

**CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS  
BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 4, 2020 – 7:30PM  
VIA ZOOM**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Tommie Pierson, Sr., Alderwoman Dinah Tatman, Alderman Michael Wiese, Alderman James Thomas, Alderman Jim Christian, Alderwoman Alease Dailes, Alderwoman Avant-Elliott, City Attorney Dorothy White-Coleman, Police Chief Jeremy Ihler, City Clerk Fran Stevens

**ABSENT:** Alderwoman Barbara West Ward 1 arrived at 7:35pm and Alderwoman Theresa Reed Ward 2 arrived at 7:32pm.

**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.

**ROLL CALL:** City Clerk called the roll and all members were present except Alderwoman West and Alderwoman Reed.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Motion to amend agenda made by Alderwoman Tatman seconded by Alderman Christian.

**PRESENTATION OF THE UNAPPROVED MINUTES:**

Motion to approve Regular Board Meeting Minutes of May 21, 2020 and May 28, 2020 made by Alderwoman Dailes seconded by Alderman Thomas. Alderwoman Avant-Elliott asked that these minutes are tabled to next BOA meeting due to needed corrections.

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

**Peg Warnuzs – 11XX Crete Dr.** – discussed a neighborhood meeting with BN officers and stated that Ward 1 and Ward 2 board members were also invited: Alderperson West-Ward 1-attended, Alderman Wiese-Ward 2-attended, Alderwoman Reed-Ward 2-did not attend due to COVID-19 pandemic and Alderwoman Tatman-Ward 1-did not attend due to she was out of town. The meeting was to address problems i.e. traffic, drugs, public urination, and certain individual(s) in the community. She also read written messages from other residents that expressed their concern for the safety of the community.

**Everetia Perry – 12XX Danfield** – Stated that she was concerned because she did not see the agenda on the website and stated that this could be the reason more residents are not present on the zoom meeting. Alderman Christian stated that the posting is on the website under “Agendas.”

**Brian Chapman – 10XXX Crete Dr.** – stated that he has installed 8 cameras to capture activities in the area. He stated numerous drug activities were captured as well as excessive speeding. He stated that blocking the entrance to the shopping plaza could combat the situation.

**Wanda Lane – 99XX Martingale** – Congratulated the new and returning Alderpersons. Thanked Alderman Michael Wiese, Ward 2 for his service as he leaves the BOA. She stated and discussed unprofessional behavior from the BOA and stated the Board President Alderwoman Avant-Elliott has performed unauthorized and unprofessional activities.

**COMMISSION AND BOARD REPORTS:**

- A. **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE** – No report.
- B. **YOUTH COMMISSION** – Alicia Smith reported the Fishing Derby Event is cancelled for this weekend.
- C. **IMAGE AND BEAUTIFICATION** – Alderman Christian reported the next meeting is June 9, 2020 at 7pm.
- D. **PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD** – No report.

**STREET DEPARTMENT** – No report.

**PLANNING AND ZONING** - Pat Barrett reported at the 5/24/2020 meeting there was discussion regarding recommendations i.e. updating fees for conditional use permits, zoning permits, occupancy permits and sign regulations. There will be a Public Hearing on June 18, 2020 at 7:30pm. Would like Matt Borzymowski to be reappointed to Planning and Zoning Commission.

**BUILDING INSPECTOR** – No report.

**CITY ENGINEER** – No report.

**APPROVAL OF INVOICES OVER \$500.00**

Motion to approve over \$500.00 invoices in the amount of \$20,475.45 made by Alderwoman Reed seconded by Alderman Christian. Motion carries.

**CHIEF OF POLICE:** Chief Ihler – stated the web site reference COVID-19 information. BN Parks are now open but the restrooms remain closed. He discussed the article written by Tony Messenger in the Post-Dispatch. Discussed the issues with the shopping center: there are drawings and discussion regarding barricades; wants to close access to the shopping center for 12 months, review outcome and asked for BOA input: Alderman Wiese - he was present at the neighborhood meeting and feels the barricades are great, Alderman Thomas – in agreement to closing the entrance and collection of statistics, Alderwoman Dailes – Ward 4 is experiencing the same issues, this is a great idea and would like to see barricades in Ward 4, Alderwoman Reed made a motion to install the barricades seconded by Alderman Wiese. Motion passed.

