

**CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS  
BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 6, 2020 – 7:30PM**

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

**ABSENT:** NONE

**MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY** Mayor Pierson. 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:** City Clerk called the roll and all members were present.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Motion to amend agenda to include Proclamation for Greater North County Chamber of Commerce under new business made by Alderwoman Dailes seconded by Alderwoman Tatman. Motion to rescind and re-appoint City Attorney Dorothy White-Coleman made by Alderwoman Dailes seconded by Alderman Thomas. Alderwoman West opposed. Motion carries with 7 yeas votes and 1 nay vote.

**PRESENTATION OF THE UNAPPROVED MINUTES:**

Motion to approve Regular Board Meeting Minutes of January 16, 2020 made by Alderwoman Avant-Elliott seconded by Alderman Christian. Motion carries.

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

**D. C. Elliott, PD Chaplain – 11XX Jolene Dr.** – stated his concerns regarding the Board of Aldermen having the citizens and the city’s best interest at heart when making decisions, and asked the BOA to review, research and understand what is being voted on in an effort to make the best educated decision.

**Carnell Jones, 11XX Wentworth** – stated his concerns regarding adopted ordinances and questioned the reason for adoption and noncompliance of some of the ordinances.

**Robin St. Claire – 94XX Yorktown Dr.** – stated that there is a white van parked in front of her house for over a year and when she contacted the BNPD regarding this issue, the officer she spoke with was rude. She would like to have this vehicle towed away from in front of her house.

**Mildred Corbin – 14XX Blackhurst Dr.** – reported that the streets are in need of repair as there are many potholes. Also, she is concerned about the unfavorable condition of the neighborhood.

**Peg Warnuzs – 11XX Crete Dr.** – she stated that Jennie Stewart, Chair of Image and Beautification deserves kudos for her dedication to Bellefontaine Neighbors. Jennie was spotted picking up trash and cleaning the area with no help along Bellefontaine Road and 270.

**Ebony Williams – 10XXX Coburg Lane** – announced that she is a candidate for Alderwoman Ward 1 and discussed the need for the BOA to positively come together for the betterment of the community.

**Pat Barrett – 7XX Kelvin Dr.** - expressed concerns regarding appointment of City Attorney. Stated the vote should be tabled in an effort to make an informed decision.

**COMMISSION AND BOARD REPORTS:**

**A. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE** – Alderwoman Tatman read report sent by the Public Safety Committee

**B. YOUTH COMMISSION** – Alderwoman Avant-Elliott – Hoop madness is March 14, 2020 - please sign up by 2/11/2020 at the Rec Center, there was discussion regarding the budget and/or assistance to obtain needed supplies, information will be forthcoming regarding game night.

**C. IMAGE AND BEAUTIFICATION – NONE**

**D. PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD** – There was discussion regarding the Parks and Rec Chair and duties and responsibilities.

**STREET DEPARTMENT – NONE**

**PLANNING AND ZONING** - Pat Barrett reported that the hearing for 1214 Forest Home Drive to operate an In-Home Child Care is 2/20/2020 at 7:30pm.

**BUILDING INSPECTOR** - Joe Raben – reported the error in the written report – there was 56 HVAC (not 60) which brought the total to 75 (not 79), Bellefontaine Food Mart is making progress, Trimarc Meadows is expanding office space, discussed the amount of sewer laterals completed, vacant properties, squatters and obtaining occupancy permits.

**CITY ENGINEER** - Clayton Klein – discussed his monthly report and explained and answered questions regarding the process of street repaving.

**APPROVAL OF INVOICES OVER \$500.00**

Motion to include the additional check details in the attorney's invoice and approve over \$500.00 invoices in the amount of \$40,310.49 made by Alderwoman Avant-Elliott seconded by Alderwoman West. Motion carries.

**CHIEF OF POLICE:** Chief Ihler informed everyone of upcoming events: Knights of Columbus Event – 2/29/2020, Eyecare Event 6/26/2020, Bellefontaine Family Fest in conjunction with Great Rivers Greenway is in June, received a grant to cover the price of the first year service for the electronic fingerprinting device, there is now Wi Fi in City Hall for guest for the purpose of city business and he questioned the city's budget timeline.

