

**CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS  
BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING MINUTES  
May 2, 2019**

**MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY** Mayor Tommie Pierson, Sr. 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 Pierson.

**ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Tommie Pierson, Sr., City Attorney Kevin O'Keefe, Chief Jeremy Ihler, City Clerk Deni Donovan, Alderwoman Dinah Tatman, Alderwoman Theresa Reed, Alderman Don Merz, Alderman John Jordan, Alderman Jim Christian, Alderwoman Alease Dailes, and Alderwoman Miranda Avant-Elliott.

**ABSENT:** Alderwoman West

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Alderman Jordan moved for the approval of the Agenda, seconded by Alderwoman Tatman. Motion passed.

**PRESENTATION OF THE UNAPPROVED MINUTES:** Alderman Jordan moved for approval of the April 18, 2019, Minutes of the Board of Aldermen Meeting, seconded by Alderman Christian. Motion passed.

**MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:**

Mayor Pierson 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.

**FADI NASSER, OWNER OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 9309 BELLEFONTAINE ROAD:** He asked the Board if they had any questions or concerns about his grocery/liquor store. Both Mayor Doerr and Mayor Pierson agreed he needed to follow the regulations of the city to obtain his liquor license. He is spending a lot of money to move forward. Mayor Pierson explained that he said if Mr. Nasser abides by the City Code, he would not have a problem with it; he didn't say he could have the liquor license.

**WANDA LANE, 99XX MARTINGALE ROAD:** Comments on the Board coming together; strategic planning; would like to see Board/Commission members at Board of Aldermen meetings; and a visit to a grocery/liquor store at another other location.

**JAMES THOMAS, SR., 15XX AKRON DRIVE:** Voiced his opinion on the grocery/liquor store.

**CORNELL JONES, 11XX WENTWORTH DRIVE:** Thanks to Alderwoman Tatman for Bill No. 2544.

**PASTOR DWAYNE ELLIOTT, 11XX JOLENE DRIVE:** Encourages citizens to attend the Board of Aldermen Meetings and respect each other.

**MIKE WIESE, 13XX PERSHALL ROAD:** As Chairman of P&Z, he would like to encourage everyone to attend Board of Aldermen Meetings.

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

#### **COMMISSION AND BOARD REPORTS:**

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION:** No minutes were submitted for review from the April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. Due to Alderwoman West's absence, Chief Ihler introduced Chairman John Koester who gave an overview. Speeding was the big issue. He handed out an informational piece to the Board regarding a portable radar speed sign. Discussion followed on the following issues regarding speed signs: cost; safety; how data is kept; what the process should be if someone is stopped for speeding; the police have not been told to stop writing tickets; monies in the PD budget for traffic control; going out for bid; questioned whether the device could be rented; and the city should speak with neighboring communities about borrowing their device.

**YOUTH COMMISSION:** The Board reviewed the April 15, 2019, Minutes. Alderwoman Avant-Elliott asked if the minutes could be more detailed. May 11<sup>th</sup> is the Bike Rodeo; the Youth Fishing Experience is scheduled for June 8<sup>th</sup>; and the Youth Pool Party will be July 13<sup>th</sup> – donated goggles will be given out. A discussion followed as to helmets needed for the bike rodeo. After some time, it was discovered the police department had an inventory of them left over from last year.

**IMAGE & BEAUTIFICATION BOARD:** No minutes were submitted for review from the April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019, meeting. Alderman Christian announced the community cleanup day scheduled on April 27<sup>th</sup> was canceled due to the weather. A rainout date has not been made yet.

**PARKS BOARD REPORT:** The Board reviewed the April 16, 2019, Minutes.

Mark Dickerson reported on the following:

- The outdoor pool is almost ready for the summer;
- Due to the bad weather, the Bissell Park Project has been put on hold for a few days;
- Mark continues to work with Spire for energy-saving rebates;
- The Easter Egg Hunt and Arbor Day celebration went well; and
- The May 21<sup>st</sup> Bissell Park Dedication may have to be pushed back.

Mayor Pierson asked about the cost for a City Newsletter vs. the cost of adding on to the current quarterly brochure. A discussion will need to happen.

**PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION:** The Board reviewed the April 8, 2019, minutes. Chairman Mike Wiese reported on the following:

- The Commission continues to review the in-home daycare issue;
- Tri-Mark Metals will be moving on St. Cyr soon; and
- Comments on the chief function of P&Z are zoning regulations review.

The City Attorney clarified the duties of P&Z and when a Public Hearing is required. He stated "They administer the ordinances which the board has passed". Discussion followed to have P&Z review the city's Comprehensive Plan; it is a land use plan. It was noted, to do another study, would cost anywhere between \$30,000-\$50,000.

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

- Ongoing inspections and reinspections;
- There were (5) sewer laterals done;

- Inspections are proceeding with the Fish•Chicken restaurant;
- Final inspection with Holt Electric;
- Heavenly Hearts Daycare is moving forward;
- Grass notices will go out soon;
- Discussion followed on the process of notifying the resident on housing issues and what sort of help is needed in the Building Department.
- Joe updated the Board on a housing issue on St. Cyr; and
- Discussion about adopting the 2015 Building Codes – St. Louis County is still working with the 2009 Building Codes.

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

- Mr. Klein gave an explanation of his report;
- He sent a letter to Tri-Mart Metals asking for more information; and
- He continues to review the 2009 vs. 2015 Building Codes.

**INVOICES OVER \$500:** Alderwoman Reed moved to pay invoices 1 through 10, dated, April 30-May 1, 2019, in the amount of \$173,187.23, seconded by Alderman Merz. Motion carried.

**CHIEF OF POLICE:** Chief Ihler reported on the following:

- Discussion on the Bike Rodeo;
- Police Week is May 12-18; and
- The MO State Highway Patrol is sponsoring a Youth Academy Program for young adults ages 16-18. If anyone is interested, let him know.

At this time, Chief Ihler recognized Lt. Thompson for his service prior to Bellefontaine Neighbors and his time here in Bellefontaine Neighbors. He received a standing ovation. Lt. Thompson thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve the city. Mayor Pierson said he appreciated Lt. Thompson's service all these years. He has heard several compliments from the residents regarding the police.

**CITY ATTORNEY:** No report given.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Alderwoman Dailes requested a donation for the Gentlemen of Vision's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

**BILL NO. 2544 – INTRODUCED BY ALDERWOMAN TATMAN**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2-23 OF THE CITY CODE TO ESTABLISH LIMITATIONS ON THE NUMBER OF LICENSES FOR THE SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUOR.**

Alderwoman Tatman read the Bill for the first time only and moved for approval of the first reading of Bill No. 2544, seconded by Alderwoman Avant-Elliott. Motion carried; Alderman Christian opposed.

Alderman Jordan voiced concerns about the Bill. He would like to have time to review the Code and question the City Attorney.

Alderwoman Dailes voiced her concerns of past practices of approving Ordinances.

A discussion followed regarding the liquor license. The City Attorney instructed the Board they should go into a closed session if the conversation continues, for the purpose of legal consultation. Alderman Jordan made a motion to go into a closed session to discuss this issue with the City Attorney.

Per the question, if there is a second reading and the Bill fails, can the Bill be put on the Agenda again? Mr. O'Keefe said the Bill may be reintroduced.

At this time, there was some confusion over who made a motion and who seconded the motion; it needs to be recognized by the Chair.

Alderwoman Tatman made a motion to Table Bill No. 2544 until the next meeting on May 16<sup>th</sup> and said consideration must be made to what the citizens want. The motion was seconded by Alderwoman Avant-Elliott. Motion passed. Opposed by Alderwoman Dailes

Alderwoman Tatman made a motion to go into a closed session to discuss city business, at a time to be determined, at the next Board Meeting on May 16<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Alderman Jordan. Motion carried.

#### **REPORT OF THE MAYOR:**

- He attended the Prayer Breakfast on April 24<sup>th</sup>;
- He attended the Newly Elected Seminar – it was very enlightening;
- Thanks to Lt. Thompson for his service; and
- Thanks to Chief Ihler and city staff for all of their help.

