

**CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS  
BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING MINUTES  
February 21, 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 Mayor Doerr.

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

**ABSENT:** Alderwoman Reed

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Alderman Jordan moved for the approval of the Agenda, seconded by Alderman Christian. Motion carried unanimously.

**PRESENTATION OF THE UNAPPROVED MINUTES:** Alderman Jordan moved for approval of the February 7, 2019, Minutes of the Board of Aldermen Meeting, seconded by Alderman Merz.

Alderwoman Avant-Elliott suggested the following changes:

- 1) Page 6, paragraph 6: Alderwoman Avant Elliott said there is no need for **ADD** “individuals to take home a vehicle; it does not relate to the employee’s job”.
- 2) Page 6, paragraph 6: **ADD** “Alderwoman Reed said “this can be revisited at budget time”.
- 3) Page 6, paragraph 6: **ADD** “Mayor Doerr stated the Chief should have a take-home vehicle”.
- 4) Page 6, paragraph 6: Continued discussion **ADD** “around approval and removal of vehicles and who should have vehicles”.
- 5) Page 7, paragraph 2: When **ADD** “what she would like to gain from this experience”, Alderwoman Askew-Taylor stated...
- 6) Page 7, under Alderwoman Avant-Elliott’s report, 4<sup>th</sup> sentence: she is going to be concerned **ADD** “with who fills the seat”. **DELETE:** “...everyone has to be a part of filling the seat”.
- 7) Page 7, under Alderwoman Avant-Elliott’s report, 5<sup>th</sup> sentence: Congratulations to Rhodia...**DELETE:** “her defeat...” and **ADD:** “a close win” at the last election.

Alderwoman West did not think the minutes should be updated via emails. Attorney O’Keefe said it was alright for the City Clerk to ask for suggestions from the Board on the accuracy of the Minutes. Alderwoman West said the minutes should not be written verbatim.

Motion passed; Alderman Christian opposed.

**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.

**DAN HANNAH, MANAGER FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT:** Mr. Hannah made a presentation to the Board regarding an extension of the existing contract between Waste Management (WM)

and the city. The current contract will expire in May, 2019. The following were concerns of the Board:

- Recycling will remain the same;
- Discussed options on how to educate the residents about recycling. WM is prepared to send out informational pieces. Reminder stickers on the recycle carts was suggested, but the information is already on the cart;
- The pricing for additional carts will remain the same;
- The pricing for the pick-up of white goods (appliances) will remain the same; and
- The annual community fund donation of \$500 allows the city to do anything it chooses with the money.

The Board thanked Mr. Hannah for attending the meeting.

**CHAD SCHRAND, BUSINESS UNIT LEADER FOR HORNER SCHIFRIN:** Horner Schifrin is the designer for the salt shed the city is trying to have built. Mr. Schrand gave a presentation on the four (4) bids received. Due to the high bids which exceeded the budget, Mayor Doerr said the city had to reject all the bids. Several options were discussed about how to proceed:

- Revisit the project;
- Renegotiate with the lowest bidder;
- Reduce the size of the project;
- Amend the budget; or
- Have the city do work in-kind.

Mayor Doerr will proceed with having the Street Department guys level the property, dig the footings, pour the concrete for the footings, the pad, and all the rebar work. Mr. Schrand will inform the contractors that all the bids were rejected.

Alderman Jordan suggested buying the blocks from another vendor in St. Louis City.

Alderwoman Avant-Elliott asked why the cost of the salt shed spiked so high. Mr. Schrand said it was the difference between being code compliant vs. non-compliant. No contract was involved.

**CARNELL JONES, 11XX WENTWORTH DRIVE:** Comments on how well the Black History Celebration was done; Alderwoman Dailes can always count on his support. Continued comments on racism and the right to vote.

**MELVIN WILLIAMS, 99XX MARTINGALE ROAD:** He had a stay in the hospital and was told he should get on a medical list with the Riverview Fire Department and the Police Department in case of a city emergency. Chief Ihler asked Mr. Williams to send him an email with his information and condition. The Chief will notify dispatch which will alert all of the first responders of Mr. Williams' information. He has been put on the heart transplant list.

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

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

**INVOICES OVER \$500:** Alderman Christian moved to pay invoices, 1 through 14, dated February 20-21, 2019, in the amount of \$127,620.02, seconded by Alderwoman Avant-Elliott. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the July through December, 2018, report. Treasurer Bill Krenn commented on his report. Seasonality taxes will balance it out. Expenses are in line with the budget. Although Alderwoman Reed was absent, Alderwoman Dailes wanted Alderwoman Reed's list of questions, sent earlier in an email to the City Treasurer, stated in the minutes. They are as follows:

- I understand your financials are on an accrual basis and the Collector's is cash basis but as of 12/31 he reported over 3.2M in income but on your P&L report (for the same period) is over 1M less than what has been collected, could you explain why?
- 5013 Election fees we have only had 1 election in Nov, this upcoming election is only costing \$3843. What is this 7700 for?
- Does Rejis only do IT work for the city?
  - Per Chief Ihler, "No, they provide IT services along with access to law enforcement data bases".
- 5054 Misc Expense Other could you please supply the details, \$4793
- There was \$2500 budget set aside for the Black History month celebration and Kwanzaa each, are these amounts budgeted in a particular month? (It was noted they receive \$2000 each).
- 5223 Training and Orientation, why is this negative? Should it have gone to 4044?
  - Per Chief Ihler, "the amount listed in that account is federal bullet resistant vest grant amounts that have been reimbursed pursuant to the purchase of the same for new police officer employees. This amount needs to be reflected as positive, not negative".
- 5226 Emergency Services for \$20.71 please give details as I can't imagine the police having an emergency with a small cost, maybe miscoded.
  - Per Chief Ihler, "the amount listed is employee mileage reimbursement. This amount was applied to this account in the transitional period between July 1, 2018 and when the FY 2018-2019 budget was approved. During this transitional period, the City was operating on the FY 2017-2018 budget specifications. It should be noted that both of these accounts (5223 & 5226) are not funded in the FY 2018-2019 budget".
- 5319 Misc \$300.00 not normal please give details
- 5523 RC Misc \$4337.41 please give details.

