

**CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS
BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING MINUTES
February 7, 2019**

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY Mayor Robert J. Doerr at 7:30 p.m. Copies of all ordinances and resolutions to be considered at the meeting were made available for public inspection prior to the time of consideration by the Board of Aldermen.

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

ROLL CALL:

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

ABSENT: Alderwoman Dailes

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Alderwoman Avant-Elliott moved for the approval of the Agenda, seconded by Alderman Merz. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF THE UNAPPROVED MINUTES: Alderman Jordan moved for approval of the January 17, 2019, Minutes of the Board of Aldermen Meeting, seconded by Alderman Christian. Motion passed.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Mayor Doerr opened the meeting to the public and asked if anyone in the audience would like to make any comments, with a 3-minute time limit.

TINA ZIMMERMAN, TMZ MARKETING SERVICES: She gave a presentation to the Public Safety Commission, at their last meeting, regarding grant writing. They are trying to get the funding sources for “traffic calming” initiatives, specifically speed bumps in the city. Tonight, she introduced herself to the Board and gave out a handout of her work experience. Ms. Zimmerman explained her fees and the process of what she will do for the city. The Board had some questions:

- (Alderwoman West) Comments on trying to get the funds for speed bumps which the city desperately needs. Mayor Doerr said the funds cannot come out of the Bond Issue monies.
- (Alderwoman Avant-Elliott) Comments about Ms. Zimmerman’s fees and job duties.
- (City Attorney) He suggested the Board approve having him prepare an Ordinance for the next meeting.
- Mayor Doerr clarified the city is not in the Promise Zone – we are surrounded by other communities in the Zone.
- (Alderwoman Reed) Questioned whether the funds for this would come out of the General Fund or Capital Improvement. It may come out of Capital although the research portion would come out of General. Concerns about how much time would be spent on this project.

MARCIE GOODEN, 94XX DUENKE DRIVE: Questioned whether Ms. Zimmerman was a part of the Moline Acres projects; she was. Chief Ihler clarified there is no grant just for “traffic calming”. It would be part of a much larger project. Ms. Zimmerman confirmed there will be an opportunity for minority suppliers. Thanked Joe Raben, the Building Inspector, for staying on top of a rental property on her street.

WANDA LANE, 99XX MARTINGALE ROAD: She had more comments regarding Ms. Zimmerman's fees; the salt shed; and it was confirmed a City Administrator has not been hired yet.

DINAH TATMAN, 3XX GREEN ACRES: She commented that the grant writer fees can be written in the project under Administration. She would like research done on working with other communities to obtain a grant for speed bumps.

CARNELL JONES, 11XX WENTWORTH DRIVE: He commented on various African American issues.

Mayor Doerr asked if anyone had any other comments. Since there were none, the meeting was brought back to the Board.

COMMISSION AND BOARD REPORTS:

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION: The Board reviewed the January 24, 2019, Minutes. Alderwoman West read the minutes to the audience. There was another meeting she had with Tina Zimmerman, Alderman Jordan, John Koester, and Chief Ihler to discuss the speed bump issue. Alderwoman Reed asked Chief Ihler if the Officers were giving out warnings to the public about warming up their cars in their driveway. He said he has instructed them to knock on doors rather than write warnings.

YOUTH COMMISSION: The Board reviewed the January 21, 2019, Minutes. Alderwoman Avant-Elliott reported Hoops Madness will be March 9th; Bike Safety Rodeo May 11th; Youth Fishing Experience June 8th; Youth Pool Party July 13th; and the Family Golf Nights will be June 14th and August 9th.

IMAGE & BEAUTIFICATION BOARD: No meeting was held in January, 2019. Alderman Christian announced the upcoming Adopt-A-Street Program. The first meeting of the year will be held on March 12th.

PARKS BOARD REPORT: The Board reviewed the January 15, 2019, Minutes. Aldermen Merz reported they discussed Rec Center fees; the Mayor's Golf Tournament is April 13th; and the Bissell Park Project is moving along.

Mark Dickerson reported on the following:

- Update on the Bissell Park Project – the restrooms will be installed soon. The shelter should be shipped in a week or two.
- He encouraged the Aldermen to review the fee sheet and share their thoughts. He would like the new fees to begin in May or June.
- Winter classes have begun;
- The Black History Event is this Saturday;
- Alderwoman Reed suggested, again, a dedication plaque be presented and put at Bissell Hills Park when the project is finished;
- He explained to Alderwoman Reed the category "system", on his report, refers to monies that are set aside for residents who have credit for classes. She requested the number of hours, under Racquetball, should be taken out when calculating total participation. Lastly, she asked if the number of room rentals could be calculated in his report.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION: The Board reviewed the January 14, 2019, Minutes. Chairman Bob Stolte reported on the following:

- Discussion about prohibiting in-home daycares.
- Chairman Stolte asked the Board to schedule a Public Hearing on March 7th to hear comments about prohibiting in-home daycares.