At this time, Mayor Pierson read the resignation letter written by the City Clerk, Deni Donovan. Afterwards, the audience stood to recognize her service to the city. Deni read a letter to the Board to ask they not listen to all the rumors they may hear and to educate the person spreading the rumors. She emphasized she was not fired by Mayor Pierson nor did she resign because she didn't like the administration; it was just her time to go.

A discussion followed as to her appointment. It was noted, Deni is still the City Clerk until a successor takes over. Alderwoman Avant-Elliott made a motion to reappoint Deni Donovan as the City Clerk, seconded by Alderwoman Tatman. Motion carried.

**APPOINTMENTS:** None at this time.

#### **REPORT OF THE ALDERMEN:**

**ALDERWOMAN TATMAN:** Nothing to report.

**ALDERWOMAN REED:** Thanks to Lt. Thompson for his years of service. Congrats to Deni.

**ALDERMAN MERZ:** Congrats to Lt. Thompson. Thanks to Alderwoman Tatman for her research given to the Board about alcohol. There is a housing issue he would like to talk to the Building Inspector about. Congratulations to Deni on her retirement; he may have shed a tear.

**ALDERMAN JORDAN:** He thanked everyone for attending tonight. Congratulations to Lt. Thompson. He gave an update on the Ashbrook Street Project.

**ALDERMAN CHRISTIAN:** Congrats to Lt. Thompson. Thanks to Deni - enjoy. He reminded everyone about the ribbon cutting on May 9<sup>th</sup> at Belle Fontaine Park hosted by Great River Greenways.

**ALDERWOMAN DAILES:** Thanks to everyone for attending tonight. Congratulations to Deni.

**ALDERWOMAN AVANT-ELLIOTT:** She made a motion to delay the Mayor's appointments for offices, seconded by Alderwoman Dailes.

Mr. O'Keefe didn't believe the Board can dictate whether or not he makes any appointments tonight. Alderwoman Avant-Elliott was concerned that the city would not be in compliance. Mr. O'Keefe explained public officials hold their office until a successor is selected and qualified.

Motion passed. Alderman Christian opposed.

**CITY COLLECTOR:** No one appointed at this time.

**MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:**

Mayor Pierson 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.

The Board began the process of nominating an Aldermanic Rep for Public Safety. Alderwoman Avant-Elliott nominated Alderwoman Tatman; she accepted. Alderman Merz asked if anyone knew if Alderwoman West did not want the nomination; Alderman Christian stated she said if someone else wanted to do it that it was fine with her. Alderwoman Tatman has the position by acclamation.

Alderwoman Avant-Elliott nominated Alderwoman Dailes as Aldermanic Rep to Planning & Zoning; she accepted. Alderwoman Dailes has the position by acclamation.

Alderwoman Dailes nominated Alderwoman Avant-Elliott as President of the Board of Aldermen. Alderman Christian nominated Alderman Jordan. Alderwoman Reed nominated Alderman Merz. Aldermen Jordan and Avant-Elliott accepted; Alderman Merz declined. **Upon roll call:** Alderwoman Avant-Elliott, Avant-Elliott; Alderwoman Dailes, Avant-Elliott; Alderman Christian, Jordan; Alderman Jordan, Jordan; Alderman Merz, Jordan; Alderwoman Reed, Avant-Elliott; and Alderwoman Tatman, Avant-Elliott. With a 4-3 vote, Alderwoman Avant-Elliott is the President of the Board.

**MARCIE GOODEN, 94XX DUENKE DRIVE:** She made comments on the following subjects: the radar speed sign data; more patrol on Duenke; Java Café; granting more liquor licenses; an Ordinance needed to require (120) days to purchase a home in the city; and absent landlords – it is not possible to bring a bank to court.

**PASTOR DWAYNE ELLIOTT, 11XX JOLENE DRIVE:** He wished everyone could do a ride-a-long with an Officer to see what they go through every day.

**WANDA LANE, 99XX MARTINGALE ROAD:** She had comments on P&Z responsibilities.

**CORNELL JONES, 11XX WENTWORTH DRIVE:** He commented on putting wine in old bottles.

Mayor Pierson brought the meeting back to the Board.

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

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

**ATTEST:**

Deni Donovan  
Deni Donovan, City Clerk

Approved by the Board of Aldermen on May 16, 2019.