

**Minutes of the City Council Meeting  
Jennings City Hall  
September 25, 2017 - 7:00 pm**

The meeting of the Jennings City Council was held on Monday, September 25, 2017 at 7 p.m. at Jennings City Hall.

***Public Hearings:***

**Property Tax Rate for 2017**

Mayor Austin called to order the public hearing regarding property tax rates for 2017. She called forward Mike Williams, with Hochschild, Bloom & Company, LLP.

Mike Williams introduced himself saying he works with Hochschild, Bloom & Company. He said they assist with putting together the spreadsheets related to the calculation of the property taxes for the 2017 year. The taxes are assessed later in 2017 and people usually pay them around December. They are due by December 31, 2017. The notice of the property tax rates were posted. The rates for the General Revenue Fund were \$1.00 per \$100 assessed valuation last year. This year it is \$1 per assessed valuation for the General Fund taxes. The Police and Fire Pension fund also has a tax through the city. That rate is the same for residential, \$.375 per \$100. He said the commercial dropped slightly from \$.382 to \$.364. The personal property amount was the same at \$.372.

Mike explained that the West Florissant Business District is adapted along with the City's tax rates. The amounts were the same for residential at \$.43 per 100 and commercial rate decreased from \$.408 to \$.347. Mike stated that overall the amounts are the same except two decreases; one for commercial assessed on the police and fire tax and the other is reduction in commercial for the special business district. Overall, some of the reductions are due to an increase in the assess valuation. The final assess valuation last year was \$81,544,000. The amount this year is around \$83,803,000. There is a little over a \$2 million increase on about \$81 million total. Mike announced that the report was the change in the assessed valuation and the property tax rates on the agenda.

Mayor Austin thanked Mike and asked the public if there were any questions.

Marietta Beck asked if the proposed tax rates will increase personal real estate taxes. Mike responded there is some confusion on the City's rates vs the overall rates. He said the rate is for the City. The fire districts, school districts, counties, all have certain property taxes. He explained the discussion is just on the City's little portion of the tax bill that everyone gets. He said the City rate was exactly the same as last year. The General Fund is \$1, which is exactly the same rate as last year. Mike explained if the person property tax bills increase, it is not because of the City. He explained that if the assessed valuation goes up, and your rate is a \$1, then the rate is the same. If the value of your house increases 2%, you might pay 2% more in tax because the assess value of your house went up. But you are still paying the \$1 rate from the City. Sam interjected that rate would be from St. Louis County; not the City of Jennings.

Mayor Austin asked if there were any additional questions. There were none. The public hearing was concluded at 7:05 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Jennings City Council was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Chief Goldstein told the public that the last month when he was at the council meeting, he talked about call stats. He said he wanted to present to the City where the district is from 2016-August, 2017. Last year, they ran 1445 fires, 1168 EMS calls for a total of 2613 calls. As of August this year, the district has run 1008 fires, 777 EMS calls for a total of 1785. Last year was about 55% fires. This year the district is about 56%, EMS calls are about 44-45%. He said he spoke last month about some exciting news that has come their way. In 2004, the Riverview Fire Protection District had an ISO rating (Insurance Service Office rating) of a Class 4, which is a PPC Class (Public Protection Classification). That's how you are rated for your homeowners insurance for fire. When the district merged with Jennings, in 2014, with the fire Department, they were at a Class 5. So ISO has been trying to come in. They come in about every 10 years. They tried to come to the City in 2014, but for whatever reason, it didn't happen. A year and a half ago, Chief Goldstein took over as Fire Chief and ISO contacted him and came out. Chief Goldstein said he is proud to say right now between the 4 and 5 that Jennings had, the district is now a PPC Class 3. What that means for everybody is, you should start contacting your insurance around December 1<sup>st</sup> this year to let them know that the fire protection class for the city is now a 3. He congratulated everyone. He said that took a lot of hard work. He said ISO comes in and they look at training, how many boots are on the ground for every call, timing distance, water supply, commercial buildings, and sprinkler systems in commercial buildings. So with all of the training that the men and women do and the miles they log on your fire trucks is for a reason. It is to keep the insurance classifications down. Hopefully it will bring some new infrastructure for commercial for the City because of the Class 3. He again congratulated the City. He invited the public to visit the website. He said it is user friendly. He said he talked about it a little last month when he was at the council meeting. He said they put the audit on the website. You can see where the finances are. You can see the board minutes. They are always posted the Wednesday morning after the Tuesday board meeting. Along with the organizational chart.