Alderwoman Avant-Elliott – inquired if the resolution regarding Civil Emergency Procedures was in place with the Mike Brown unrest and Chief Ihler stated that the Bill was not in place 6 years ago, but it is needed and it is a Civil Emergency Bill which will become a permanent ordinance.

Chief Ihler explained that the IT WiFi installation for the Recreation Center was tabled; Alderwoman Reed inquired about (1) insurance coverage for the COVID-19 testing-Chief stated that is taken care of, (2) stated that she is already hearing fireworks and inquired if there would posting of “No Fireworks” signs, Chief stated “yes” he will check with the street department for the signs; will Bill No. 2579 allow military to be called in, Chief explained the procedure for calling in Military. Alderwoman Reed commended the on-duty officers that responded to the situation of the young man that was struck by lightning. Alderwoman Dailes inquired if the PD would ride around on July 4<sup>th</sup> to deter usage of fireworks? Chief Ihler answered “yes.” Alderwoman Avant-Elliott inquired if outside insurance coverage is required for any outside entity utilizing our property and lots. Chief will check on this information. Alderwoman Reed questioned how BNPD employees are compensated when assisting other municipalities. Chief answered that usually on duty staff is utilized if needed. Very seldom do we use off duty employees.

**CITY ATTORNEY:** Regarding Tony Messenger’s report – the City requested and was refused a retraction to the article due to the fact that the sunshine law time limit was not exhausted.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. BILL NO. 2577, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS, MISSOURI, TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY WITH REJIS COMMISSION FOR COMPUTER AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT SERVICES INTRODUCED BY ALDERMAN THOMAS.**

Motion made by Alderman Thomas to read Bill No. 2577 for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> time seconded by Alderwoman Dailes. Alderwoman Avant-Elliott seconded 2<sup>nd</sup> read. There was discussion that 2<sup>nd</sup> read should be a roll call vote, and City Attorney stated that although the city has been doing roll call votes on the 2<sup>nd</sup> read, it is not in the ordinance and it is not necessary. After discussion, Mayor asked all in favor everyone said yes.

**Bill No. 2577 will become Ordinance No. 2571 if and when signed by the Mayor.**

**B. BILL NO. 2578, AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AN EMERGENCY PURCHASING PROCEDURE FOR THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS DURING A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS OR OTHER STATE OF EMERGENCY INTRODUCED BY ALDERWOMAN DAILES.**

Motion made by Alderwoman Dailes to read Bill No. 2578 for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> time seconded by Alderwoman Tatman. Votes are as follows: Alderwoman West-no, Alderwoman Tatman-yes, Alderwoman Reed-no, Alderman Wiese-yes, Alderman Thomas-yes, Alderman Christian-no, Alderwoman Dailes-yes, Alderwoman Avant-Elliott-no. Motion failed.

**C. BILL NO. 2579, AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING CIVIL EMERGENCY PROCEDURES FOR THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS, MISSOURI DURING A STATE OF EMERGENCY INTRODUCED BY ALDERWOMAN TATMAN.**

Motion made by Alderwoman Tatman to read Bill No. 2579 for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> time seconded by Alderman Dailes Motion carries. Alderman Wiese seconded 2<sup>nd</sup> read. Mayor asked all in favor and everyone said yes except Alderwoman Reed voted no.

