

The two thousand three hundred thirtieth meeting of the Jennings City Council was held on Monday, March 28, 2016 at 7:000 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.

The meeting began with a public hearing, called to hear comments in favor of, or opposed to, two proposals. First considered was a request for resubdivision of Lot 3A of River Roads Plat Eight, by SWH Investments III, LLC. Speaking in favor of the request was Jim Bender of SWH Investments, who stated that the resubdivision was requested to accommodate Phase II of The Residences at Jennings Place. Councilwoman Dugger asked when the Boatmen's building would be torn down; Mr. Bender replied that they were waiting until they had a client for the property. No one else spoke in favor of, or opposed to, the request for resubdivision.

Next considered was a request for a Conditional Use Permit to operate a grocery store, Ruler Foods, at 8933 Jennings Road, by Kroger Limited Partnership. Jeff Bieber was present representing Kroger Limited Partnership. In answer to questions from the council, Mr. Bieber stated that the store should be open for business in November of this year, that hours of operation would be 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. seven days per week, and that Ruler Foods is considered a deep discount grocery store. Councilman Schmerber noted that the Plan Commission had recommended approval of the request. No one else spoke in favor of, or opposed to, the request.

The regular meeting was called to order, and the agenda approved on a motion by Councilman Epps, second by Councilwoman Jones. The minutes of the previous meeting of February 22, 2016 were approved on a motion by Councilman Epps, second by Councilwoman Jones.

The meeting was then opened to the public. Mayor Fountain Henderson presented an award to Capt. Jeffrey Fuesting of the St. Louis County Police for his 5 ½ years of service as commander in the City of Jennings. Capt. Fuesting noted his appreciation for the community and introduced Capt. Juan Cox, the new commander.

Cora Roberson of 7008 Florence asked that 7012 Florence be put on the list to have the grass cut by the city.

Allen McDonald of 9314 Scottdale asked the council to keep the St. Louis County Police. He also asked about a recent special council meeting with only four councilmembers present and what is a proper reason for calling a special meeting; Councilman Epps stated that special meetings should be called for urgent matters that could not wait until the next regular meeting. He also asked if there was spyware on the city's computer system and if that were legal; Mayor Fountain Henderson said that she would answer him later. He asked for the status of the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Yolanda Austin of 2483 Alexandria Place stated that she attended Coffee with the Commander and welcomed Capt. Cox to Jennings. She also presented a certificate of appreciation to Capt. Fuesting from the North County Community Development Corporation and thanked him for helping them with community events for four years.

Percillia Jones of 5515 Janet thanked Capt. Fuesting on behalf of Neighborhood Watch and noted that the crime rate in the city decreased under his command. She also welcomed Capt. Cox.

Robert Cotton of 7119 Garesche stated that he was being harassed by the Building Department because he was being given summons to tear down a building addition before his time to file an appeal was over.

Carl Kirkwood of 8937 Lucerne Ct. asked about the impeachment of the Mayor, noting that three hearings had been held and \$67,000 spent. He stated that she should not be impeached after only six months in office if she had not broken any laws. He then read a poem.

Jane Brown of 2328 Ada Wortley stated that she hoped the St. Louis County Police contract will be renewed and that she had the highest respect for them and their relationship with the community. She asked about the city's disaster plan; Mayor Fountain Henderson replied that a new plan was being written. She also asked about the city's plans to get input from residents regarding their goals for the city. Mayor Fountain Henderson responded that there were new businesses and programs coming to the city and that she receives a lot of phone calls. Councilwoman Jones noted that Ward 1 and Ward 2 were holding ward meetings and that the council was talking about how to improve communication with the residents.

Next were councilmember's reports. Councilwoman Fortson noted attending a Municipal League training and meeting, a park committee meeting, the Alexandria Place Homeowners Association meeting and Coffee with the Commander. She announced the Ward 2 meeting for the following evening.