Chief said the also wanted to talk about what is coming up in November. He said in November, the culture of the Fire Department will be changing. He said they will grow and move to the next level where they need to be. He said there is one thing dear to his heart. He made reference to the 44-45% percentages of the EMS calls that he mentioned earlier. He informed the public that they will be putting a Proposition A on the ballot for a \$.40 EMS tax. He explained that if the tax is approved district wide, they will start having advance life supports on firetrucks. The future will be firefighters and paramedics on the trucks to get to the public's needs faster because last year, Christian Hospital ran over 40,000 EMS calls, covering 216 square miles of the county with eight ALS ambulances. He said they are showing up on the EMS calls where they are there for 25-30 minutes doing CPR because that is their new protocol. They have figured out that the more compression they do, the longer on scene time there increases the success rate. Chief Goldstein explained that the only problem is that they do not have any medication to deliver to the patients when they are there. They have to wait sometimes, for the ambulances. The ambulances could be at DePaul or coming from DePaul. The Riverview Fire District is fortunate to have two ambulances that run out of the fire station. There are only two stations that have that. Chief said he was proud to have that. He introduced one of his newest firefighter-paramedic. He was just sent through paramedic school. He was with the Jennings Fire Department, now he is with Riverview. He is going to talk about the importance of having the Advance Life Support fire trucks with trained firefighter-paramedics to give the proper service to the taxpayers. He called Tony to the podium.

Tony Miller introduced himself. He said he started off his career at Jennings. He said he is now at Riverview. Tony said he just went through the paramedic program. He said he wanted to touch base on what he thinks is very important to realize the difference between ALS and BLS. He said currently they are a BLS fire department. He explained that they do not have the advance life support capabilities that Black Jack, Moline Acres, and Normandy has. He said he thinks it is unfair to the surrounding communities that come in and spend money here, come to church here, and they are not protected the same way they are at their home. But when the fire district travels to those communities, they have an ALS pumper that comes to their aid at all times. So

it happen. Chief Goldstein said Gene had to take the social to a bigger park this year because last year they ran out of room with all of the kids and the ice cream.

Chief Goldstein concluded his report with saying he is proud to be the fire chief for this fire district. He said it is growing and moving in the right direction. He said if there are any questions, his number is on the website. He said he would answer any questions from the public now. He said he would be leaving because of some family issues. He invited the public if they need to get a hold of them; you know where to find them. There was one question from the public about smoke detectors. Chief Goldstein responded that there should not be a resident in the Riverview Fire District that doesn't have a working smoke detector. They give out smoke detectors. They will come to install them. All the residents have to do is call the headquarters building and they will be more than happy to get it set up and probably be there within the hour after you call and get it set up. Please call 867-3889. He said the number is also on the website. Chief said they don't want to get into installing smoke detectors for landlords who want to sell their homes because the codes say you have to have working detectors. He said they will give out two free smoke detectors. They have 10 year life batteries so you shouldn't have any problems for the first 10 years after they are installed. He said please call and they will come. He said they guys are out doing it every day. Councilwoman Dugger asked the Chief if they are given to anybody. Chief said they will give the smoke detectors to any resident in Riverview Fire Protection District, but will not supply landlords when they want to sell their house. They will give two free working smoke detectors to every resident in their fire district. Councilwoman Dugger asked if the residents should come to him or will they be at City Hall. He said call 867-3889.

Mayor Austin thanked Chief Goldstein. She asked for prayers for the Chief who just lost his mother. But he made a commitment to come to the meeting. She asked the public to keep him in their prayers. She asked Captain Cox to come forth with a presentation.

**B. Presentation from St. Louis County Police Department – Employee Recognition**

Captain Cox recognized Officer Gregory Kregs as Officer of the Month for August 2017. Captain Cox said the officer has been assigned to the City of Jennings for about two years. He was nominated by his supervisors and the Captain selected him because he was the most productive officer. Captain Cox said Officer Kregs spent the last ten days in St. Louis City, along with seven other officers, during the recent civil unrest. Captain Cox said he is always near the top in the statistical, and he has yet to see a complaint regarding his performance. Captain Cox asked the public to join him in congratulating Officer Gregory Kregs as the August Officer of the Month.

Captain Cox also thanked the residents of Jennings, especially Ms. Brown. He explained while the officers where in the City working, they made sure the Jennings officers stayed fed and hydrated by making donations to the precinct. He said it was generous and he appreciated it.

**C. Presentation from Department of Corrections – Employee Recognition**

Lt. Neal recognized Correction Officer Still for Officer of the Month for the Department of Corrections. He reported in August there was an individual brought in from the City to Jennings. During the booking process, Officer Still discovered that the City overlooked that the individual had a murder one charge in their City but they released him back to Jennings. Officer Still was able to catch it and get the individual back to the City where he belonged.

