

REGULAR BOARD MEETING UNAPPROVED MINUTES

THURSDAY – April 16, 2020

BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERPERSONS

MEETING HELD VIA CONFERENCE CALL

425-436-6332 Access Code 310788

PRESENT: Alderwoman Barbara West, Alderwoman Theresa Reed, Alderman Michael Wiese, Alderman Jim Christian, Alderwoman Miranda Avant-Elliott

ABSENT: Alderwoman Dinah Tatman, Alderwoman Alease Dailes (present on call but did not announce herself to participant on virtual dais), City Attorney Dorothy White-Coleman, Police Chief Jeremy Ihler and City Clerk Fran Stevens, Mayor Tommie Pierson Sr., Alderman James Thomas

CALL MEETING TO ORDER BY Alderwoman Dr. Miranda Avant-Elliott at 7:30 pm which included an announcement that Quinsha Elliott was recording the minutes in the absence of the City Clerk

ROLL CALL: Alderwoman Barbara West (present), Alderwoman Theresa Reed (present), Alderman Michael Wiese (present), Alderman Jim Christian (present), Alderwoman Miranda Avant-Elliott (present), Alease Dailes (present on call but did not announce herself or participated in virtual dais) all other members were not present as indicated by lack of announcement during roll call

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion to approve agenda by Alderwoman Barbara West and seconded by Alderman Christian. Motion Carries

PRESENTATION OF UNAPPROVED MINUTES:

Motion to approve to the Regular B.O.A. 3/19/2020 minutes as amended: Theresa Reed, page 2 section C she said no, not abstained for the vote on the Emergency Plan, change the my2020census to 2020census.gov, change phone and by mail to phone, mail, and online. Motion made to amend by Alderman Christian seconded by Alderwoman Reed. Motion Carried

MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC: No public comments were given. During the adjournment of the meeting Alicia Smith asked why public comment was not held and Alderwoman Avant-Elliott shared that since going to the virtual meetings the board has only one public comment time which is at the beginning of the meeting.

CITY TREASURER: Treasurer Report was read aloud by Alderwoman Avant-Elliott followed by board dialogue:

Alderman Reed: Asked was the bond maturity payment made on time for March 1. She noted that the treasurer report indicated 4.2 mill and the collector report had the city at 4.5 million and a need for review. Treasurer to report the year to date by email for the P & L for 3/31/2020

Indicated that the stimulus may need to be self-filed. Alderman Reed asked had anyone seen anything about the draft budget

Treasurer Howard: Indicated that the draft budget had been sent to the mayor and asked members if they would like a copy sent to them. Treasurer Howard shared he would send by email. He reported that he has made a 5-year budget plan for 2020-2025, and indicated that the principal payments for bond maturity were made on time, and that the year to date balance sheet and P & L for 3-31-2020 will be sent via email.

Alderman Reed: Asked if the treasurer can attend the next strategic planning meeting which is the second Tuesday on May 14th, 7pm-9pm to share the budget reports (sent by 4-17-2020). She also indicated that the strategic meeting will be held virtually

Alderman Avant-Elliott: Asked if the board can have a report on the positions that have not been filled to determine funds available for a city administrator.

Alderman West: Suggested that the city eliminate Kathy's position totally.

Treasurer Howard: Shared there will have to be a meeting to establish where the salaries will come from, there will be a cash deficit available but do not want to disrupt the liquidity

Alderman Avant-Elliott: Asked whether there were concerns around continuing to pay workers during the pandemic and whether people who are not reporting getting paid.

Treasurer Howard: Shared there is enough cash payments for everyone to get paid, there is no withholding of anyone's payments. No impacts so far based on the receipts from March.

Alderman Avant-Elliott: Asked the treasurer if he talked to St. Louis County about stimulus

Alderman Reed: Shared that in a few months the city may see a reduction of resources and asked the Treasurer will there be a built-in increase for salaries and health benefits. She wanted to know if the city should be on a hiring freeze.

Treasurer Howard: has forecasted a 20% reduction in certain areas of the budget in some areas. The county will ensure they will have a better grasp on the recommendation on hiring in the future, but it is uncertain if a recommendation can be made right now

Alderman West: Shared with the treasurer that she would like to meet face to face with Treasurer Howard to discuss Kwanzaa receipts. Treasurer Howard indicated he was practicing social distancing and they can discuss means to address her request.

Alderman Christian: Shared that every year the mayor should be looking into insurance prices for the future.

