

**CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS
BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 19, 2019 – 7:30PM**

PRESENT: Mayor Tommie Pierson, Sr., Alderwoman Barbara West, Alderwoman Dinah Tatman, Alderwoman Theresa Reed, Alderman Jim Christian, Alderwoman Alease Dailes, Alderwoman Miranda Avant-Elliott, City Attorney Helmut Starr, Police Chief Jeremy Ihler and City Clerk Fran Stevens.

ABSENT: NONE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG was led by Mayor Pierson, Sr.

SWEARING IN – JAMES W. THOMAS, SR.

City Clerk swore in James W. Thomas, Sr. Ward 3 Alderman. He took his seat at the dais.

ROLL CALL: City Clerk called the roll and all members were present except Alderman Simril, Ward 2. City Clerk read a resignation letter from Samuel Simril dated December 17, 2019.

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY Mayor Pierson 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.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Motion to approve agenda made by Alderwoman Avant-Elliott seconded by Alderwoman West. Motion carries.

PRESENTATION OF THE UNAPPROVED MINUTES:

Motion to approve Regular Board Meeting Minutes of December 5, 2019 made by Alderwoman Avant-Elliott seconded by Alderman Christian. Motion carries.

There were grant writing presentations regarding reconstruction of Shepley Drive by Rodney Robinson, followed by The Weiss Design Group (Tom Weiss and Bruce Murry). Each company informed the BOA and gave an overview of their individual business regarding grant writing and answered questions.

At this point Mayor Pierson (out of courtesy) asked former Alderman John Jordan, Ward 3, if he had any comments: John Jordan – stated that he is in the process of finishing up the Ashbrook MoDOT grant. He believes there is still funds owed to Bellefontaine Neighbors from MoDOT, which should be completed by the year end. He discussed different streets that need attention and also stated that someone in Bellefontaine Neighbors should become certified to present grants. Lastly, he discussed the importance of Census 2020.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: The meeting was opened to the public to speak 3 minutes each.

Wanda Lane, 99XX Martingale Lane – discussed the prior negotiations of salary, duties and hiring a City Administrator; presented and asked questions regarding the legality of an organizational chart that was presented at the Strategic Planning Meeting, expressed her feelings and concerns. Lastly, she stated that the citizens are observing the lack of cohesion regarding the BOA and the Mayor.

Alderwoman Avant-Elliott explained that the organizational chart presented at the Strategic Planning Meeting (SPM) was a document guide for the SPM only and in no way should be construed as city operation.

Anthony Green, 94XX Duenke – Discussed his displeasure in the BOA'S behavior and attitude.

Carnell Jones, 11XX Wentworth Dr. – Thanked James Thomas for accepting BOA position. Expressed his discontent regarding the first snow fall of the season as it relates to cleaning of the streets.

Mike Wiese, 13XX Pershall Rd. - discussed how the BOA must work together with the Mayor to achieve goals.

D.C. Elliott, 11XX Jolene – pointed out that this board is new and there is a lot to learn and accomplish and should not let the pressure get you down. Communication is the key. We should listen twice as much as talk. Most important priority should be the success of the City.

Willie Williams, 10XX Hopedale Dr. – discussed that he has seen individuals hanging around the nail shop and the strip mall. He encouraged everyone to be safe, keep their eyes open and be aware of their surroundings at all times.

TREASURER'S REPORT – City Treasurer Howard gave an overview of his monthly report. Alderwoman Avant-Elliott asked if all banks utilized by the City have been updated with the correct personnel for contact and signage. The majority of activities for the City is through Citizens and Regions Banks. UMBank must be visited by appropriate personnel for updating.

Alderwoman Reed questioned the reason the auditor was not present at this meeting. Treasurer Howard stated that he received communication from her via email today. Alderwoman Avant-Elliott questioned if we would need to meet again for the audit report before filling with the state and City Attorney Starr responded that it is not legally required to meet before filling with the state but he will check with her.

Alderwoman Tatman asked the treasurer if all bank reconciliations been completed, and he answered yes for September.

APPROVAL OF INVOICES OVER \$500.00 – Motion to pay invoices over \$500.00 in the amount of \$72,221.15 made by Alderwoman Dailes seconded by Alderman Thomas. Motion carries. Motion to pay invoice for the boiler in the amount of \$79,500 made by Alderman Christian seconded by Alderwoman Avant-Elliott. Motion carries.

