

**CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS  
BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING MINUTES  
March 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, Alderwoman Reed, Alderman Merz, Alderman Jordan, Alderman Christian, and Alderwoman Avant-Elliott.

**ABSENT:** Alderwoman Dailes

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Alderman Jordan moved for the approval of the Agenda, seconded by Alderman Merz.

Alderwoman Avant-Elliott made a motion to amend the Agenda to remove Bill No. 2540. Per Attorney Helmut Starr, she thought the Mayor's compensation issue should have been addressed before the filing of the Mayor. The motion was seconded by Alderwoman Reed.

Per Attorney O'Keefe, there are no laws which prohibit the passage of Bill No. 2540 before the new Mayor takes office. Alderwoman Avant-Elliott may have misunderstood Attorney Starr; you cannot change the Mayor's salary after he is elected into office. It may be advisable to discuss before filing.

Alderwoman Avant-Elliott questioned who can reintroduce a Bill which had previously failed per Roberts Rules of Order. Mr. O'Keefe said any Board member is able to introduce legislation. He clarified what a "motion to reconsider" is.

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

With a 2-5 vote, the motion fails.

Per the motion for approval of the Agenda, the motion carried; Alderwoman Avant-Elliott opposed.

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

**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.

**JOELL AGUIRRE, MANAGER FOR REPUBLIC SERVICES:** Ms. Aguirre made a presentation to the Board regarding trash-hauling services. The following were some of the topics discussed:

- Reliability, simple solutions, and sustainability;
- Complaint process;
- Landfill;
- Number of trucks;
- Recycle, bulk, yard waste, appliance pick up;
- Number of carts per household;
- Billing;
- Senior discount;
- Medical stop;
- Monthly reporting; and
- Customer service.

The Aldermen had the following concerns/comments:

- (Avant-Elliott) Fee breakdown will be in the bid. Contracts with other municipalities are Spanish Lake, Ferguson, Bridgeton, and Dellwood.
- (West) Senior discounts will fluctuate and are negotiable. Appliance fees will be negotiable, also.
- (Jordan) Would like the residents educated on recycle issues.
- (Mayor Doerr) Customer billing should be addressed since the residents can currently pay at the end of the billing cycle.

Mayor Doerr thanked Ms. Aguirre for her presentation and asked if anyone else in the audience had any comments.

**ANTHONY GREEN, 94XX DUENKE DRIVE:** Comments about trash at bus stops. Mayor Doerr suggested he get involved with the Adopt-A-Stop Program with Metro.

**MARCIE GOODEN, 94XX DUENKE:** Asked for clarification of Bill No. 2540. She has concerns about a business, at the old Journal building, which is opening on Saturday. Commented on the business at the old Bellefontaine Auto and wondered if they were getting a liquor license. Mayor Doerr noted he would talk to Marcie after the meeting instead of talking back and forth.

**MURIEL SHARPLEY, 9XX GREEN ACRES:** Concerned about environmental issues at the business which may open at the old Bellefontaine Auto. Mr. O'Keefe stated the St. Louis County Health Department has exclusive control over health regulations and the sale of food. The environmental issues of the ground are controlled by Federal law and the EPA. The city does not regulate, through its business licenses, environmental issues.

Alderwoman West disagreed about the Mayor's comment about "talking back and forth"; it has not been decided by the Board.

**RICHIE TIBERGHEN, 102XX COBURG LANDS DRIVE:** As Director of the Riverview Fire Board, he commented on the misinformation said about the Fire District and its firefighters.

**WANDA LANE, 99XX MARTINGALE ROAD:** Commented on the newly elected Mayor's compensation and Bill No. 2540, and the Riverview Fire District.