The topic of purchasing software in order for the Department Heads the ability to review the budget was suggested; the city does not currently have the means. They do meet once a week to discuss city business which may include the budget. Alderwoman Avant-Elliott was asked to bring the software name and cost to the next budget meeting. She asked the City Treasurer to research additional fees and training and to follow up with cost of additional features for the Department Heads. Alderman Jordan has business cards for accounting firms if anyone is interested in contacting them.

The review of the budget will be in April. Mr. Krenn explained the Court is going through reorganization due to the Office of State Courts regulated Show Me Courts program. The Court Clerk has the sole responsibility to reconcile the account. He suggested that he be allowed to reconcile the account. Mr. O'Keefe said it may take awhile for the program to get worked out; these are the rules of the Circuit Court. Mr. Krenn suggested the Court Clerk be bonded, although it is believed the city may have coverage through MIRMA; it will be verified.

It, also, was suggested the City Judge send a letter to the Presiding Judge about his concerns with this new program; Mayor Doerr will follow up.

**INVOICES UNDER \$500:** None reported.

**COLLECTOR'S REPORT:** The Board reviewed the January, 2019, Collector's report. Dr. Tranel gave an explanation as to why there were (3) CenturyLink receipts; it is recorded per each receipt.

**CHIEF OF POLICE:** The Board reviewed the January, 2019, Police report. Chief Ihler reported on the following:

- Auto theft was down in the month of January; and
- Body camera devices are currently being tested – the rollout should be July. A grant of \$400,000 was given to the city along with seven (7) other entities for this program. A Public Forum will be scheduled to inform the community about the body cameras.

**CITY ATTORNEY:** Alderwoman Avant-Elliott asked for Mr. O'Keefe to explain to the audience why the FOP negotiations were held in closed session. Mr. O'Keefe gave a definition of why a meeting is closed. Discussion followed to the point whereby Mr. O'Keefe had to stop the conversation and explain the information said in the closed meeting was not to be discussed out in public. A discussion continued as to the fact that negotiations are held in closed session until the negotiations are concluded. The city is in compliance with this meeting.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**BILL NO. 2538 – INTRODUCED BY ALDERWOMAN WEST**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH TINA ZIMMERMAN FOR CONSULTING SERVICES RELATED TO GRANTS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CITY PROJECTS.**

Alderwoman West read the Bill for the first time and moved for approval of the first reading of Bill No. 2538, seconded by Alderman Merz.

Alderwoman Avant-Elliott asked about additional grant writing quotes. Discussion about purchases for items vs. services.

Motion carried; Alderwoman Avant-Elliott opposed.

Earlier, Mayor Doerr emailed the MML for names of additional grant writers.

Attorney O'Keefe read Section 2-258 of the Code outlining how professional services are treated differently than purchasing goods.

**REPORT OF MAYOR DOERR:** No report.

**APPOINTMENT:** None

**REPORT OF THE ALDERMEN:**

**ALDERMAN MERZ:** Happy Birthday to Miranda and John Jordan.

**ALDERMAN JORDAN:** An Ashbrook meeting is scheduled for February 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m. He thanked all those in attendance tonight.

**ALDERMAN CHRISTIAN:** Happy Birthday to everyone who's having a birthday.

**ALDERWOMAN DAILES:** The Black History Celebration was great. Next year will be different. She has a petition to sign for those opposing the Better Together proposal.

**ALDERWOMAN AVANT-ELLIOTT:** Thanks to those who attended tonight. She plans to attend the Better Together proposal forum at Greater St. Mark's Church on March 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. She would like Deni to follow up to have the Ordinances added to the website.

**ALDERWOMAN WEST:** No report given.

**ALDERWOMAN ASKEW-TAYLOR:** Thanks to the Board members who have been helpful.

**MARK TRANEL, CITY COLLECTOR:** No school board update.

**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.

**KATHY MASON, 10XX DONNELL AVENUE:** She thanked someone in the audience who was helpful to her tonight.

**TOMMIE PIERSON, SR., 12XX SHEPLEY DRIVE:** He wanted to clarify that the Better Together group is just leasing space; the Church has nothing to do with the program. He, along with Alderwoman Dailes and others, went to Jefferson City to meet with Senator Gina Walsh who is presenting a Bill to limit the vote to residents in St. Louis City and County only; not everyone in Missouri.

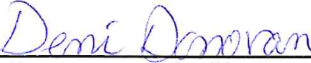
Thanks to everyone and Happy Birthday to all. He congratulated Dr. Tranel on the great job he and the other members are doing on the Riverview Gardens Special Administrative Board (SAB).

Mayor Doerr brought the meeting back to the Board.

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

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Deni Donovan, City Clerk

Approved by the Board of Aldermen on MARCH 7, 2019