PUBLIC SAFETY – Alderwoman Tatman reported that the Public Safety Committee does not meet in November and December.

YOUTH COMMISSION – Alderwoman Avant-Elliott read written report received by the Youth Commission.

IMAGE AND BEAUTIFICATION – Alderman Christian reported that the committee is out this evening judging the Christmas decorated homes.

CITY COLLECTOR'S REPORT – NONE

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT – Chief Ihler gave a report on the homicides and incidents in the area; Major Case Squad was called, handled the case and made an arrest. impressed upon everyone to keep vehicles clear of the snow routes, reported that there has been a drop in stolen vehicles and burglaries. Mentioned that the child that was found in the pool in Ferguson has deceased. He explained the changes to the St. Louis County Communicator Contract.

CITY ATTORNEY – Requested a closed session after BOA meeting. Motion to go into closed session after adjournment of regular meeting pursuant to Mo. State Statue Sec. 610.021 (1) Attorney/Client and 610.021 (3) Personnel made by Alderwoman Avant-Elliott seconded by Alderwoman Dailes. Motion passed with the following votes: Alderwoman West-no, Alderwoman Tatman-yes, Alderman Reed-yes, Alderman Thomas-yes, Alderman Christian-yes, Alderwoman Dailes-yes, Alderwoman Avant-Elliott-yes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS -

- A. **Approve St. Louis County Communicator Contract** – City Attorney Starr will review the revised contract and advise.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **BILL NO. 2564, AN ORDINANCE PERMITTING THE SUBDIVISION OF CERTAIN PROPERTY AT 8907 RIVERVIEW, ALSO KNOWN AS RIVERVIEW PLAZA SHOPPING CENTER.**

Motion to read Bill No. 2564 for 1st time made by Alderwoman Dailes. Motion to read Bill No. 2564 for 2nd time and for passage made by Alderwoman Dailes seconded by Alderman Thomas. Motion passed with following votes: Alderwoman West-yes, Alderwoman Tatman-yes, Alderwoman Reed-yes, Alderman Thomas-yes, Alderman Christian-yes, Alderwoman Dailes-yes, Alderwoman Avant-Elliott-yes.

Bill No. 2564 becomes Ordinance No. 2560 when and if signed by the Mayor.

B. BILL NO. 2565, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT WITH ST. LOUIS COUNTY FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND COMPUTER-ASSISTED REPORT ENTRY SERVICES.

Motion to read Bill No. 2565 for 1st time and move on to 2nd reading with the understanding that the City Attorney and Mayor will review and make any necessary changes to the contract made by Alderwoman Tatman seconded by Alderwoman Dailes. Motion passed with the following votes: Alderwoman West-yes, Alderwoman Tatman-yes, Alderwoman Reed-yes, Alderman Thomas-yes, Alderman Christian-yes, Alderwoman Dailes-yes, Alderwoman Avant-Elliott-yes.

Bill No. 2565 becomes Ordinance No. 2561 when and if signed by the Mayor.

C. BILL NO. 2566, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 29, THE ZONING CODE, TO ESTABLISH MEDICAL MARIJUANA AND LAND USES WITHIN THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS, MISSOURI.

Motion to read Bill No. 2566 for 1st time and move on to 2nd reading made by Alderman Christian seconded by Alderwoman West. Motion passed with the following votes: Alderwoman West-yes, Alderwoman Tatman-abstain, Alderwoman Reed-abstain, Alderman Thomas-yes, Alderman Christian-yes, Alderwoman Dailes-yes, Alderwoman Avant-Elliott-yes.

Bill No. 2566 becomes Ordinance No. 2562 when and if signed by the Mayor.

D. APPROVAL OF LIQUOR LICENSES

Motion to approve all liquor licenses with the exception of Arch 94 LLC until further investigation, made by Alderwoman Avant-Elliott seconded by Alderwoman Dailes. Motion passed with the following votes: Alderwoman West-yes, Alderwoman Tatman-abstain, Alderwoman Reed-yes, Alderman Thomas-yes, Alderman Christian-no, Alderwoman Dailes-yes, Alderwoman Avant-Elliott-yes.