**ALICIA SMITH, 94XX DUENKE DRIVE:** Comment regarding Bill No. 2540.

**PASTOR DUANE ELLIOTT, 11XX JOLENE DRIVE:** Comments on making a big deal out of things that are not important. The citizens need to be aware of issues being put in front of them and speak up if they have any concerns.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

**INVOICES OVER \$500:** Alderwoman Reed moved to pay invoices, 1 through 17, dated March 19-20, 2019, in the amount of \$46,367.32, seconded by Alderwoman Avant-Elliott. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the July, 2018, through February, 2019, report. Treasurer Bill Krenn commented on his report and said the budget is being tracked closely. Alderwoman Reed had several comments:

- Question about the Debt Service Fund; Mr. Krenn said there was an error which will be corrected.
- Ashbrook income and expenses → Capital Improvement Fund.
- Bissell Hills Park grant – reimbursement will be at the end of the project.
- Item #5054 – needs details; and
- Item #5523 – needs details

Mr. Krenn will need to make a couple of corrections regarding Rejis expenses and the Sewer Fund. Mayor Doerr asked about the figure on Item #5103.3 – salt & tar account. Discussion followed; it will be reviewed.

Alderwoman Avant-Elliott asked if Mr. Krenn had any information on the Department Heads being able to view the budget through a portal. Mr. Krenn said the Mayor and Department Heads review budgetary items at their Monday morning meetings. She has concerns about the Audit recommendations; Mr. Krenn said they are being addressed.

Mr. Krenn clarified the Debt Service Fund is through Citizens Bank and the Bond Fund is serviced by UMB Bank.

Alderwoman Avant-Elliott asked if the other Department Heads could maintain a detailed budget spreadsheet like PD does. Mr. Krenn noted the other department heads are not able to go into that much detail. Alderwoman Avant-Elliott asked about extra funds to pay the Chief to train the staff on his budget format.

Alderwoman West asked if the city could have a simpler budget like the Riverview Fire District. Mr. Krenn said the city is more detailed than the RFD.

**COLLECTOR'S REPORT:** The Board reviewed the February, 2019, Collector's report. Dr. Tranel made comments on his report. Alderwoman Reed asked if Dr. Tranel could talk to her about an email she sent to him about questions on his report. Alderman Christian had a question about the retail merchants' total. Dr. Tranel said it may be a formula problem due to (2) different receipts reported in January; he will review.

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

- He will be attending the required MIRMA Conference April 8-9, 2019. Alderwoman Avant-Elliott made a motion to approve Chief Ihler's request, seconded by Alderwoman West. Motion carried.

- The surveillance cameras in PD have been installed, but City Hall needs to update. He received a bid for \$1280. It was suggested to take care of in the 2019-2020 budget. The Chief will ask the vendor for a new bid to include the extension of time.
- There is a good working relationship with law enforcement and the Prosecutor Attorney's office.
- He said there are (3) patrol vacancies currently in PD and (4) active applicants. The hiring process will begin soon. Interviews are being conducted for the Evidence Mgr/Support Coordinator position.

**CITY ATTORNEY:** No report given.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**BILL NO. 2540 – INTRODUCED BY ALDERWOMAN JORDAN**

**AN ORDINANCE ADJUSTING COMPENSATION FOR PERFORMING THE DUTIES OF THE OFFICE OF MAYOR OF THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS, MISSOURI, ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE, AND REPEALING ALL INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES.**

Alderman Jordan read the Bill for the first time and moved for approval of the first reading of Bill No. 2540 and move onto the second reading. The motion was seconded by Alderman Christian.

Alderman Jordan gave a summary of the reintroduction of Bill No. 2540.

Attorney O'Keefe clarified voting on this Bill, by Alderman Christian, would not be inappropriate; Alderman Christian is a Mayoral candidate.

Alderman West clarified this Bill will only reduce the Mayor's salary if there is a City Administrator.

Alderman Avant-Elliott commented on previous Mayors' salaries not being contingent on having a City Administrator. Alderman Jordan summarized the history of the Mayor's salary vs. part-time and full-time status.

Motion carried; Alderman Avant-Elliott opposed.

Alderman Jordan read Bill No. 2540 for a second time and thereafter made a motion that the Bill be approved by the Board of Aldermen for enactment as an Ordinance. Motion carried. Alderman Avant-Elliott opposed. **Upon the roll being called the votes were cast as follows:** Alderman Jordan, yes; Alderman Christian, yes; Alderman Askew-Taylor, yes; Alderman West, yes; Alderman Reed, no; Alderman Avant-Elliott, no; and Alderman Merz, yes.

With a 5-2 vote, the majority of the members elected to the Board of Aldermen having voted for passage of Bill No. 2540, the Bill was passed by the Board and will become Ordinance No. 2451 when and if signed by the Mayor.