**Bill No. 2579 will become Ordinance No. 2572 if and when signed by the Mayor.**

**REPORT OF THE MAYOR** – Thanked Alderman Wiese for his service and thanked James Carroll for his win in the election and look forward to working with him as we move this city forward. His meeting with the Metro Mayors revealed that some cities are opening their City Halls and Rec Centers while practicing social distancing, testing of temperature and etc. One city had an in-person board meeting and our next BOA meeting may be held in person in the BN Gymnasium. The outdoor pool is in need of repair and the cost may be \$150,000. He has communicated with grant writer, Rodney Robinson regarding grants and learned there is a grant we can apply for now; Mayor will ask Mr. Robinson to start the process of applying for grant for pool restoration and also to do Shepley Drive. Alderwoman Avant-Elliott asked if Mr. Robinson was doing grants without cost to the city? Mayor responded that the grants in discussion at this point has no cost association. But stated that when you get into street grants, the city must put up monies and then is reimbursed. The BOA will be kept informed of the process. Alderwoman Avant-Elliott inquired about the update regarding the salt shed, Mayor replied that the top is on the salt shed and they are in the process of running the electric. Alderwoman Tatman mentioned that the city needs to start thinking about cutting cost to direct services to preserve the budget. Some areas mentioned were the Rec Center which is not a direct service, but a luxury item and Courts are being structured to relieve cities of expenses except maintaining and Prosecutor and a Clerk. All of the income will come back to the city. Alderwoman Dailes asked about the Mayor scheduling a budget meeting with the entire BOA. Mayor stated that he will inform the BOA next week of a date to discuss the budget. Alderwoman West disagreed that the Rec Center is a luxury but the heart of Bellefontaine Neighbors. She stated that a lot of seniors utilized the pool and a lot of other people use the banquet rooms. A lot of income comes from these areas, she also suggested a grant to increase the banquet rooms would produce more income. City Treasurer Patrick Howard stated that he received all the budgets from each department and have them ready for review by the BOA in preparation of approval. Alderwoman Avant-Elliott stated that there is a formal meeting scheduled for next Thursday and inquired if the Mayor wanted the budget discussion on the agenda for that meeting. Mayor stated that he would put together a meeting date for budget discussion. There was discussion at large regarding the budget meeting, the Strategic Planning Meeting and a separate meeting for the entire BOA to attend to discuss the budget. (there was major feedback on the line and I could not hear/understand all the Mayor's statement.) The Mayor stated that he will schedule a meeting next week for the budget hearing. Chief Ihler asked the Treasurer to send proposed budget to all the department heads.

**REPORT OF THE ALDERMEN**

**Alderman Thomas** – Thanked to the citizens of BN for their support of electing him into office and look forward to working for the citizens with the BOA and the City of Bellefontaine Neighbors. Thanked Alderman Wiese for his services. Congratulations to Alderwoman Dailes and Alderman James Carroll. Be safe and practice social distancing.

**Alderwoman Dailes** – Thanked citizens of Ward 4 for re-electing her to another 4-year term and stated she will work even harder for them and for BN. Congratulated Alderman James Thomas, Alderman James and Alderwoman Dinah Tatman. Asked for a minute of silence in honor of George Floyd and Mayor Mary Louise Carter, City of Pagedale. She apologized to the citizens for the following statement of mentioning difficulties with other BOA members and she expressed her apology and stated that she forgives those members. She stated that it is written in the ordinance that the Board President is only supposed to do anything when the Mayor is out of state. Her hopes is that the BOA can work together for the citizens of BN as the chairs that they sit in belongs to the people.

**Alderman Wiese** – He and pat Barret is currently working on the bid package for the pool renovation and he has more lighting ideas to save money on utility cost. There is more work needed for upgrading the Rec Center as this is a gem in

Bellefontaine Neighbors. Thanked individuals for the Crete and Cabot meeting, he and his neighbor worked with the street department and cut the park in his neighborhood. Thanked the Mayor for appointing him to the BOA and enjoyed the time serving. Please have patience with James Carroll, he is super smart and has lots of ideas. Stated that everyone on this board has skills and talents.

**Alderman Christian** – Thanks to voters that went out and voted. Congratulated Alderpersons James Carroll, Dinah Tatman, Aleese Dailes and James Thomas. Stated that he would like to sponsor a bill for roll call votes for the final passage of all bills going forward at next BOA meeting. Will revisit situation for all boards and commissions to be in line and make sure all boards are represented.

**Alderwoman West** – Congratulated James Carroll, Alderman Wiese and Ebony Williams for her effort and encouraged her to not give up. Have been working on the basketball goal and nuisance ordinance with the City Attorney. Want to reinstate the Human Relations Commission as this is very important.