REPORT OF MAYOR:

A. APPOINTMENTS-CITY COLLECTOR

Motion to appoint Cathy Broussard as City Collector made by Alderwoman Tatman seconded by Alderwoman West. Motion carries.

REPORT OF ALDERMEN:

Alderwoman Avant-Elliott – Discussed the salary scale for a City Administrator that she presented in the Strategic Planning Meeting and discussed in the pre-meeting, congratulated the election filers, asked the City Attorney if it is proper to hold candidate forums on City property and the City Attorney answered that candidate forums may be held on city property as long as the moderator is a neutral party. There was inquiry as to if the forum comes with cost. City Attorney confirmed that it should come with a cost, she is still interested in collaboration with Census 2020. Congratulated James Thomas for appointment as Ward 3 Alderman and stated that she is sad to see Simril step down as Ward 2 Alderman. Apologized for the experience in the pre-meeting regarding disagreements.

Alderwoman West – Thanked Alderwoman Avant-Elliott for explaining and apologizing to the public, gave an over-view of her feelings regarding church, the flag and the public's perception of her. Stated to the mayor that everyone needs to understand him because he is the head. Thanked everyone for what was done for her during the month of losing 3 family members. Encouraged the Mayor to send out letters to city employees that they are not required to follow directives from Alderpersons. Asked the City Attorney to present Criminal Nuisance Law Ordinance next year. Wants to start the Neighborhood Ownership Program next year and is asking Alderpersons Avant-Elliott, Christian, and Reed to be the representative in their respective wards and get a resident from each ward.

Alderwoman Dailes – Greeted everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Thanked Anthony for his comments, there is a Census Meeting coming up soon and she will talk about that in January. Apologized to everyone for the late hour and for anything that she has done that is not becoming of an Alderperson, the ride-alone with the PD was very intense.

Alderwoman Tatman – Thanked everyone for coming out. Announced that she has filed to run for another term. Encouraged everyone to check on the seniors and stated that young women are suffering in silence. Welcomed James Thomas to the BOA Ward 3 and offered her assistance where ever he may need her, explained her voting procedure.

Alderman Christian – Welcomed James Thomas to BOA Ward 3 and stated he will miss Simril. Greeted everyone Merry Christmas. Expressed his feelings regarding the BOA pre-meeting that it should be round table and when come before the public, issues are already ironed out. Stated that he will do his best in everything to help the Mayor and confirmed that there need to be more communication from the top on down.

Alderwoman Reed – Discussed street issues with the Mayor. Expressed her concerns with Kwanzaa and Black History Celebrations remaining within the allotted budget. Mammogram and Kwanzaa flyers are on the table. Welcomed James Thomas to BOA Ward 3 and is sad Simril is gone. Wished that everyone enjoys the holidays with family and friends.

Alderman Thomas – Thanked God and Mayor for appointment to BOA Ward 3. Stated that the Board of Alderperson's for their devoted confidence and stated that this position is for the people. Thanked John Jordan and stated that since he moved to this city, he has seen a change although this is a great city. Stated that he has signed candidate form and he expect to win because he is for the people. Challenged the BOA to bring at least 5 residents from their respective wards to the meetings.

MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC - The meeting was opened to the public to speak 3 minutes each.

Wanda Lane – 99XX Martingale – appreciated the comments from the Alderpersons and the manner in which the public is received, she had comments regarding the Strategic Planning meeting in that there is never a quorum nor residents and questioned the Mayor as to its existence, asked the City Attorney to explain why it is legal to have candidate forums in the City Board Room. Attorney Starr explained that there is no law but not a good practice to. congratulated James Thomas on appointment to BOA Ward 3.

Anthony Green - 94XX Duenke – Thanked the City Clerk for contacting the Waste Company on his behave and getting the issue resolved. Apologized for the manner in which he delivered his concerns earlier, but stated that his thoughts remain and that everyone should respect and love one another.

Carnell Jones - 11XX Wentworth Dr. – He is looking forward to next year.

John Jordan - 14XX Attica – mentioned to the Mayor to be mindful of purchases made on city credit card because he will never hear the end of it, discussed type of people that need to run for alderman, city administrator position and the fingerprinting of city employees.

Motion to adjourn made by Alderwoman Dailes seconded by Alderwoman Avant-Elliott. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50PM.

ATTEST:


Fran Stevens, City Clerk

Approved by the Board of Aldermen on 1-2-2020