

**CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS
BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 16, 2020 – 7:30PM**

PRESENT: Mayor Tommie Pierson, Sr., Alderwoman Barbara West, Alderwoman Dinah Tatman, Alderwoman Theresa Reed, Alderman James Thomas, Alderman Jim Christian, Alderwoman Alease Dailes, Alderwoman Miranda Avant-Elliott, City Attorney Helmut Starr, Police (Acting) Chief Major Warren Willis and City Clerk Fran Stevens.

ABSENT: NONE

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.

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

ROLL CALL: City Clerk called the roll and all members were present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Motion to amend agenda to include report from Planning and Zoning for Conditional Use License for Home Day Care Business after Image and Beautification made by Alderwoman Avant-Elliott seconded by Alderwoman Dailes. There being no questions, motion carries.

SWEARING IN – MICHAEL WIESE - ALDERMAN WARD 2

City Clerk swore in Michael Wiese, Alderman Ward 2. He took his seat at the dias.

APPOINTMENT – DOROTHY WHITE-COLEMAN – CITY ATTORNEY

Motion to appoint Dorothy White-Coleman as City Attorney made by Alderwoman Dailes seconded by Alderman Christian. Question: Alderwoman Avant-Elliott – a negotiated contract and ordinance should precede the vote on the appointment of city attorney – answer from the Mayor – a contract can be negotiated later. Alderwoman Reed – expressed concerns with the fees indicated in the Dorothy White-Coleman's previously presented contract. Votes are as follows: Alderwoman West-no, Alderwoman Tatman-yes, Alderwoman Reed-no, Alderman Wiese-yes, Alderman Thomas-yes, Alderman Christian-yes, Alderwoman Dailes-yes, Alderwoman Avant-Elliott-no. Votes were 5 yes and 3 no, motion passes.

PRESENTATIONS –

A. Elizabeth Simons – Great Rivers Greenway (GRG)

Gave overview of Great Rivers Greenway and announced the “Life Outside Festival and Bellefontaine Family Fest” to be held at the Maline Greenway at Bella Fontaine County Park on Saturday, June 27, 2020 from 10am to 3pm.

- Alderwoman Tatman stated that this is a great opportunity to partner the two functions.
- Alderwoman West inquired how the Life Outside Festival and Bellefontaine Family Fest would work together and stated that other employees and residents should be involved in the planning aspect. Ms. Simons explained that Great Rivers Greenway always partner with the organizations to accomplish goals and GRG is happy to work with residents and employees to accomplish the task at hand. She also stated the cost savings to the city, as GRG would pay for the porta potties, music performers, etc. The event is free and open to the public.

B. Angela Dorn, Auditor - Hochschild, Bloom and Company LLC

Gave synopsis of the “Audit - Year Ended June 30, 2019” and answered questions from the BOA.

PLANNING AND ZONING – PAT BARRETT

Asked for recommendation for approval of Blessed Hands Child Care Home – 1214 Forest Home Dr. Motion to grant conditional use permit made by Alderwoman Dailes seconded by Alderman Thomas.

Question: Alderwoman West wanted to know how the conditional use would be monitored. Applicant answered-the State reviews her reports for accuracy via physical visits and payments. After discussion, determination was made for the need of a public hearing to inform citizens in direct proximity to this address. The ad will be posted at least 15 days before the public hearing takes place. Motion was tabled until after the public hearing by Alderwoman Dailes seconded by Alderwoman Avant-Elliott. Motion carries. New chairman for Planning and Zoning is now Pat Barrett.

PRESENTATION OF THE UNAPPROVED MINUTES:

Motion to approve Regular Board Meeting Minutes of 1/2/2020 made by Alderman Christian seconded by Alderman Dailes. Motion carries.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: The meeting was opened to the public to speak 3 minutes each. **Ebony Williams – 10XXX Coburg Lands** – Introduced herself and announced that she filed for candidacy for Ward 1 Alderwoman. Also encouraged the applicant for the Blessed Hands Child Care to not give up.

TREASURER'S REPORT - PATRICK HOWARD - gave an overview of his monthly report. He stated that the city is up to date as of December 2019.

APPROVAL OF INVOICES OVER \$500.00 – Motion to pay invoices over \$500.00 in the amount of \$30,493.30 made by Alderwoman Dailes seconded by Alderman Christian. Motion carries. Motion to pay additional invoice in the amount of \$6,195.56 for check detail dated 1/15/2020 made by Alderman Christian seconded by Alderwoman Avant-Elliott. Motion carries.

CITY COLLECTOR'S REPORT – CATHY BROSSAUR – gave overview of her monthly report and opened the floor for questions. Alderwoman Avant-Elliott inquired about the Arch 94 LLC Liquor License Application. Alderwoman West stated that she observed the completed application from this business. Alderwoman Reed stated that the city's license fees should be reviewed and brought up to date if needed.