CITY COLLECTOR:

Alderman Reed: shared that the collector sent her report and forwarded to the board and read in her absence. She noted that for the month of March the city received 4.5 mill but wants to investigate the discrepancy of 4.5 million in the treasurer report and 4.2 million for the year to date in the collector's report

Treasurer Howard: Shared that the cutoff date may affect the year to date vs the year to end of month total

Alderman Reed: Shared that she would like a true checks and balances between reports.

APPROVAL OF INVOICES OVER \$500

Alderman Reed made a motion to approve the over \$500 for April 1-2, 2020, for a total of 6199.13 with the removal of the duplicate check made to Ed Roehr for a total of 307.18 (invoice number 505054) seconded by Alderman West. Motion Carried

CHIEF OF POLICE: Alderman Reed asked Treasurer Howard about meeting with the Police Chief concerning his budget and he indicated he would be meeting with him on May 11th. Inquiry was made about the police new hire based on the invoice for new uniforms.

CITY ATTORNEY: Absent

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS

COMMUNITY RESOURCES: The board discussed the event hosted by Alderman Dailes that was not discussed with board nor board approved citing liability concerns around the use of city workers, volunteers who may not have waivers, food storage, food inspection, and no knowledge of the source of the food. Discussed the need to inquire of the attorney about liabilities and the insurance for safety precautions. Alderman West was unaware of there being events and indicated she wished Alderman Dailes were available to answer questions. Alderman Avant-Elliott asked if a committee should be formed to coordinate resources and shared that the website had not been updated with resources. Alderman Reed suggested speaking with the attorney about liabilities. Alderman Christian shared that the Holy Name of Jesus has a pantry and he shared the COVID-19 statistics in our area was at 75 cases and Alderman West indicated it was at 25 cases a week ago. Alderman Avant-Elliott shared she would forward resources for the website.

REPORT OF THE ACTING MAYOR: Alderman Avant-Elliott shared for the record that the mayor was invited to attend the meeting and indicated he would not be attending which is the reason she was chairing the meeting. Shared that due to special circumstances she had to indicate the meeting was being held and not properly posted on the website although it was requested and was instead posted on social media. She shared that although the courts were not on the Mayor's public notice she spoke with the Judge and courts have to remain open, and court dates are being rescheduled, and how payments can be made are indicated on the website.

REPORT OF ALDERMEN:

Alderwoman West: Request that details on what the under \$500 dollars was spent on be provided to the board.

Alderwoman Reed: Would like to receive the data from the 2020 census tracker. Shared that the Census for Bellefontaine was over 50% and asked for everyone to please reach out to citizens, family and friends to complete the Census. Concerned about the city not performing business and the board not getting any reports on what is going on in the city from the mayor. City hall is not answering phone calls of citizens. Expressed concerns about the lack of response for citizens and employees and concern for safety. Discussed the number of Covid-19 cases in the city and the lack of response from the mayor, and as there is greater need for him to communicate with the board and the citizens during this pandemic.

Alderman Weise: Expressed concerns for the day to day management of the community resource center and suggested a city manager to manage day to day operations of the community center, the city hall etc. and salaries.

Alderwoman Avant-Elliott: Shared she received all the names addresses and phone numbers of constituents and gave out a Robo blast (PSA) to all citizens in the ward. Encourage the constituents to call 211 to get to the United Way resources, to stay inside and to keep their face covered when going out. Provided the number for Census by phone as 844-330-2020 and indicated that individuals can use their address to complete in the absence of the paper notice. The expense for the Robo call was \$76 for all the calls. Suggested the board of Aldermen make a video to the constituents during the pandemic and invited members to send their video to her to compile. Expressed the need for a close session about the personnel absent from the board meeting.

Alderwoman Avant-Elliott: Asked for a motion for a notice of concern to be drafted by the prosecutor to address ordinance violations related to the meeting to the city clerk, mayor, chief of police, and city attorney made by Alderwoman West and Seconded by Alderman Christian. Motion Carried.

Alderman Christian: Expressed the need for better management and communication of the city administration. Shared there will be no city clean up because of the pandemic but encouraged the community to clean at home.

Alderman Christian made a motion that the board of alderman meeting be held and not cancelled for the May 7th general meeting, seconded by Alderwoman West: Motion Carried

ADJOURNMENT at 8:42 pm Motion by Alderwoman Reed, Seconded by Alderman Christian. Motion Carried

ATTEST:
