or call their councilmembers.

Councilwoman Epps made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Epps, to hold a special election in November, 2016 to fill the remainder of the term of Mayor. Councilwoman Jones stated that the council was unable to talk about important business because they had to spend time dealing with other issues such as the impeachment. Councilman Epps agreed that the council had to deal with a mess, but said they did not create it, they just need to follow the procedures to fix it and get it behind them instead of putting it off, and that the council seemed not to want to make decisions. Councilwoman Jones stated that people keep talking about the great employees we have but that Target let the city know two years ago that they were leaving and no one said anything about it. She stated that the council has been making decisions but people in City Hall have not been honest and why do we want to protect people who are not looking out for the best interests of Jennings. She asked why we want to keep the status quo, look at the audits, don't act like everything was great two years ago because it was not and they need to make a change. If we get a new Mayor and the employees keep doing the same things, hiding things and doing whatever they want, at what point do we make people responsible for doing the business of the city. We sit up here and want to protect people and it's "bull". She said she wants to live in Jennings because she likes her house and her neighbors but she doesn't deserve a city where we get rid of the police, talk about getting rid of the jail, lose Target, what do we have left? The same employees who are allowing this stuff to leave. The council needs to talk about these things, our development is only dollar stores and cheap grocery stores. She said the council should not let others influence them until they have figured out what to do. She stated that she wanted to have an election but did not want to rush a special election. Councilwoman Cook stated that she was told that when Councilman Epps was Mayor Pro Tem he had a lot more power when the Mayor wasn't here, and that Mayor Pro Tem Dugger should be allowed to act as the Mayor for now, with a special election next April. A roll call vote on the motion for a special election in November resulted in a tie vote as follows: voting in favor were Councilmembers Stichnote, Anderson, R. Epps and C. Epps; Councilmembers Jones, Dugger, Fortson and Cook voting against, no one abstaining. City Attorney Carla Allen advised that Mayor Pro Tem Dugger could vote again to break the tie and Mayor Pro Tem Dugger voted against. Councilman Epps made a motion for an election for Mayor in April, 2017. This was seconded by Councilwoman Jones and approved by the following roll call vote: voting in favor were Councilmembers Stichnote, Jones, Dugger, Fortson, Anderson, Cook and R. Epps; and Councilwoman C. Epps voting against, no one abstaining.

personnel matters (RSMO 610:021-3) and approved by the following roll call vote: voting in favor were Councilmembers Stichnote, Jones, Dugger, Fortson, Anderson, Cook and R. Epps; Councilwoman C. Epps voting against, no one abstaining. The council then met in closed session and discussed personnel issues in the jail. The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Councilwoman Epps, second by Councilwoman Jones.	
	Mayor Pro Tem Francine Dugger
ATTEST:	

City Clerk

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cook, second by Councilwoman Jones, for a closed session for