**D. Presentation from Housing and Development Director – Employee Recognition**

Henry Johnson, Interim Director, recognized two employees, Mr. Mike Vilmer. Mr. Johnson recognized Mr. Vilmer for his demonstration of dedication and commitment to the Building Department and the City of Jennings for over the past 20 years. He has continuously demonstrated integrity, honesty, and fairness in his transactions and consistently strives to be consistent in his assignments to serve the best interest of the City and the people. He consistently performs at a high level of ethical standards and turns out a high volume of professional work. Mr. Johnson said his recognizing Mr. Vilmer for his 20 years of dedication and loyalty to the City of Jennings.

revenues at the top of the page show charges for services increased from the \$1,384,000 to \$1.5 million. That had to do with the Corrections Jail operations. The increase in the revenues that came in from that part of the City. The capital grants and contributions had to do with dedicated real estate, which are really cash that comes into the city. It's a fixed asset, just property that the City receives title to. That's some of the major changes in the overall revenues. One of the major changes in the expenses talks about Special Services. That department has been eliminated so those expenses are gone. That shows a decrease in the overall expenses for the year. Those are all of the funds blended together at a high level review of all of the assets and liabilities. The City breaks all of its money done into different funds. That starts on page 11.

Page 11 has the detail of the different funds listed: General Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, TIF Funds, River Roads funds, Other Governmental Funds, which are all of the smaller funds. They are all listed in the back. He said he likes to talk about the General Fund since it is the main operating fund of the City. It's assets in cash includes cash investments of around \$3,002,000. The General Fund assets. It has some liabilities around \$302,000. The difference between the assets and liabilities is call fund balance. Some people call it reserves. Overall it shows about \$2.7 million of reserves for the General Fund. A part of that is committed for contingencies and the unassigned of General Fund Fund Balance is around \$1,686,000. That's the net financial position of just the General Fund. Looking at this overall you can on the right side of the page the Total Governmental Funds have total assets around \$8.6 million of that, the General Fund is around \$3 million, so there is \$5 million in other assets. The total reserves shows \$2.7 million for the General Fund but overall there \$8.3 million total for all of the City's funds. That is the balances as of March 31<sup>st</sup>. The changes in those balances, revenues and expenses, are on page 13. Page 13 shows the revenues and expenses, talking about the General Fund, around \$7,074,000 and the expenditures around \$7,417,000. So there are more expenditures than revenues, which results in a decrease in the overall fund balance; the reserves for the General Fund for the year of around \$379,000 after Other Sources and Uses. The General Fund Fund Balance decreased from \$3,079,000 to \$2.7 million. The right side of the page has a total revenue of \$10.6 million. There are other sources and uses, but overall, all of the City's fund balances show an increase of \$158,000. The General Fund was down. Some of the other funds were up and made up for that. And overall there was an increase in the Fund Balances for the City. That's the fund set up. That's the General Fund and the other major funds. There is more detail on this in the back. The next section, page 15 is the Pension Fund. This is the pension fund that is being transferred to LAGERS. So flip through that for now. Page 17 begins the Summary of Significant Accounting Policies. Accounting policies don't change much from year to year, so he said he would skip most of those and talk about the information on page 22.

Page 22 begins with some of the detail information to the note. The first one is about the cash investments. Cash in the bank has to be secured by FDIC or pledged collateral, like some sort of security that the banks hold in case of some remote cause of failure in the bank so the cash in the bank is secured. The last sentence in Note B (1) says as of March 31, these bank balances are entirely secured or collateralized. He said that's good. The City is in compliance with that law and the cash is secured. On the next section, on page 23, it talks about the investments the City has. If people are interceded in what types of investments you have, the top part of the page is the governmental fund. This is mainly the General Fund and the Capital Improvement Fund. Those are the ones the City controls. The Fiduciary Fund is the Pension Fund. If you want to ignore those for now. At the top part of the page is the active city funds invested, not including the pension. It is similar to what the City had before. Most have been federal obligation and money market funds. The investments go through page 26 with a lot of other information. On page 27, we get into Capital Assets. A Capital Assets disclosure is important because these are the high cost, big investments that the City makes in infrastructure, buildings, equipment, and things like that. Overall, the increases are the purchases for the year, the other acquisitions, the balances at the end of the year. If you just look at the bottom line and kind of near the middle of the page, it shows Capital Assets at the beginning of the year around \$7,298,000; end of the year was \$7,622,000, an increase of several hundred thousands of dollars in total capital assets.

significant, they have to report them here. Also the compliance section on the second page has similar type items. If there are any compliance problems that they know with state statutes or city ordinances that compliance requirements, other grants, or contract agreements, they have to report those. They did have one deficiency this year similar to last year. It's a finding similar to before in the second paragraph on page two where it talks about the City personnel doesn't have experience related to accounting principles. He said they prepare the financial statements for the city. He said he think this has been talked about before. A lot of the smaller entities, where they prepare the statements have a finding like that in the reports. He said it is not unusual. The other thing that is not in the report this year is because of the improvements in the court that were found last year. There were significant deficiencies related to the payment of the CVC post other liabilities and other problems in the court. There is still an issue. They scaled down the commit. That's improvement to the report. So that's this report Internal control and Compliance There is the one usual comment. The compliance says the results of our test disclose no instances of noncompliance. There are no other internal control or compliance issues. However, they did issue this last report. It is the second letter. There are twelve comments.

