

**CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS
TOWN HALL MEETING
September 20, 2018**

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 7:05 p.m. by City Attorney, Kevin O’Keefe.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG was led by Mayor Robert J. Doerr.

PRESENT: Mayor Robert Doerr, Police Chief Jeremy Ihler, City Attorney Kevin O’Keefe, City Clerk Deni Donovan, City Collector Mark Tranel, Alderwoman West, Alderwoman Reed, Alderman Merz, Alderman Jordan, Alderwoman Dailes, and Alderwoman Avant-Elliott.

ABSENT: Alderman Herl, Alderman Christian

MAYOR DOERR: Mayor Doerr welcomed everyone to the annual Town Hall Meeting. He introduced the Elected and Appointed Officials, Department Heads, and asked the members of the City’s Boards and Commissions to stand up. He stated the purpose of the Town Hall Meeting was to meet the City Officials and to report on the state of the City. He gave an update on the following issues:

- Bissell Hills Park (\$440,000 Project) – an Ordinance was passed tonight to contract with RV Wagner Construction Company;
- Ashbrook/Cabot Update (\$649,000 + Bond Money will pay for the project);
- Streets Overall completion;
- Trash contract expires 6/2019 – the city will go out for bid. There are issues with recycling;
- There has been a slight increase in property; values;
- There has been an increase in crime, especially property crime which has gone up 43.33%;
- The city is looking for more members to join the Boards and Commissions, especially the Image & Beautification Board;
- There have been many changes at the Missouri Veteran Home. They are going to slowly convert all the double rooms to single rooms; and
- He explained the importance of completing the census accurately and honestly. For every person accounted for equals \$175 per person x (10) years.

STATE OF THE CITY REPORT:

Mayor Doerr introduced City Treasurer, Bill Krenn. There has been a positive increase from the introduction of funds from Prop P and a reduction in fines and court fees due to state legislation. The city has been able to keep control of the employee benefits and health insurance costs with a small increase this year, although no increase the last couple of years. Prop P funds are being used for police wages in order to compete with other police departments in the area. Mr. Krenn stated the city’s reserves are strong.

The General Fund Budget for the coming year is \$4,877,109 which is a 5.8% increase over last year’s budget. The Capital Fund has grown by \$256,000; the Sewer Fund has decreased by \$48,000; and the Debt Service Fund is more than adequate to cover the increased bond payments due to the new bond issue for street improvements.

Mr. Krenn will continue to monitor spending very closely to keep the City financially secure.

Mayor Doerr said there was an infrastructure study done by Ameresco who suggested over \$400,000 of updates to City Hall and the Rec Center.

Mayor Doerr introduced City Attorney, Kevin O’Keefe to explain and give an overview of (2) November 6, 2018, ballot issues: 1) Proposition 1 – Use Tax; and Proposition D – Gasoline Tax which is a state tax measure.

CURRENT EVENTS: Mayor Doerr reported on the following:

- RGSD Parade is this Saturday at 9:00 a.m.;
- Beautification Day is scheduled for September 20th at 9 a.m.;
- National Night out will be held on October 2nd – contact Det. Dave Owens if you would like to host a party that night;
- The Wine and Beer Social will be October 6th beginning at 5:30;
- Frightful Family Fun Night will be October 19th at the Rec Center;
- There will be a Veterans event at the Missouri Veterans Home on November 10th hosted by the City of Bellefontaine Neighbors and the American Legion Post 335;
- The Kwanzaa Event will be December 29th from 2-6 p.m. at the Rec Center; and
- The Black History Celebration will be February 9th at the Rec Center from 10-2.

