

## REGULAR MEETING

March 12, 2024

The Regular Meeting of the Jennings City Council was convened on the 12th day of March, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in the Jennings City Council Chambers, 154 N. Main Street, Jennings, Louisiana with President Stephen VanHook and a quorum present.

Jennings City Council Members present: Carolyn Simon, District A; Johnny Armentor, District B; Clifton LeJeune, District C; Anthony LeBlanc, District D; Stephen VanHook, District E

Jennings City Council Members Absent: None

The Prayer was led by Ms. Simon and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Armentor.

It was moved by Mr. Lejeune, seconded by Mr. Armentor to make a change to the Minutes of the January 9, 2024 Regular Meeting regarding the statement that a unanimous vote was required to add an item to the agenda during the meeting. After much discussion, it was moved by Mr. LeJeune, seconded by Ms. Simon and carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to amend the original motion to get clarification as to whether a majority vote or a unanimous vote is required to add an item to the agenda during the meeting.

Ms. Simon motioned and Mr. Armentor seconded to authorize the Mayor to hire Wendell Miller as the new City Attorney for the City of Jennings. Mr. Miller was introduced by the Mayor. After no further questions or comments, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **HIRE** Wendell Miller as the new City Attorney for the City of Jennings.

Ms. Sarah Werner of the Langley, Williams, & Company, LLC Accounting Firm presented the City of Jennings' Audit Report for Fiscal Year Ending 06/30/23. Ms. Werner stated that they issued an Unmodified Opinion. There were no internal control or compliance findings reported and no findings or exceptions related to the state agreed upon procedures. The auditor highlighted the assets, liabilities, net position, changes in net position for the year. The entire audit can be found on the City of Jennings' & LA Legislative Auditor's websites: ([www.cityofjennings.com](http://www.cityofjennings.com) & [www.la.state.la.us](http://www.la.state.la.us)). After a few comments and questions, the mayor thanked the auditor and the financial staff.

Next, Dane Bergeron, regional manager for South Central Planning & Development Commission presented information including a brochure regarding the Restore LA Small Business Loan Program. Mr. Bergeron explained that this program is to help businesses affected by Hurricanes or the May 2021 flood. Applications are available online at [www.scpdc.org](http://www.scpdc.org) or by calling 1-800-630-3791.

City Council President, Stephen VanHook stated that the next item of business was to discuss the demo and cleanup of building at 203 S. Louise St. The structure has been declared unsafe and in need of condemnation. No motion was obtained; therefore, no action was taken regarding this property.

It was motioned by Mr. LeJeune, seconded by Mr. Armentor to discuss the demo and cleanup of property at 1338 State St. The structure has been declared unsafe and in need of condemnation. No one representing the property was in attendance. Mayor Henry Guinn stated that a certified notice was sent to the owner, however it was not signed for. Mayor Guinn explained that when notice goes unaccounted for, a curator has to be obtained to explore all avenues to notify the owners. Mayor Guinn suggested that this property be referred to the City

Attorney's office to procure a curator to notify the owners. After a few questions and comments, it was motioned by Mr. LeJeune, seconded by Ms. Simon, and carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance, to **REFER** this property to the City Attorney's office to determine the status of 1338 State St.

It was motioned by Ms. Simon, seconded by Mr. LeBlanc to discuss the demo and cleanup of property at 210 W. South St. The structure has been declared unsafe and in need of condemnation. No one representing the property was in attendance. Mayor Guinn stated that because there has not been official notice, a curator has to be obtained to explore all avenues to notify the owners before it can be moved to condemn this property. Mayor Guinn recommended that this property also be referred to the City Attorney's office to procure a curator to notify the owners. After no other questions and comments, it was motioned by Mr. LeJeune, seconded by Mr. Armentor, and carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance, to **REFER** this property to the City Attorney's office to procure a curator.

It was motioned by Ms. Armentor, seconded by Mr. LeBlanc to discuss the demo and cleanup of property at 811 Cary Ave. The structure has been declared unsafe and in need of condemnation. No one representing the property was in attendance. Mayor Guinn stated that because there has not been official notice to the owner, a curator has to be obtained to explore all avenues to notify the owners to notify them that condemnation is pending. After no other questions and comments, it was motioned by Mr. Armentor, seconded by Mr. LeBlanc, and carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance, to **REFER** this property to the City Attorney's office to procure a curator.

Resolution No. 1805G – a resolution informing Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality that the Mayor and City Council reviewed the Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Environmental Audit Report. It was motioned by Mr. Armentor and seconded by Mr. LeJeune to introduce and adopt Resolution No. 1805G. Mayor Guinn explained that this is an internal audit of the treatment of sewage and discharge of water required by Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. After no other comments or questions, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **INTRODUCE & ADOPT** Resolution No. 1805G.

Resolution No. 1805H – a resolution declaring the City of Jennings Renovations Streets Department Project as substantially complete and repealing all resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict therewith. It was motioned by Mr. LeJeune and seconded by Ms. Simon to introduce and adopt Resolution No. 1805H. Mayor Henry Guinn stated that the punch list has been finalized and the project is ready for substantial completion. After a few questions and comments, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **INTRODUCE & ADOPT** Resolution No. 1805H.

Ordinance No. 1807 – an ordinance to authorize the Mayor of the City of Jennings to execute joint service agreement with Jeff Davis Parish Police Jury – VA Clinic; and repealing all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict therewith. It was motioned by Mr. Armentor and seconded by Ms. Simon to introduce Ordinance No. 1807. Mayor Henry Guinn explained that this is an annual agreement with other parish entities and the Jeff Davis Police Jury to help fund the VA Clinic. After a few questions and comments, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **INTRODUCE** Ordinance No. 1807.

The council unanimously voted to add to the agenda the request of Councilwoman Carolyn Simon to discuss a safety barrier around the playground and need for another pavilion at Marcus Cain Park. Mayor Henry Guinn updated the Council that he and Chief Semmes have discussed safety at the park for an event that will occur in May. Mayor Guinn stated that he anticipates having a contractor look at putting a fence around the playground. According to the Mayor, the pavilion would need to be addressed in next fiscal year budget.

Resolution No. 1805C – a resolution to adopt procedures for placing items on the City Council Agenda and the length of time for presentation to the council; and repealing all resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict therewith was tabled in the February 2024 meeting. After a brief discussion, it was motioned by Mr. LeJeune, seconded by Mr. Armentor and carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to amend the original motion to **POSTPONE** Resolution No. 1805C for three months.

The council unanimously voted to add to the agenda the request of Ms. Daigle to discuss livestreaming of Council Meetings. Ms. Daigle stated that she has researched livestreaming of governmental meetings to make it accessible as well as provide many benefits to citizens and officials. Mayor Henry Guinn explained that this was already being discussed with IT providers.

With no further business on the agenda, it was moved by Mr. LeJeune, seconded by Ms. Simon and carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to ADJOURN this Regular Meeting on March 12, 2024 of the Jennings City Council at 6:26 p.m.

ATTEST:

/s/Chad Crochet

Chad Crochet, Secretary  
Jennings City Council

\_\_\_\_\_

Stephen VanHook, President  
Jennings City Council