The first one has to do with the court items I mentioned previously. Last year they were five or six items of more significance. That's why it was a significant deficiency. This year it is just a comment for improvement. The first item has to do with getting the court bond liability report reconciled to the accounting records, various other unfiled items and older checks that need to be resolved. We recommend those be taken care of.

Number two has to do with the documentation of fuel purchases. Most of the receipts were turned in and documented. Some of them weren't. It looks like about 10 out of 67 we checked didn't have documentation, so that's one seventh of them. We recommend those be completed. Number three had to do with you capital assets policy that says when you get rid of an asset or add an asset you have to report that on a special form, give it to accounting so they can track it, put it on the list, they give it to us and we check it every year. Those forms weren't used all the time.

Number four had to do with the budget amendment. Your policy says that if you have fluctuations in your budget to actual by over 10%, you are supposed to adopt a budget amendment for those. The final budget still shows two items that didn't have budget amendments for the legal and city clerk functions.

Number five had to do with the documentation of the longevity pay increases. The longevity pay increases are given out. The 10 and 20 years increases are issued because of ordinance and the 15 year increases are issued because a budget memo was written. So we think you should make that consistent. Have them all either budget memos or all ordinances.

Number six had to do with documentation of certain departments that they found due to the restructure of some of the activities of the City that needed to be improved, including Special Services department for tracking of inventory, fixed assets and building department, including debt compliance issues.

Number seven had to do with the documentation of accounting policies and procedures manual. We just recommended that be updated. In general, the idea is that your standardize policies and procedures be documented and documented well throughout the city. That's how you receive money, how it gets recorded, who approves it. Same for payroll; same for disbursements.

Number eight had a do with the cash testing. Various voided items were not necessarily documented. So we recommend that those all be accounted for.

Shannon. She said she has reported this and still to this day, to no avail. The resident who lives next door gave her permission to go into his yard because he is her church member. He is tired of all of the debris growing over onto his grass. She said 2504 keeps coming up.

Rolling Hill apartments, if you go into the lot there is a nice little dip. That needs to be fixed because on the other side is really his responsibility, but on the other side is the city's responsibility. There's a nice little dip.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of October that will be a bonfire at the Jennings High School. Just so you not be calling the police department. We will be having a parade, October 7th. The parade lineup will start 10 o'clock. She said Ward 3 council people spoke about this a couple months ago. She asked if they could get with the Chief to see if the City got a grant for the CERT department. She said because if something happened in Jennings, a lot of the resident who went through the CERT program, are deceased. So, we need to have something where we know what to do when it comes to a disaster here in the City Of Jennings.

She said I feel like we need when we have errors on the council, we need to go behind the scenes to speak to the Mayor about it. We don't need to air our dirty laundry out here. So when it comes to grammatical errors we need to be working together. If we can do something about 2504 Shannon. That is my church member who lives next door. He is constantly complaining. She said had been working with a resident in Ward 2 on a situation. She is going to be coming up shortly. She the City needs to get some of the things done. She said she is tired of people coming to her and it's not getting done. She said we need to be more proactive. She addressed the Chief and said she called him. She asked if he got her message. She told him she had it in the car.

**Marietta Beck of 5476 Hodiament** said she was at the meeting last month because of all the dumping that was dumped in her alley. After about two weeks, she said she was starting to get discouraged because nobody called her from the St. Louis County police department and nobody called her from the building inspectors department. She was starting to think well there you go. But the next day the junk disappeared. I don't know who took it. I was not home. My mom and dad say a truck appeared. One of the guys asked for some water. She said every bit of it was gone. She thanked whoever did it.

**Clematene Hall of 9426 Halls Ferry Rd.** (She said she lives directly across the street from Halls Ferry Manor). She said she had a couple issues that have not been addressed. She said she has a person that lives adjacent to her that she has been having a problem with it for quite some time. They have recently had a lot of people come move to where they are. When they park, they don't park in their driveway, they come around in the cul-de-sac, which is Dawn court. They come around there, they park and get out and go behind her property They walk behind my property to go to their back door. Or they'll park their cars on her property and nothing is being done about it. She said she has called the police department and gone through the chain of command trying to find out what she needs to do, but nothing is being done. She said she even asked about policing. She said in the City of Jennings, they have always had policing. They have gotten drug dealers out of their cul-de-sac. They don't have police coming by their cul-de-sac anymore. They used to come down the street and just come in a circle and see what was going on. She asked why would they have the neighborhood watch sign when the police don't show up. She said she is told that St Louis County is supposed to be dealing with that. Ms. Hall said she sees them going up and down the street. They don't come to see anything. She said the people next door have gotten so bold, that when it's dark, they parked the car is where they cannot be seen. She said she had called the Police Department and they tell her that they're going to send someone out, but they never do. Now she said she has a couple of trenches on her property. She said it's going to get worst during the winter time. Ms. Hall said she spoke to someone at City Hall who said that things are going to be done. She asked why is it that the police is here but they are not doing anything. It's like they're in other places, like in the city (St. Louis City) where they are having this big thing (civil unrest). She said when they're right here in the neighborhood