PUBLIC SAFETY - NONE

YOUTH COMMISSION - NONE

IMAGE & BEAUTIFICATION – NO REPORT UNTIL MARCH 2020

POLICE REPORT – ACTING CHIEF MAJOR WILLIS – Chief Ihler is on vacation until Jan. 29, 2020. The records clerk position has been filed. He is a retired police officer. Beware of the credit cards slots at the gas pumps at 949 Bellefontaine as a skimmer had been attached, victims should contact BNPD. Our IT person from REJIS is on site all day on Tuesdays. Be sure to lock your automobiles and pocket the key while the car is running as many cars have been stolen.

CITY ATTORNEY – Expressed appreciation for the opportunity to work with BN for the last 4 months and gave encouraging words. Alderwoman West stated her beliefs that the appointment of the new city attorney was the wrong decision and asked the City Attorney to please prepare the criminal nuisance ordinance before his departure. Alderwoman Avant-Elliott asked about the timeline/transitional period regarding appointed city attorney. She also asked about the process to rescind a vote. City Attorney answered that any changes to votes should occur at the very next meeting. Attorney Starr stated that the incoming city attorney may feel free to contact him if needed. Alderman Wiese thanked Attorney Starr for his services and inquired about the process to use to keep cost as minimum as possible. City Attorney answered that the Mayor/City Administrator oversees the time spent with the Attorney. Alderwoman Reed thanked him for his services and asked that any open cases be transferred and City Attorney answered that there were no open litigations.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - NONE

NEW BUSINESS - NONE

REPORT OF MAYOR: Mayor Pierson reported that he had a meeting with CASSTLC and presented a flyer regarding heating and cooling assistance, meet with MODOT regarding the I-270 project, advised everyone to

prepare for traffic disruptions when the project begins, stated there will be jobs available and the information will be distributed in city hall.

A. Appointment of Greg White – Planning and Zoning – this appointment is tabled as Mr. White was not present.

Alderwoman Avant-Elliott announced that Rhodia Taylor expressed an interest in appointment to Planning and Zoning and will turn in her application.

REPORT OF ALDERMEN:

Alderwoman Reed – Asked the mayor for a response regarding the situation with Running Brook and Bella Brook and the boiler rebate. Please keep Black History Event within \$2,000.00 budget.

Alderman Christian – Inquired about the road plate at 367 and Comet. Parks and Rec position should be reposted on the web site. Interested in H/R Commission meeting on a monthly basis. There should be an Aldermanic Representative on each board/commission. Motion made by Alderman Christian to amend Chapter 14 for the Humane Relations commissions to meet monthly seconded by Alderwoman Dailes. Welcomed Michael Wiese and thanked Helmut Starr.

Alderwoman West – The Neighborhood Ownership Committee meetings will begin after the closing of the 2020 election. She is asking the committee members to think about what day and time they would like the meetings to be held.

Alderman Thomas – Greeted everyone and thanked Attorney Starr for his time served. Mentioned the Black History Event to be held on Feb. 8, 2020 at the Rec Center and encouraged everyone to participate. Kudos to the Mayor and staff and welcomed Michael Wiese to the BOA.

Alderwoman Dailes – Greeted everyone and welcomed Michael Wiese to the BOA. Thanked Attorney Starr for time served. US Census meeting is scheduled for 1/22/2020 from 2 – 5pm at the Rec Center. Home owner watch has started in Ward 4 in hopes to deter crime. She has started collecting toys, clothes and gifts, etc. to give away to families for Christmas and is encouraging everyone to donate. Gave a public shout out to Kim Gardner for her outstanding work for the community.

Alderwoman Tatman – Greeted everyone. Mentioned the partnership with Great Rivers Greenway and the Bellefontaine Family Fest Event to be held on Saturday, June 27, 2020 from 10am to 3pm. Ward 1 has established “Neighbors Helping Neighbors” as it relates to crime. Welcomed Michael Wiese to the BOA and thanked Attorney Starr for time served. Mentioned that Ward 1 publishes a newsletter specific to their ward.

Alderwoman Avant-Elliott – Thanked everyone for coming out. The next newsletter will come out soon and asked the Mayor to start his preparation for the Mayor’s column. Mentioned the discount with Ring Doorbell and PD partnership. Inquired if Angie from the Police Department could assist the board with computer technology problems when the IT person is not available. Please refer to the newsletter for upcoming events and she does post events online.

Alderman Wiese – No report at this time.

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

Greg Warnuz – 10XXX Crete Dr. - PD Chaplain

He encouraged the BOA to do a ride along with the police department as there is a lot to be learned from this experience.

Alicia Smith – 94XX Duenke Dr. – Youth Commission Chair

Reported that there are 7 members in the youth commission, stated that she needs help as there are empty seats to be filled.

Tony Dyson – 12XX Duenke Dr. – Resident of Bellefontaine Neighbors since 2011 and have seen a major change as he has had auto theft more than once. Stated that the determent of crime starts with the residents.

Motion to adjourn made by Alderwoman Reed seconded by Alderman Thomas. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40PM.

ATTEST:



Fran Stevens, City Clerk

Approved by the Board of Aldermen on Feb. 6, 2020