Per the recommendation of P&Z, Alderman Jordan made a motion to schedule a Public Hearing to discuss prohibiting in-home daycares, seconded by Alderman Christian.

Alderman Avant-Elliott questioned a motion in which Alderman Dailes made at the last meeting regarding a Public Hearing. Alderman Jordan said there was a motion made for a Public Hearing for in-home daycares, but more information was requested from P&Z.

With a 4-2 vote the motion passes.

Chairman Stolte said since there was nothing on the P&Z Agenda for Monday; he was going to cancel the meeting. The closed meeting scheduled for the Board of Aldermen that night, can be held in the courtroom.

Discussion followed about whether the City Attorney should prepare an Ordinance for the in-home daycare prohibition. The City Attorney stated this is a land use regulation not a regulation on how people do their business. The Board only wants to hear from the public; no Bill required.

BUILDING INSPECTOR: The Board reviewed the January, 2019, report. Joe Raben reported on the following issues:

- Inspections update;
- Sewer laterals (5);
- McBride has framed up the last (2) homes;
- He signed up for the St. Louis County Emergency Management Meeting training – they will go over best practices and procedures.
- The Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) is done every (5) years for insurance purposes, The ISO rating has an effect on the city;
- Mayor Doerr reported Bellefontaine has never adopted the 2015 Building Codes, because it is believed the County never has. They may still be working with 2012 requirements. The city will follow up with the County to make sure. The city has had the 2015 books for review since 2016. Plumbing and electric is covered by the County. Joe and Clayton, the City Engineer suggested the city move forward with adopting the 2015 codes.

Alderman Jordan made a motion to move forward with adopting the 2015 Building Codes and have the City Attorney prepare Ordinances for the next meeting, seconded by Alderman West.

Alderman Reed asked how the city can approve the 2015 Building Codes if the County has not done so. The City Attorney suggested not adopting the electric or plumbing codes because the city contracts with the County for those; enforcement may be difficult. Joe commented they should all be adopted at the same time because they all within a “suite” of codes. Mr. O’Keefe said he will discuss when the legislation is put together.

Motion carries.

Alderman West asked if she could reconsider her vote on the Public Hearing for in-home daycares; she had voted no. A discussion followed.

The City Attorney said a Public Hearing is on the question of adopting the Bill. People cannot comment on legislation if it's not there. The law is you have to have a Hearing before you can adopt legislation to amend the zoning ordinance; he's not sure if a Hearing without a Bill satisfies the statutory requirement for a technical Hearing.

Discussion on scheduling two Public Hearings; the Board agreed to only schedule one. Alderman Merz questioned the reasons of having a Public hearing. P&Z and the City Engineer have done a lot of research on in-home daycares. Discussion followed.

CITY ENGINEER: The Board reviewed the January, 2019, report. Clayton Klein reported on the following:

- He is helping the Building Inspector with the BCEGS;
- Fish•Chicken still needs to follow up with the city;
- Burger King has not submitted anymore documents;
- Alderwoman West asked if he would review the fencing Ordinance revisions;
- His monthly report numbers do not jive with the Building Inspector's numbers; Mr. Klein will review the information.
- When asked by Alderwoman Avant-Elliott, Mr. Klein stated he does not have set office hours.

INVOICES OVER \$500: Alderwoman Reed moved to pay invoices 1 through 15, dated February 6 thru February 7, 2019, in the amount of \$66,377.15, seconded by Alderman Merz. Motion carried.

INVOICES UNDER \$500: None reported.

CHIEF OF POLICE: Chief Ihler reported on the following:

- PD is going through the Officer hiring process;
- They have several applications for the Evidence Mgr/Support Coordinator position;
- The suspect in the recent double homicide has been extradited to St. Louis County;
- Thanks to Chuck Drury who, through a Team Building Workshop, made bears to be handed out to kids in need;
- Body cameras are being tested – they should be street-ready by June;
- Bids have been received and reviewed regarding a surveillance system and DVR camera replacement. Chief Ihler said MIRMA will pay 75% of the cost. The remaining will come out of the Drug Forfeiture Fund (\$1,487.50). Following are the bids
 - Jimtek1 Consulting \$5,950
 - Hackett Security, Inc \$20,536
 - Barcom Security \$28,232

Per the recommendation by Chief Ihler, Alderwoman Reed made a motion to have the city contract with Jimtek1 Consulting, seconded by Alderwoman Avant-Elliott. Motion carried.