POLICE CHIEF JEREMY IHLER’S REPORT: Mayor Doerr introduced Chief Ihler. Chief Ihler discussed the following issues:

- 12-month Crime Report Summary;
- Crime against people is priority;
- Police staffing update;
- Special thanks to his officers;
- PD has hired and trained (6) new officers in the last year – there is a total of (31) officers;
- A special thanks to all those who supported Prop P;
- Planning for the future by setting goals and increasing public safety and partnership. It will be on the website by next week.
- Body camera update – grant monies have been approved; and
- The Police Chaplain Program has been instituted and the Oath of Office was given to the following Chaplains:
 - Pastor DWayne Elliott
 - Greg Warnusz
 - Pastor Tommie Harsley
 - Pastor Nathan Ruback
 - Pastor Glen Connoley
- He reinforced National Night Out.

RIVERVIEW FIRE DISTRICT DIRECTOR RICHIE TIBERGHEN: Director Tiberghien was introduced by Mayor Doerr. He commented on the following:

- The firefighters are doing a great job – the morale is up;
- He invited all to attend a Board Meeting
- Thanks to all the citizens for their support;
- Collective bargaining has been reached;
- Three Captains have been promoted to Battalion Chiefs;
- On September 18th, they had a public hearing to set the tax rate;
- Call volume is on the rise; and
- Federal grants have been used to purchase equipment.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE TOMMIE PIERSON, JR (66th District):

Representative Pierson explained (2) Bills which have been passed through the special session: 1) Drug treatment courts; and 2) Stem education. He encouraged everyone to participate in the process and vote. You have until October 10th to register to vote at the November 6th Election. He thanked everyone for the opportunity to service as their representative.

At this time, Mayor Doerr introduced the Image & Beautification members, who were present, who gave out the awards: Jennie Stewart, Shelly Davis, and Rodney Weeden.

HOME AWARDS:

Ward 1:	Cunigan Family Anita Williams	Present Present
Ward 2:	BradleyFamily Kim & Dan Sextro	Absent Present
Ward 3:	Brenda Armour/Tim Kosatka Ed & Diane Meier	Present Absent
Ward 4:	James & Regina Muex Ruth McCloud	Present Absent

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:

PETE CARLSON, 12XX BAKEWELL DRIVE: When asked about Neighborhood Watch, Chief Ihler said he will start it up again at the beginning of 2019. The Crime Statistic Report will be online. City Attorney O’Keefe answered that the Department of Revenue is the department which will enforce the use tax.

WANDA LANE, 99XX MARTINGALE ROAD: Comments on the issue of computer science courses versus math courses. Representative Pierson said there is a serious flaw with the redistricting issue. Mayor Doerr said the villas, which may go up on Bellefontaine Road, is before State legislation. He, also, said Bellefontaine Road is scheduled to be paved next year.

PASTOR DWAYNE ELLIOTT, 11XX JOLENE DRIVE: He said the hope for the Chaplain Program is to bridge the gap between police and the community and understanding the policing policy. He thanked everyone for their support with the program.

MARCIE GOODEN, 94XX DUENKE DRIVE: At the Town Hall next year, she would like to hear from a Riverview Gardens representative. Comments on the upcoming trash bids; body cameras; and the closing of Shop N Save.

CHRISTINE PONDO, 11XX WALDORF DRIVE: She commented on her neighbors not picking up trash in front of their homes. She has sent letters to Mayor Doerr and Chief Ihler. She had a difficult time getting a reputable lawn care service, although she finally found a wonderful man. She would like to donate money to the city to buy a tree.

GWENDOLYN WORK, 9XX RAFORD COURT: She commented on the bad shape Raford Court is in. The city held off repaving the street because MSD was working on the street. Alderman Jordan said MSD was replacing sewer lines; he will do more research.

RICKY HOPKINS, 11XX DARR DRIVE: He is on the Zoo Board of Directors and will stay after the meeting to answer any questions about Proposition Z, the zoo issue which will be on the ballot in November.

Mayor Doerr asked if anyone else wished to make a comment. Hearing none, Alderman Merz moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alderwoman Reed. Motion carried unanimously.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Mayor Doerr thanked everyone for coming

Meeting closed at 8:40 p.m.

ATTEST:

Deni Donovan 9/27/18
Deni Donovan, City Clerk