**CITY ATTORNEY:** Stated that there need to be a closed session after the BOA meeting. Will look into the code for compensation for the planning and zoning commission.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A.** Motion to reconsider the BOA consent to the Mayor's appointment of city attorney so that the Mayor may re-nominate Dorothy White-Coleman as City Attorney effective March 1, 2020 made by Alderwoman Dailes seconded by Alderman Thomas. 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-abstain. Motion passed with 5 yeas, 2-nays and 1 abstention.

Mayor Pierson nominated Dorothy White-Coleman to be the city attorney effective March 1, 2020 and the compensation to be set before March 1, 2020 as set forth in the contract attached to Bill No. 2567.

Motion to appoint Dorothy White-Coleman and her law firm as the city attorney for the City of Bellefontaine Neighbors, effective March 1, 2020 made by Alderwoman Dailes seconded by Alderman Christian. 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-abstain. Motion passed with 5 yeas, 2 nays, 1 abstention.

**Bill No. 2567, An ordinance authorizing and directing the Mayor of the City of Bellefontaine Neighbors, Missouri, to execute and enter into a contract governing compensation for legal**

services by the City Attorney introduced by Alderwoman Tatman, for 1<sup>st</sup> reading and go on to 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and add amendment that any prior ordinances pertaining to this ordinance is hereby repealed, seconded by Alderwoman Dailes.

**Questions:**

Alderwoman Avant-Elliott mentioned the fact that when the recension happened, the process is about to be negated again and Attorney Starr stated that someone could make a motion to postpone the second reading until the next reading.

Alderwoman West mentioned that the word "conflict" was left out of the reading of Bill No. 2567.

**Alderwoman Tatman re-introduced Bill No. 2567, An ordinance authorizing and directing the Mayor of the City of Bellefontaine Neighbors, Missouri, to execute and enter into a contract governing compensation for legal services by the City Attorney for 1<sup>st</sup> reading and go on to 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and add amendment that any prior ordinances pertaining to and in conflict with this ordinance is hereby repealed.**

Question: Alderwoman West asked about the postponement of the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and Attorney Starr answered that this is the time to move for postponement of the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.

Motion made by Alderwoman West to postpone the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading until the next BOA meeting seconded by Alderwoman Avant-Elliott. Votes are as follows: Alderwoman West-yes, Alderwoman Tatman-no, Alderwoman Reed-yes, Alderman Wiese-no, Alderman Thomas-no, Alderman Christian-yes, Alderwoman Dailes-no, Alderwoman Avant-Elliott-yes. With 4 yeas and 4 nays motion was tied. Mayor Pierson voted no to break the tie. Motion failed.

Alderwoman Reed mentioned that there were no yeas and nays for the first motion. Mayor asked all in favor say yea and oppose say nay, motion passed with majority saying yay.

**Alderwoman Tatman read Bill No. 2567 for 2nd time seconded by Alderman Thomas. Roll call for approval of Bill No. 2567; 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-abstain. Motion passed with 5 yes, 2 no and 1 abstention.**

**Bill No. 2567 will become Ordinance No. 2563 when and if signed by the Mayor.**

**REPORT OF MAYOR:** Mayor Pierson reported the death of 2 close family members this past month in the state of Tennessee. He will be leaving on Friday to go to Kansas City for another funeral for a great individual in our state and county. Also, he reported that he has been meeting with the County Executive and others regarding North County Development, i.e. a sit-down restaurant, his vision is to create an economic mega at 270/367, he will meet with the CEO Economic Developer for the city and county, Rodney Crim next week to do a tour of the city and figure out how to move this city forward. He stressed the point that he live here, own property here and do not want the city to fail. **(at this point Alderwoman West exited the meeting)**. The Mayor stated that nothing happens overnight, it takes planning to build and we are moving forward and will not be deterred by all the conversations that he hears. He thanked the BOA for those who believe in him. He did not run for Mayor to maintain, but to make it better and move forward. His goal is to bring the BOA together in an effort to bring a lot of things to fruition as developers are hesitate to dwell with a divided board. There will be restructuring of interstate 270 from 370 to the river, which is a 4-year project and will bring a lot of jobs. The Mayor mentioned that he co-wrote the economic development piece for the I-64 project and this will happen. He will keep the BOA informed and if needed there will be a private session with Millstone.