- The Chief would like to expand the department's Use of Force Training Program by sending (2) Officers to train with a firearms simulator March 12-14. The city's cost will be \$620/Officer = \$1240 which will be coming out of the Drug Forfeiture Fund. He believes this training is important for the following reasons:
 - Enhance the proper use of force;
 - Minimize injury to Officers; and
 - Increase training to stay safe.

Alderwoman Reed made a motion to approve the training, seconded by Alderwoman West.

This is the same training discussed in the Public Safety Commission's minutes.

He told Alderwoman West the Use of Force Policy has been updated over the years. There are certain policies which are not open to the public due to the sensitive nature.

Alderwoman Reed was told only one Officer is currently going through the initial training process. She had questions regarding the report sent to them by PD - Violations by Type and Violations by Officer.

Motion carried.

CITY ATTORNEY: Mr. O'Keefe thanked the City for the opportunity to serve our community for the last (42) years. Mayor Doerr pointed out that he was named Lawyer of the Year in Municipal Law which is voted on by his peers.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

BILL NO. 2536 – INTRODUCED BY ALDERWOMAN WEST

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OFFICE OF STATE COURTS ADMINISTRATOR AND AMENDING SECTION 18-27 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS TO PROVIDE FOR THE COLLECTION OF A COURT AUTOMATION FEE.

Alderwoman West read the Bill for the first time and moved for approval of the first reading of Bill No. 2536 and go onto the second reading. The motion was seconded by Alderman Christian. Motion passed. Alderwoman West then read Bill No. 2536 for a second time and thereafter made a motion that the Bill be approved by the Board of Aldermen for enactment as an Ordinance.

Upon the roll being called the votes were cast as follows: Alderwoman West; yes; Alderwoman Avant-Elliott, yes; Alderman Jordan, yes; Alderwoman Reed, yes; Alderman Merz, yes; and Alderman Christian, yes.

The majority of the members elected to the Board of Aldermen having voted for passage of Bill No. 2536, the Bill was passed by the Board and will become Ordinance No. 2449 when and if signed by the Mayor.

BILL NO. 2537 – INTRODUCED BY ALDERWOMAN AVANT-ELLIOTT

N ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2-42 OF THE BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS, MISSOURI, CODE OF ORDINANCES AND ADOPTING AN AMENDMENT TO THE PERSONNEL RULES AND REGULATIONS AND PERSONNEL HANDBOOK FOR THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS PERTAINING TO CITY-OWNED VEHICLES.

Alderwoman Avant-Elliott read the Bill for the first time and moved for approval of the first reading of Bill No. 2537. The motion was seconded by Alderman Christian. Opposed by Alderwoman Reed.

Alderwoman Avant-Elliott made a motion to amend Bill #2537 to remove any language dealing with take-home vehicles in order to eliminate any take-home vehicles; only work-related policies. Discussion followed on the specific language and who can have a take-home vehicle.

The motion was seconded by Alderwoman Reed. With a 4-2 vote, the motion fails.

It was clarified the motion for a 1st reading passed; the 2nd reading will be at the next meeting.

Then, Alderwoman Avant-Elliott made a motion to read Bill No. 2537 for a second time. Discussion on the question.

Alderman Jordan asked if there could be a discussion before the roll call; he was told there needs to be a second on the motion. Alderman Jordan seconded the motion for a 2nd reading of Bill No. 2537.

Alderman Jordan commented on the importance of the policy being in place to prevent any lawsuits. The decision as to who gets a take-home vehicle is a separate issue and can be discussed during the budget process.

Alderwoman Avant-Elliott said there is no need for a take-home policy; it does not affect an employee's job. **ADD: an individual to take home a vehicle; it does not relate to the employee's job. ADD: Alderwoman Reed said** this can be revisited at budget time. **ADD: Mayor Doerr stated the Chief should have a take-home vehicle.** Continued discussion on whether the Chief should have a take-home vehicle; should the other department heads have a car? **ADD: around approval and removal of vehicles and who should have a vehicle.**

Alderman Christian read a portion of the policy where Board approval is needed for take-home vehicles. Discussion continued.