Councilwoman Cook asked residents to keep up with their yards now that Spring was coming, and noted that the Street Department would pick up large tree branches from the street after a storm.

Councilwoman Brown reported that, as a member of the Ways and Means Committee, she had been busy attending budget meetings and that the committee wanted to spend tax dollars wisely.

Councilwoman Epps had no report.

Councilwoman Dugger noted the Ward 2 meeting the following evening. She spoke about the Easter Egg Hunt held by the city and the Kiwanis with help from the Elks and the Eastern Star, and thanked the county police officers for helping hide the eggs. She announced the upcoming fishing derby to be held by the Kiwanis. She thanked the inspectors for responding to a complaint about an RV on Whitstone, and thanked Public Works for responding to a complaint about a basketball hoop in the street. She noted attending the Alexandria Place Homeowners Association meeting and reported that a new "yield" sign had been placed at Catalina and Ranchdale.

Councilman Schmerber thanked Capt. Fuesting and welcomed Capt. Cox. He reported that the North Central Dispatching service had completed the disposal of their assets after closing for business and that the city would receive a check for approximately \$2,000 as their share of the proceeds.

Councilwoman Jones said that she hoped everyone had a happy Easter. She thanked Ways and Means for working hard on the budget. She spoke about the Jennings School District gala to benefit Hope House. She announced the Ward 1 Spring meeting to be held on April 19th. She thanked Capt. Fuesting and reminded the police department about the traffic study requested for Jennings Road and Shannon. She also spoke about looking for ways to improve communication with residents.

Councilman Epps also thanked Capt. Fuesting and stated that he wants to keep the St. Louis County Police. He encouraged Capt. Cox to carry on the good work done by Capt. Fuesting, and asked for extra patrols at Lalite and Wilborn due to vandalism at a construction site. He encouraged residents to vote on April 5th and noted that the Jennings City Council had worked well together for many years, but that when Mayor Fountain Henderson was elected last year, one of the first things she did was file a lawsuit against the council and staff which made it difficult to have a good working relationship. He stated that he hopes whoever is elected, they will work together.

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

Reporting for their committees, Councilwoman Epps reported that the Beautification Committee had not met.

Councilwoman Dugger, for the Solid Waste Committee, reminded residents that a discount was now available to senior citizens on trash pick-up service and that dumpsters would be provided to each ward for a clean-up day.

For the Municipal League, Councilwoman Dugger reported that the MSD bond issue proposal had been discussed at the last meeting.

For the Park Committee, Councilwoman Jones reported on a meeting in which they discussed the park grant and also maintenance issues in the parks.

For the Public Works Committee, it was noted that the committee needs to meet to finish discussing dumpsters in residential areas.

For the Ways and means Committee, Councilwoman Dugger reported on recent meetings about the budget and stated that she would like to see the information more easily accessible by computer. She

also stated that the city had received one proposal for police services and that there were questions to be answered about it.

Under legal business, Bill #2451, for the resubdivision of Lot 3A of River Roads Plat 8, 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 #2400 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 #2452, authorizing a Conditional Use Permit for Ruler Foods at 8933 Jennings Road, was given its first reading on a motion by Councilman Epps, second by Councilwoman Fortson. The second reading was done on a motion by Councilwoman Fortson, second by Councilman Epps. The bill was approved to become Ordinance #2401 by the following roll call vote: voting in favor were Councilmembers Brown, Jones, Fortson, Schmerber, Cook, R. Epps and C. Epps; no one voting against, Councilwoman Dugger abstaining.

Bill #2453, authorizing a contract with St. Louis County for mosquito control, 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 #2402 by the following roll call vote: voting in favor were Councilmembers Brown, Jones, Schmerber, Cook, R. Epps and C. Epps; Councilwoman Dugger and Councilwoman Fortson voting against, no one abstaining.