**Alderwoman Reed** – Asked the Mayor if he heard anything about Bella Brook and Running Brook. The Mayor stated he had not. Motion for closed session pursuant to 610.021 (1) Legal actions, Causes of Action, Litigation or privileged conversation between City's representatives and City Attorney, on June 18, 2020 made by Alderwoman Reed seconded by Alderwoman Avant-Elliott. Votes are as follows: Alderwoman West-yes, Alderwoman Tatman-no, Alderwoman Reed-yes, Alderman Wiese-yes, Alderman Thomas-no, Alderman Christian-yes, Alderwoman Dailes-no, Alderwoman Avant-Elliott-yes. Motion passed. Alderwoman Reed discussed making a motion for an ordinance to eliminate private basketball hoops due to safety issues. Conversation ensued and City Attorney suggested to table this discussion at this time.

**Alderwoman Avant-Elliott** – Thanks to everyone, congratulations to Alderman Carroll and everyone that won the election. George Floyd's funeral was today hope that everyone can reflect on their behavior and treatment of others. Thanked Alderwoman Reed for census material for the polling day, there will be several commissions open for service. Thanked Alderwoman Dailes for nominating her last year for President of the Alderman Board. Looking to host a virtual Town Hall Meeting and encouraging participation. Wants to revisit conversation regarding speed bumps. Congratulated Michael Clark of Ward 2 a graduate of United States Military Academy at West Point. Discussed the newsletter cost and stated she needs information for the newsletter provided to her by the end of this month, elimination of allocations i.e. office manager and assistant aquatics director and the need to prepare for posting of City Manager Position. Thanked everyone that contributed to the COVID-19 Pandemic situation. Please complete the Census 2020.

**Alderwoman Tatman** – Thanked Ward 1 for voting her back into office. She gave an update regarding the emergency meeting; all insurance documents required will be in place, received a \$10,000 donation to take care of staffing, acquired 20,000 KN95 face masks and some hand sanitizer from St. Louis County Health Department. There are flyers on the web site but is asking colleagues to help distribute flyers in the community. Congratulated Alderperson Carroll, Dailes and Thomas on their victory. Stated Michael Wiese has contributed a great deal to the BOA. Tomorrow at 2pm on the steps of City Hall a \$10,000 check will be presented to the COVID-19 testing efforts. The masks will be picked up tomorrow between 3 and 3:30pm. Mayor Pierson announced that Channel 2 is doing an announcement tonight at 10:00pm regarding the testing on City Hall parking lots.

**MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: (With a 3-minute time limit or as long as the Mayor deems necessary).**

**Wanda Lane – 99XX Martingale Lane** – have been accustomed to non-elected individuals to disappear and hope that Michael Wiese does not disappear, thanked Alderwoman Dailes for extending the olive branch, discussion of the basketball hoop—they are no longer in the parks, regarding the budget, the "Illegal meeting" that was held was not presented as a budget meeting, the hiring of a City Manager is not feasible at this time of decreasing revenue due to health pandemic.

**Kathy Mason – 10XX Donnell Ave.** – expressed that she would like the zoom meetings to continue and she likes the idea of blocking the streets leading to the strip mall.

**Felecia Gillespie – 6XX Marshfield** – would also like to continue the zoom meetings, the barriers are a great idea but hope that we use barriers that make the city look great, thanked the Police Department for their phenomenal response,

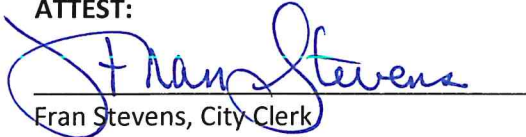
Housing Authority complaint-last correspondence was sent on May 27<sup>th</sup> and she will follow up with them, her niece in Ward 4, a graduate of Washington University assisted the Alderwoman in the making of the COVID-19 testing signs, asked Alderwoman Avant-Elliott for date to add something to the newsletter and thanked Alderman Wiese for his service. Congratulated the elected official on their victory.

**Pat Barrett – 9XX Kelvin Dr.** – Congratulated everyone for their victory, thanked Michael Wiese for his contributions.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Motion to adjourn BOA meeting made by Alderman Thomas seconded by Alderman Wiese. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 9:37pm.

**ATTEST:**

  
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Fran Stevens, City Clerk

Approved by the Board of Aldermen on June 18, 2020