Upon the roll being called the votes were cast as follows: Alderwoman Avant-Elliott, no; Alderman Christian, yes; Alderwoman Reed, no; Alderman Merz, yes; Alderman Jordan, yes; and Alderwoman West, yes

With a 4-2 vote, the Bill fails.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR:

- The City Clerk would like to attend the City Clerks Conference from March 11-14. Alderman Christian made a motion to approve the Conference, seconded by Alderwoman Avant-Elliott. Motion carried.
- He explained the importance of the upcoming Census in which Alderwoman Dailes is the representative for the city. The mid-census count showed the city is down about (500) residents which is a loss of \$172/person per year for (10) years.
- Metro Mayors meeting was held to discuss a petition to formulate a Freeholders Board. Petitions can be signed this Saturday at the Black History Celebration.
- He attended a Flood Plain meeting with FEMA. There is a proposal to change zones. Mayor Doerr explained about the existing 50-year and 100-year floodplain.
- He attended a MoDOT/St. Louis County meeting to discuss improvements being made to Bellefontaine Road from the St. Louis City boundary lines to Highway 270. The project will begin in March, 2019, and end within (185) working days; and
- Everyone is invited to the Black History Celebration this Saturday.

APPOINTMENT:

Mayor Doerr announced the appointment of Rhodia Askew-Taylor to the unexpired term of Alderwoman in Ward 1 due to the vacancy created. Alderwoman West made a motion to approve the Mayor's appointment, seconded by Alderman Christian.

Upon the roll being called the votes were cast as follows: Alderwoman West; yes; Alderwoman Reed, yes; Alderman Merz, yes; Alderman Jordan, yes; Alderman Christian, yes; and Alderwoman Avant-Elliott, yes.

At this time, City Clerk, Deni Donovan, swore in Rhodia Askew-Taylor.

When asked by Alderwoman Avant-Elliott, Alderwoman Askew-Taylor stated she is looking at this appointment as a learning experience.

Alderwoman West said Alderwoman Askew-Taylor has been working with her already.

RECOMMENDATION:

Mayor Doerr made a recommendation for Susan Berck to be on the Public Safety Commission due to the vacancy created by the resignation of Walter Brown. Alderwoman West made a motion to approve the Mayor's recommendation, seconded by Alderman Merz. Motion carried.

REPORT OF THE ALDERMEN:

ALDERWOMAN ASKEW-TAYLOR: Thanked Mayor Doerr for the appointment; she is very excited to be on this journey.

ALDERWOMEN REED: She attended a very good meeting to discuss the Freeholders Board; it gave her a voice. She wished everyone a good night.

ALDERMAN MERZ: Welcome to Rhodia and Susan. Congrats to Attorney O'Keefe; here's to another (42) years.

ALDERMAN JORDAN: He reminded the Board about the upcoming closed meeting scheduled for February 11th at 7:00 pm. to discuss the FOP contract. The Ashbrook Project is going very well; he gave a brief update. The next Ashbrook meeting will be February 27th at 7:30 am. He gave some information to Alderwoman West to take to the next Public Safety meeting. Chief Ihler emailed the highway accident statistics to the Public Safety Commission for their review.

ALDERMAN CHRISTIAN: Welcome to Rhodia and Susan.

ALDERWOMAN AVANT-ELLIOTT: She thanked everyone for coming out tonight. Pat Kelly will be at the Black History Celebration to inform the residents and collect signatures about the Better Together proposal. Commented on how all of the Wards need to work together. If there is a vacancy in the future, she is going to be concerned **ADD: with who fills the seat.** ~~everyone has to be a part of filling the seat.~~ Congratulations to Rhodia on her courage to "get back in there" after her defeat **ADD: a close win** at the last election. She's looking forward to working with her.

MARK TRANEL, CITY COLLECTOR: Dr. Tranel gave the Board information about the history of St. Louis City and St. Louis County. Over the next few months, there should be conversations about the Better Together proposal and the Freeholders options. The annual performance report on the Riverview Gardens School District showed this is the 4th year in a row the District has performed in the fully accredited range. A letter will be going to the State Board of Education requesting the District's status be updated from provisionally to fully accredited.

ALDERWOMAN WEST: She thanked the Mayor and Board for their approval of Rhodia's appointment; she is very committed to the City of Bellefontaine Neighbors. She then read a

prepared letter to the Board and the audience about her feelings of what happened due to the vacancy in Ward 1.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Mayor Doerr opened the meeting to the public and asked if anyone in the audience would like to make any comments, with a 3-minute time limit.

WANDA LANE, 99XX MARTINGALE ROAD: She commented on the Bellefontaine Road Project; the Freeholders; and the possibility of having a policy to determine what happens to an Alderman if they get sick for an extended period while in office.

Mayor Doerr brought the meeting back to the Board.

Alderwoman Reed made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alderman Merz. Motion carried unanimously.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

Deni Donovan, City Clerk

Approved by the Board of Aldermen on _____