Bill #2454, transferring a Conditional Use Permit for the Quick Shop at 5531 Jennings Road from Amin Alshawkini to Riddhi Patel and Sandip Patel, was given its first reading on a motion by Councilman Epps, second by Councilwoman Cook. The second reading was done on a motion by Councilman Epps, second by Councilwoman Fortson. The bill was approved to become Ordinance #2403 by the following roll call vote: voting in favor were Councilmembers Jones, Dugger, Fortson, Schmerber, Cook, R. Epps and C. Epps; Councilwoman Brown voting against, no one abstaining.

Under new business, consideration of awarding the contract for cutting grass was tabled at the request of the Mayor, on a motion by Councilwoman Jones, second by Councilwoman Fortson.

On a motion by Councilwoman Fortson, second by Councilwoman Dugger, the council voted to accept the proposed job descriptions and salaries for the positions of city attorney, Public Safety Director and accountant.

Next discussed was the city's dismissal from a lawsuit. City Attorney Jamis Kresyman reported that she had been successful in getting the city dismissed from a lawsuit regarding actions by the police, because the city does not direct the police department.

Next discussed was the contract for police services. Mayor Fountain Henderson noted that the St. Louis County Police Department had been the only department to bid, and that she would meet with them to work out the details.

Next considered was approval of bills. Payment of bills as submitted was approved on a motion by Councilman Epps, second by Councilman Schmerber. Attorney Jamis Kresyman then noted that the Mayor had deleted something from her bill and reduced the amount to be paid, and that she would like the bill paid in full as she had been acting as per a conversation with the Mayor. Motion was made by Councilman Schmerber, second by Councilwoman Epps, to pay the bill in full, but the motion failed by the following roll call vote: voting in favor were Councilmembers Schmerber, R. Epps and C. Epps; Councilmembers Brown, Jones, Dugger, Fortson and Cook voting against, no one abstaining.

On a motion by Councilwoman Dugger, second by Councilman Epps, a closed session for personnel matters (RSMO 610:021 – 3) was approved by the following roll call vote: voting in favor were Councilmembers Brown, Jones, Dugger, Fortson, Cook, R. Epps and C. Epps; Councilman Schmerber voting against, no one abstaining.

For the Mayor's report, Mayor Fountain Henderson reported attending a Metro Mayors meeting, a St. Louis County Municipal league meeting, the Easter Egg Hunt, the Alexandria Place homeowner's Association meeting and a meeting with the Good News Baptist Church about parking. She congratulated the Jennings School District and also Councilwoman Dugger and the Ways and Means

Committee for their work on the budget. She stated that the city needed to address trailers and basketball hoops, and said that she would like to have an ordinance committee, an IT committee and a better website. She encouraged residents to vote on April 5th and to participate in the Presidential Caucus on April 7th, and stated that the council was receiving training on how to work together.

After a brief recess, the council met in closed session (RSMO 610:021 -3). On recommendation of Mayor Fountain Henderson and on a motion by Councilman Epps, second by Councilwoman Epps, the council approved the termination of correctional officer Cathryn Hutchens, 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.

On a motion by Councilman Epps, second by Councilwoman Brown, employee Taundra Strawbridge will be given the title of Administrative Assistant II and a pay increase from a GS-10D to a GS-11D; 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.

City Attorney Jamis Kresyman and City Clerk Cheryl Balke were then asked to leave the meeting, after which, according to notes provided by Mayor Fountain Henderson, the following actions took place: On a motion by Councilwoman Fortson , second by Councilwoman Cook, the council approved to have a forensic audit performed, 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. On a motion by Councilwoman Fortson , second by Councilwoman Cook, the council approved to freeze City Clerk Cheryl Balke’s current salary; 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. On a motion by Councilwoman Brown, second by Councilwoman Jones, the council approved to hire an audit firm to perform a forensic audit on the city’s finances; 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.

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

Mayor Yolonda Fountain Henderson

ATTEST:

City Clerk