they finished, they decided that they would, instead of meeting here on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday at City Hall, since they meet every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month, they decided they would move to another area. So the block captains decided that they will start a College and West Florissant and move all the way up to College and 70. She said she would like to give a shout out to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward block captains if they're here. She asked if there were any 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward block captains at the meeting tonight. She gave a shout out to them. She said she would like to give thanks to Mr. Cotton for having the barbecue ready when they finished and also to the Public Works Department for having help to make the clean up a success. A special thanks to the Jennings High School leaders for putting a group of students together. She asked the students to stand. She said they did awesome job. She said in addition, she thanked Councilman Stichnote who always supports whatever she and Councilwoman Roberts are doing. She said they had a great time. She will see them on October 21st at 9 a.m. for the next clean up.

Mayor Austin said its always good to see young people giving back to the community.

**Councilwoman Roberts** started with a couple of complaints for the month. She said she had two dumping complaints on Main and McLaran, which was a white couch off to the corner. At Fairview Baptist Church there is a couch that was dumped. Then, she said she will give her questions to Bill. She said she thought it would be more appropriate to send him an email.

Councilwoman Roberts said she had a safety concern. On Esterbrook, there is someone going around the neighborhood at night at about three in the morning looking for unlocked car doors. So just be aware, be safe and lock your car doors because they're taking change and whatever but they are going in the middle of the night trying to open up car doors. She was asking for more police patrol in the area in Esterbrook and Albia Terrance in the Sapphire area. Also this month, she said she had an opportunity to attend the Municipal League Annual Conference. She said there were many different classes and opportunities for learning. This was from September 10th through the 13th. Councilwoman Roberts said she wanted to highlight some of the interesting things that she learned and some of the interesting information ascertained from the conference. So one thing that she knows that we talk a lot about is the streets and paving. There was someone from the Missouri Local Technical Assistance program handing out information about training cities on different things about roads. She said she wanted to go over just a little bit about the program, it enables local counties, parishes, townships, cities, and towns to improve their roads by supplying them with variety of training programs. Some of the classes that will be held in the area all are in Maryland Heights, are work zone safety and flaggers on September 26th, comprehensive winter maintenance October 11, equipment operations and team safety November 30, basic construction math December 7. She said she thinks that would be something that will be beneficial in terms of helping to keep our roads maintained and improving roads in this area.

She said she also I saw something in terms of financial economics in terms of how cities buy things. There is a program called Buy Board. Buy Board is a program where local governments combine or come together to purchase whatever various amounts of things at a discounted rate so I think I can pass that information along but I do think that information could be beneficial. Another program was the Missouri state agency for surplus property program. She said she did check the list but did not see Jennings on the list. This program allows or enables cities to obtain federal supplies or equipment from the federal government at discounted rates. So you can just sign up. Councilwoman Roberts thought that was pretty interesting in terms of getting equipment at discounted rates. The most exciting thing information that she learned was about the Better Block Foundation, which is a guy named Jason Roberts out of Dallas helped improve a very dilapidated area. Councilwoman Robert said she would go over what he did.

The program is called Better Block Project. It was just a group of residents who decided that they wanted to improve their neighborhood. So they got together and started to doing small projects around the neighborhood. The area was filled with vacant properties, wide streets, and

that could be a problem. The other problem is that she did not hear back from Public Works. So she called them and actually saw them, as well, to try to figure out why some of the issues were not addressed. But what she found out from Public Works is that if you call in the complaint, then the clerk, Margie Brown, has to put it into MyGov. But in order for Public Works to get it, there is another button that needs to be pushed so that Public Works can actually get the order to do the work. Margie can tell us all day long that I put it in, I put it in, I put it in, but the Public Works department went in and saw nothing. She asked that it be checked. They did say that that is not coming to them.

Mayor asked Mr. Johnson if we got that corrected. Mr. Johnson responded there was not a problem. Councilwoman Dugger said, yes it was. She said when she called him the director was not there so she talked to Jim and when he actually went into the system for the complaints that she had from the beginning of the month and looked for them, they were not in their system. So that they can see that it needs to be done. She said she kept trying to figure out why the things weren't getting fixed. She said there was a problem. He did say that he talked to you all about it and yes there was a problem. She asked for an update on that. She said she would appreciate it. That's it. She thanked everyone for coming out.

**Councilman Wilson** said for a start, he wanted to shout out one of his residents. Her birthday was last Monday, Ms. Lola Nash. Happy birthday. He wanted to publicly wish her a happy birthday. He said he echoed Councilwoman Duggers, the Boatmen's Bank did come down. It was a bittersweet moment because it was the last part of River Roads that was still standing. Councilman Wilson said he got some before-and-after pictures. He said he was glad to see it come down because that means something new is coming. We don't know what it is but we know something new is coming and the space will look better driving pass it versus seeing boarded up buildings.

An update on the trash behind the Urban League, if you go back there, it is clean and all the stuff is gone away from the trash can; the couch and all of that stuff. It's picked up now. He said he was grateful for that as well. Lastly, he wanted to invite the public out. He said he is hosting an event on October 26<sup>th</sup>, in collaboration with the Missouri After School Network. They will be having a roundtable discussion and talking about current policies that support after school programs and discuss the need for further investment for those programs and for our children. So he invited the public to come out on October 26<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 p.m. at the Fairview Intermediate Gymnasium. He extended an invitation to the Councilmembers. He said a lot of decision-makers have been invited from the state, along with the school district and after school programs so you get a chance to hear about the importance of us advocating for things for our youth to do after school because after school time is a very critical time. And I know the police officers would agree as well, that is a time period that is critical for our children.

Councilman Dugger spoke again saying she was so honored to be a part of STS this past week. He (Steve Pokorny) hosted the HELP (homeschool program) which was about 30, 40, maybe 50 kids and their parents who came to STS. They were in each of their spots at STS at whatever STS does, whether they are repairing cars, towing cars, junking cars, whatever it is that they do, selling cars, whatever they do, each child had an opportunity to come and listen to the wonderful workers. They ate pizza. They invited the Kiwanis Club to come up. The Mayor was there. It was an awesome group to see. Some of the kids are in the north county area but they are not a part of the school system because they are being homeschooled. They were able to come up and see the great works of one of our business owners here in the City. She thanked Steve for the invitation. She said it was hot that day, but they had a great time. Councilwoman Dugger said they lifted her up in the car that goes on that thing and the car stayed up there. She said it was a good time.

Councilman Wilson said he had one more thing to say. At 1901 Park Ln., we really need to see



or Joann, here at City Hall, and she will give the phone number to contact them. Since Bill is not here, Councilman Stichnote asked Henry to help him with the issue. He said someone dumped some trash on Mary at College. He said he always gives whether the crime rate is up or down. For the month of July, from a year ago, it's down 18%. He said he knows about the last for 5-6 months, we've been averaging 18 to 20%. So I think that's real good for us.

Councilman Dugger spoke and said since the school board members were here, that the Jr. ROTC came over and volunteered their services for the installation ceremony for the Kiwanis Club. She said they were absolutely awesome. So please let them know when you're working with the ROTC that we definitely appreciate them representing Jennings over in Normandy. Because Normandy 24:1 thinks they got it together, which they do. We wanted to let them know that Jennings was in the house. Please let the school know.

Capt. Cox announced a drug take back program.

Mayor asked for motion to approve the month reports. On the motion made by Councilman R. Epps, seconded by Councilman Wilson, the Council voted in favor to approve the monthly reports.

#### Committee Reports

**Ways & Means** – Councilman R. Epps reported that the Ways & Means committee met Wednesday, September 13<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. He called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Present were: Councilmembers: Jones, Anderson, Wilson; Mayor Austin, Deletra Hudson, Henry Johnson, Jim Maixner, Dianna Drake, Lt. Neal.

Councilman Epps said there was a pretty long agenda. He said he had a motion to move items on the agenda to handle the Corrections first so they could get back to work. The first thing was the Department of Corrections Weapons.

##### **1. Department of Corrections Weapons**

The City is researching the purchase of six weapons for the Department of Corrections Officers. Lt. Neal had obtained three bids for Glock 22. These weapons fit the current holsters and ammunition magazines. The City will save money by not having to replace the holster and purchase different ammunition. The lowest bid was \$409 each totaling \$2,454.

##### **2. Department of Corrections Tasers**

The Department of Corrections is in need of replacing its tasers. They have five that cannot be repaired due to the fact that the tasers are no longer serviced. He also reported that the department has three tasers that are operational. Lt. Neal presented a bid for replacing 7 tasers. The City will receive a \$100 credit for each taser that is traded in. The total cost of the seven tasers is \$8,651. The tasers come with a five-year payment plan with no additional finance charges. The annual payment will be approx. \$1,848. Or the City can purchase them out right. Committee members wanted to know the cost of one taser so that the total proposed cost could be analyzed. Lt. Neal recommended purchasing the tasers out of the Seizure Funds. Councilman Epps said the purchase will not have to go against the General Revenue.

Next there was Public Works. Councilman Stichnote mentioned the street sweeper.