## **REPORT OF MAYOR DOERR:**

- The City received a 100% score on the annual MIRMA Evaluation which keeps the rates lower – thanks to the staff;
- Invited all to help with the city clean-up hosted by MSD Trash Bash this Saturday – be in front of the Rec Center at 8:45;
- A transfer of \$20,000 needs to be done from item #5103.3 (Salt and Tar) to #5056 (Salt Shed – Capital Improvement Fund). Alderwoman Reed made a motion to approve the transfer of funds, seconded by Alderman Merz. Motion carried.
- A budget meeting needs to be scheduled after the election of the new Mayor and before Mayor Doerr leaves. Alderwoman Reed made a motion to schedule a Special Meeting to discuss budget matters on April 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m., seconded by Alderwoman Avant-Elliott. Motion carried.
- The boiler at the Rec Center will need to be replaced – it is state-mandated. Mayor Doerr suggested putting \$100,000 in for the boiler and \$35,000 for salt in the 2019-2020 budget.
- Real and personal property taxes are down in the area – residents need to pay their taxes.
- The street project on Bellefontaine Road has begun.

**APPOINTMENTS:** None at this time.

## **REPORT OF THE ALDERMEN:**

**ALDERMAN CHRISTIAN:** Invited all to join the clean up on Saturday sponsored by MSD Trash Bash. He saw the progress at Bissell Park. It is nice to see representatives from all the districts of Bellefontaine Neighbors tonight. Get out and vote.

**ALDERWOMAN AVANT-ELLIOTT:** Thanked everyone for attending the meeting. A Mayoral Forum will be held on Saturday at the Lewis & Clark Library beginning at 2:30 p.m. She thanked the Mayor for his service to the community. Happy birthday to Alderwoman West.

**ALDERWOMAN WEST:** She is working on an “On-the-Job” Bill which will include the Building, Street, and Rec Center Departments. She gave an update on what she is trying to accomplish.

**ALDERWOMAN ASKEW-TAYLOR:** Thanks to all the residents and the Fire District employees for attending tonight. She is working on a Bill regarding tenants and landlords. Happy birthday to Barbara.

**ALDERWOMAN REED:** She made a motion to have a luncheon for the employees during Local Government Week April 14-20, seconded by Alderwoman West. Motion carried. Thanks to P&Z Chairman Bob Stolte for his service to the community; he is retiring April 9, 2019. Congratulations to Court Clerk, Alysa Starz, on her Court Certification.

She made a motion to open up the meeting to the public only once during the Board meetings, seconded by Alderman Merz. After some discussion, it was decided to discuss the issue at the next workshop. Alderwoman Reed made a motion to withdraw her previous motion, seconded by Alderman Merz. Motion carried.

When she asked Chief Ihler how the open vacancies are filled, he said “service to the community on the street comes first”. Comment on the Civilian Interview Panel. She thanked everyone for coming out tonight and to the firefighters for their service.

**ALDERMAN MERZ:** Congrats to Alysa, and thanks to the firefighters. Happy birthday to Barbara.

**ALDERMAN JORDAN:** He stressed the importance of the upcoming census. The city receives taxes based on the population. Go out and vote. Update on the Ashbrook Street Project. Happy birthday to Barbara.

**MARK TRANEL, CITY COLLECTOR:** Dr. Tranel reported the Riverview Gardens School District is on spring break. The Special Administrative Board (SAB) canceled their meeting next week and rescheduled for April 3<sup>rd</sup>. The students are getting ready for standardized testing.

**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:** Comments on the following: would like the meeting opened to the public twice; hiring process in PD; and the Better Together report.

**RIVERVIEW FIRE CHIEF KEITH GOLDSTEIN:** Comments on the Riverview Fire District, its employees, and how proud he is of the department.

**PASTOR DUANE ELLIOTT, 11XX JOLENE DRIVE:** Comments on the importance of the Aldermen to work together; they should have more of a collective front.

Mayor Doerr brought the meeting back to the Board.

Alderwoman Avant-Elliott made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alderman Christian. Motion carried unanimously.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

  
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Deni Donovan, City Clerk

Approved by the Board of Aldermen on April 4, 2019