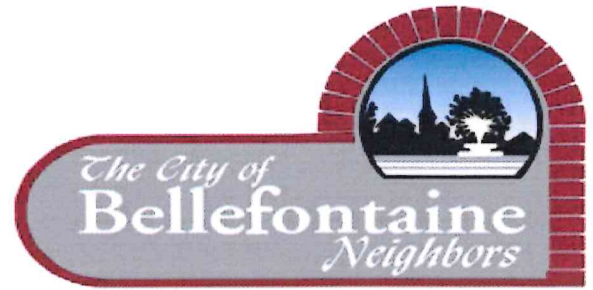


**9641 Bellefontaine Road
St. Louis County, Missouri 63137
(314) 867-0076**



10/22/2024

Dear President James Thomas and Esteemed Aldermen,

We hope this message finds you well. We are writing to request a special meeting to discuss, vote on, and approve the budget, as it is imperative for the continued functioning and effectiveness of our city services.

The urgency of this matter cannot be overstated. The budget is critical for implementing essential staff raises, which will help retain and motivate our hardworking employees. Furthermore, it is vital for hiring additional police officers, ensuring public safety and community trust; a city clerk, full-time finance staff, and a treasurer so that audits may be completed. Additionally, without the approval of the budget, many departments will continue to suffer from understaffing, forcing current employees to take on excessive workloads by performing multiple roles. This is unsustainable and detrimental to both staff morale and service delivery.

Time is of the essence. If the budget is not passed by Friday, October 25th, we the employees are ready to walk out, which would significantly disrupt city operations. This would not only impact our staff but also the community we serve.

We urge you to prioritize this matter and convene a special meeting to address these pressing needs. Our city's future depends on the decisions we make today.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

The staff of the City of Bellefontaine Neighbors