##### **3. Public Works Street Sweeper**

## **7. Building Department Training**

Mr. Johnson, Interim Housing and Building Director requested an additional \$1,000 be placed in his training budget to allow for additional training and educational seminars that will be critical to staff development. He proposed taking the funds from his salaries line item, which has the funds available due to vacancies within the department. The committee was in favor of the addition to the training line time.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. on the motion made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman Anderson.

**Public Works Committee** report they met on Thursday, September 7th at 6 PM. The meeting was called to order at 6. Councilwoman Anderson said who was present was herself, the Chair, Allan Stichnote, Councilwoman Dugger, Councilwoman Epps, Bill Kaeshamer, Jim Maixner, Deletra, and Mayor Austin. She said Councilman Epps and Stichnote have already given most of her report. She said she would just let everyone know about the chip sealing. The streets they are going to seal are: Beulah, Albright, Garesche, Blewett, Hathaway (North & South), Eastchester, Hord, Cozen, McLaran will be paved only from Jennings Station Rod. to Clifton. The reason that the whole block of McLaran won't be paved is because it's such a large project and we need engineers will take care of that. Paving was go until November or until the weather holds up. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m. Next meeting will be October 5th at 6 PM.

**Building Committee** - Councilwoman Jones reported no meeting. She said we're getting together the agenda.

**Park Committee** – Councilman Stichnote reported no meeting but there will be one on October 11 at 5:30. Also we have not heard anything from the grant yet. He said he was told probably sometime around Thanksgiving, we may find out about the grant. The grant committee did look over the paperwork and said the paperwork looks real good. It was done correctly. We have a pretty good chance.

**Municipal League** – Councilman Wilson reported there is an upcoming meeting on Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30, at Olivette City Hall.

**Planning commission** – Councilman Stichnote reported on September 5<sup>th</sup>, there was a Planning Commission Meeting. There was a special conditional use permit for a youth dance studio on 8894 Jennings Station Road. But they did not show up so they got tabled. Also, a special use permit to reopen the funeral home on Lewis and Clark, 9480 Lewis and Clark. They brought that up in voting on it. There wasn't any old business.

**Policy committee** - Councilwoman Jones reported that the policy committee had a meeting is September 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 Present were herself and the following councilmembers: R. Epps, Anderson, Wilson: Mayor, City Clerk and Stichnote, and a resident who gave great input.

Policies that were taken for action was Employees Rights Policy. She informed the council that they should have a copy of the policy. She said that policy was revisited from the August meeting. The committee tabled it they wanted to see language that included and define how the city will handle grievances if they not at a director's level, like a Mayor or whomever. How we would handle those grievances for the city employees. After discussion, the committee recommended adding language having HR department involved and legal to address it and notified of council. The city clerk did get with the city attorney. They sent us back some language. If everybody read it then we can go ahead and make a motion. The committee approved with the revisions, but she wanted to make sure the Council approved that policy. She asked if everybody had a chance to see it and if there were any questions. Dugger asked if the committee had gone through the policy. Councilman Jones say they did go through it. She said they actually went through it twice

by the end of the season will not be welcome to return, and have a garden bed next spring. It is a big job to get the garden ready for planting and it would be helpful if we did not have to clean beds for those that gardened the previous season. Councilwoman Dugger said maybe this report is basically about the garden, Mayor. She said I know there are some other things that you wanted to have go on with beautification as well, but I think this has mainly been their focus, the gardens. She said she had a couple of questions regarding this that has to do with, we appreciate frugal spending, but I she thinks the Ways and Means needs to know what you are spending any of the tax dollars on, so that we can make that report to Ways and Means. Also, I'm not sure what the Council's thoughts are on enforcing rules for people who are not cleaning their beds. But maybe I need to talk to you, Ms. Weustoff a little bit further about what you mean with that and how you want that presented to the council because we don't have arresting powers. So we want to see how we can work that out. If the council really does need to get involved with anything like that. She said she needs to talk to her further so that she can present it to them.

**Youth commission** – Earl Green, Recreation Director, reported for the youth Commission. He reported that the Youth Commission discussed a movie night. They discussed potentially having a movie night at Gary Gore because the equipment is there. We don't have the monitor at the Civic Center. They also discussed a movie night once a month for the youth at the Civic Center. We also have a Know Your Rights Commission discussed. We need to confirm the date of the event. The date is not here now. Human trafficking - the commission discussed have an event at the high school in March, potentially before spring break. We have a citywide Trunk or Treat. The commission discussed this as the city-wide Halloween event at Koeneman Park. This is in partnership with everybody in the city on October 28<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 5. The event will be sponsored by the Civic Center, Youth Commission and discussed with all businesses around the area. We are also looking to start a Girl Scout and Boy Scout troop. The Youth Commission discussed trying to reach out to ensure that the Boys from Girl Scouts could participate in the Trunk and Treats event on October 28<sup>th</sup>. The Mayor mentioned preparing for Homecoming and having a car in the parade to represent the Youth Commission. Homecoming is October 7<sup>th</sup>, which was discussed earlier today. On October 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Fire Department talked about the city wide Ice Cream Social. An educational center is on the way. The Civic Center took on the responsibility to start getting kids after school. The Afterschool Program which is showing that the kids in the Jennings area is continuing their education and doing a lot of work in the city with the youth. The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