Alderwoman Avant-Elliott made a motion to approve the Proclamation for Greater North County Chamber of Commerce seconded by Alderman Wiese. Motion passed.

Motion to go into closed session after adjournment of BOA meeting pursuant to 610.021.1 (Legal/Attorney-Client conversation) and 610.021.3 (Personnel) made by Alderwoman Avant-Elliott seconded by Alderman Thomas. Motion passed with the following votes: Alderwoman West-absent, Alderwoman Tatman-yes, Alderwoman Reed-yes, Alderman Wiese-yes, Alderman Thomas-yes, Alderman Christian-yes, Alderwoman Dailes-yes, Alderwoman Avant-Elliott-yes. Motion passed.

**REPORT OF ALDERMEN:**

**Alderwoman Avant-Elliott** – Happy belated birthday to Mayor and Alderwoman Tatman. Looking forward to the February birthdays of the 3 board members. Youth Commission will have an event on March 14<sup>th</sup>, she is now a Census Ambassador after attending the Census Ambassador Training and will be working with the North County Count Committee for the activities in our neighborhood. She will be late to the Black History Event because she is invited to another event. The City Administrator ordinance can be tabled for a later date.

**Alderwoman Dailes** – Black History Event is Saturday, February 8, 2020 from 10:45am to 2pm. Attended the census ambassador training, will start block unit orientation and information is forthcoming but the meeting is Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup> with inclement date on February 23, 2020. Received a lot of complaints regarding the Police Department, stated that the BOA must be elected by the people and we must move in a different direction with the Police Department. Ward 4 is tired of being looked down on, talked to rudely and being told they (PD) can't help them. Happy Birthday to Miranda and Theresa. The Black History Event has not gone over the \$2,000.00 budget for four years.

**Alderman Christian** – No report.

**Alderman Thomas** – Wanted to publicly announce his support for the Mayor and economic development.

**Alderman Wiese** – Support the Mayor 100% on this development and stated that developers do not want to work with divided board members.

**Alderwoman Reed** – Asked the Mayor again about street problems at Bella Brook and Running Brook. The Mayor responded with the street department's statement of the streets need to be patched but there must be warm weather. They asked for the street department to attend the meetings at least once a month. The mammogram truck will be present (flyers are on the table). Sorry for the Mayor's loss. The Strategic Planning Meetings are on 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays from 7-9pm. Time for the budget process to start. She is also a Census Ambassador and expressed the importance of everyone participating in the census count.

**Alderwoman Tatman** – Bellefontaine Family Fest in partnership this year with Great Rivers Greenway is June 27, 2020. September 19, 2020 from 12 noon to 3pm there is an event in partnership with Lewis and Clark Library, The City of Moline Acres, Riverview Gardens School District and Bellefontaine Neighbors titled Hidden Gems In The Park. Meetings for volunteers for these events is every Tuesday at 6pm at the Rec Center. There is information on the internet regarding the North County Zoo Development. Happy belated birthday to the Chief of Police.

**Mayor Pierson** – Agreed with Alderwoman Reed regarding the importance of the census.

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

**Barbara Wilson – 12XX St. Cyr Rd.** – discussed the yellow bags that is not being picked up. She is tired of seeing them. We need to do something about the trash.

Chief Ihler stated that someone from the police department will be available for discussion at neighborhood watch meetings. The mammogram vehicle will be here in March.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn BOA meeting made by Alderman Thomas seconded by Alderman Wiese. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35PM.

**ATTEST:**

  
Fran Stevens, City Clerk

Approved by the Board of Aldermen on 2-20-2020