**Senior Commission** - Jennings Senior Citizens Commission is progressing at an encouraging rate. Some of the success is attributed to partnering with the staff at the Civic Center, which would be Iris Hunter, the Administrative Assistant and Earl Green, Recreation Director. They are great to work with. The last meeting was on Wednesday, September 20th at 5:30 PM at Jennings City Hall. These are some of the highlights that happened. Iris received 21 complete feedback forms from residents that showed interest in participating in activities that the Center holds each month. Mrs. Lola Nash, Chairman of the Senior Citizens Commission, has received an additional six feedback forms. Two of which were given to her as a result of her report at the August Council meeting. The commission is open always to more recommendations about ways to contact and encourage participation in activities. They are very interested in you letting them know how they may provide activities or resources that you feel will be helpful to you. Iris is working on an updated mailing list to help in reaching out to the Jennings community. The commission will have a table with information and handout materials during the National Night Out on Tuesday, October 3rd from 5 to 8 PM at Westfall Plaza. That will be located on the parking lot nearest the former Target Store. We are looking forward to our residents coming out to join us that evening. As always, our St. Louis County police will make it a very enjoyable evening for us all of us. We would like to remind you of the Sr. Brunch that will be hosted by the Jennings Civic Center 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. on October 31<sup>st</sup>. Transportation will be available. Registrations can be accepted by calling the Civic Center. The Center staff would appreciate your contacting them if you plan to attend. That will help them to make proper arrangements for the brunch. The next scheduled meeting dates for the Senior Citizens Commission would be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays, October 17<sup>th</sup>,

not concerned about the workers. They are concerned about selling their products. We need to work closely with them, the police department to provide them with safety tips. She said she would go in and ask if they had buzzers. She would be told it's not working. She would ask if the camera is working and be told it's not working. They don't want to hire any security. Mayor Austin said she really wants to see what we can do. Like with the fire department, to have a false alarm, they have to pay if they called us to many times. There is a lot of theft going on. They had an armed robbery one day and they were expected to still work for the rest of the day. We need to look at those stores and see what we can try to do to assist them.

The department heads were asked to submit a plan to improve their deficiencies in the in the audit. We heard the findings that we were told. Mayor said she will be meeting individually with the department heads to see what they are going to do to move forward to correct those.

Mayor Austin reported that she met with a representative for Regions Bank. She said she discussed how Jennings can come out of the garage and get onto level one or two where we will be taking debit and credit cards. We are so outdated within the city. She said she has noticed that we are back in the day. So she is trying to see if we can get the equipment for debit and credit cards, so we can use it in the Building Department, Finance Department, and the Civic Center. We have been working really hard. She said we will continue to move forward in a positive matter across the city.

Mayor Austin called for a five-minute break before closed session.

Closed Session

**LEGAL**

The Interim City Attorney, Sam Alton, briefed the City Council on pending legal issues involving the City. Sam read a letter addressed to him from Rachel Bates, an attorney with MoPerm representing the City on the case with Glen Ozenkoski. Members of council also received a copy of the letter in their folders. The letter gave an overview of the case and the proposed settlement being negotiated with Mr. Ozenkoski's. After hearing the recommendation of the attorney from MoPerm and Sam, the council voted to accept the recommendation of MoPerm to settle the case with Glenn Ozenkoski by the following roll call vote of the council members: Stichnote, Jones, Wilson, Anderson, Roberts, R. Epps; Dugger voted against; C. Epps absent; none abstaining.

**Termination in the Department of Corrections**

Mayor Austin recommended to the council the termination of Michael McCarthy supported by video obtained from the jail booking area. On the motion made by Councilman R. Epps, seconded by Councilwoman Anderson, the City Council approved the recommendation from Mayor Austin to terminate Michael McCarthy from the City of Jennings' Department of Corrections effective at the end of his shift on September 25, 2017 at 6 p.m. through September 26, 2017 at 2 a.m. by the following roll call vote of the council members: Stichnote, Jones, Wilson, Dugger, Anderson, Roberts, R. Epps; C. Epps absent, none opposing nor abstaining.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:11 p.m. on the motion made by Councilwoman Anderson, seconded by Councilwoman Roberts. The council voted in favor by the following roll call vote: Stichnote, Jones, Wilson, Dugger, Anderson, Roberts, R. Epps; C. Epps absent none opposing nor abstaining.

  
Mayor, Yolanda Austin

Attest:

  
Deletra Hudson, City Clerk