

**CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS  
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY NOVEMBER 3, 2022 – 7:30 P.M.**

**PRESENT** Mayor Tommie Pierson, City Attorney Dorothy White-Coleman, Chief Jeremy Ihler, Director of Public Works Jeff Ross, Recreation Center Director Jimmy Kinirich, Treasurer Rick Rognan, and City Clerk Semmie Ruffin-Hall

**MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER** BY Mayor Pierson called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGEANCE**

**ROLL CALL:** City Clerk Semmie Ruffin Hall called the roll:

- Alderman Alicia Smith-P
- Alderman Alease Dailes-P
- Alderman Regina Harmon-Ward-P
- Alderman James Thomas-P
- Alderman Lynette VonSeggern-Excused
- Alderman Peg Warnusz-P
- Alderman Theresa Hester-P
- Alderman Dinah Tatman-P

7 Present/1 Excused-Quorum was met

**CHIEF JEREMEY IHLER PRESENTED AWARDS TO OFFICER:**

- Officer Andrew Johnson-Received the Distinguish Service Citation and pin for Valor Award
- Sgt Dennis Olgesby-Received the Life Saving Award
- Officer Sean Harris-Received the Certificate of Merit Award
- Citizen Award (citizen wanted to remain anonymous) given for getting involved in a situation, helping resolve many automobile thefts. Saw something and he said something.

Mayor stated he wishes to thank The Chief and all of you (police department) for your heroic efforts in keeping the city safe.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion to approve the agenda made by Alderman Alease Dailes to amend the agenda and table Bill #2651, 2<sup>nd</sup> made by Alderman Dinah Tatman. Mayor stated the agenda has been approved and properly second. Bill #2651 has been tabled and will be brought back later. Mayor called for all in favor-7 Ayes/ 0 Nays-Ayes have it, motion Passed.

**MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (With 3-minute time limit)**

- Melissa Kennedy-94XX Harden Drive
  - Family has been a resident of the city for over 35 years
  - In favor of Police having a competitive salary
  - Police are needed, do not want St. Louis County to take over
  - Guns shots every night and the officers are busy
- Tina Wright-94XX Duenke
  - Thanked the Police Department
  - Safety is paramount
  - Officers go beyond patrolling, they bonded with community
  - This is not Mayberry RFD, -one cop, one car, one bullet-Our officers need back up

**PRESENTATION OF UNAPPROVED MINUTES (B.O.A. Minutes 06-02-22, B.O.A. Pre-Meeting Minutes 10-20-22, and B.O.A. Meeting Minutes 10-20-22) -Motion made by Alderman James Thomas to approve the unapproved minutes; 2<sup>nd</sup> made by Alderman Peg Warnusz. Mayor called for all in favor-7 Ayes/0-Nays. Motion passed**

**APPROVAL OF INVOICES OVER \$500 (10/18/22-11/01/22)-Motion made by Alderman Alicia Smith to approve invoices over \$500, 2<sup>nd</sup> made by Alderman James Thomas. 7 Ayes/0 Nays. Motion passed.**

**DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT-JIMMY KIRINICH**

- Received \$303,192-phase II of gym roof renovation.
- The total grant money received for the gym roof has been close to \$750,00.
- The goal is to send off RFPs to all exercise equipment companies for renovation of weight room
- The goal is to have this done by the end of May 2023 so that the roof and weight room are completed at the same time.
- Partnering with Archwell to have a mini health fair on Monday, November 7, 2022, from 11-2-No pre-registration is required.
- Feed the Masses food drive from 11/1/22-11/30/22-can goods and non-perishable items are accepted.
- Items will be donated to a local food bank.
- Quotes being received for two broken valves at Tanglewood Park that shut off the water in the bathrooms, which cannot be winterized until these valves are repaired.
- Bissell Hills and Sy. Cyr Park bathrooms were winterized by the maintenance department.
- 2023 winter/spring brochure to the printer by November 11<sup>th</sup> and should be to the resident's mailbox by early December. Brochures will run from January to May, which will include winter and spring activities.
- In the process of receiving 3 quotes for the F150 trucks that were approved, once all three quotes are received will be presented to the board for final approval.

## **DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT-JEFF ROSS**

- Maintained 15 vacant properties and common ground areas
- 10 citizens have had their sewer laterals repaired; 2 of them required street repair in the 1200 block of Bliss which was completed.
- 2 trees that were contracted out to be taken down were completed today (11/3/22)
- 6 trees were dead wooded and removed and two additional trees were removed at Tanglewood Park.
- 50 placards were replaced on sewers to remind residents not to dump into the sewer system and to help alleviate flooding.
- Trash and debris were picked up at Coburg Lands, Bellefontaine, Comet and 367. A large pick up of debris was also removed from Old St. Cyr.
- I previously stated that I would be ordering 175 tons of road salt, however with low river levels this may cause some supply issues. I ordered 200 tons.
- We received a signed purchase order for the purchase of 2 F-350 cab and chassis trucks. The dealer does have the purchase order #'s and they will be ordered on November 7, 2022.
- 2 additional citizens have volunteered for the program adopt a street. Thank you for helping keep the city clean.
- I don't know if many of you have paid attention to the Ruler Foods property, but we are holding them to task, and they have improved the conditions of their property. Lot cleaned, grass cut, trash picked up, and lights have been replaced in the parking lot as well. Windows have been replaced and cleaned as well as the repair of a dangerous shaft that has been covered and secured.
- We are starting to implement and enforce the vacant house ordinance to hold the homeowners accountable for the conditions of their homes. To date we have verified over 50 homes and letters are presently being sent out.
- We are also in the process of several administrative warrants to handle the problem with derelict properties.

## **IMAGE AND BEAUTIFICATION REPORT-JENNIE STEWART**

- No Report

Mayor did make a statement that Jennie Stewart and her crew do an excellent job in keeping our city clean and he wants to go on record by saying a job well done.

## **CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT -JEREMY IHLER**

- Flyers on the table in reference to a missing girl advisory on a Tatiana Walls considered a runaway and her health history requires routine medical care. Last seen November 1, 2022, around 11:30 p.m. in the 1200 block of Admiral Drive.
- Halloween drive through went great on Monday evening (10/31/22) from drive through to a party.

- Have received wheel locks for Hyundai and Kia vehicles. Kia years for the locks are 2011-2021, and Hyundai are 2015-2021. Proof of ownership and residency.
- Don't leave car running and walking away from it, not a good habit to get into
- Daylight savings time coming up this weekend-be aware of your surroundings do not give criminals the opportunity to take advantage of you.
- Next Tuesday (11-08-22) City used tax on the ballot
- Amendment 3 on the ballot-
  - This is a threat to our community and kids.
  - No maximum limit of marijuana in the blood stream.
  - No concentration level in your blood for marijuana
  - This makes prosecuting people who are high on marijuana 10 times more difficult to prosecute than a drunk driver.
  - Police Association are against this amendment
  - If marijuana is sold to someone under 21 this is a civil penalty not a criminal penalty and they pay \$100, prosecutors do not enforce civil law
  - If this passes and the City of Bellefontaine Neighbors decide to ban the sale of recreational marijuana inside our town we can only, do it in a presidential election year and then only by a vote of at least 60%
  - All in All, Missouri Police Chief Association opposes this so does the St. Louis Area Police Chief Association.
  - I think this will cause problems.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT- RICK ROGNAN**

- Remind everyone November 8<sup>th</sup> is an important date for everyone within the city.
- Additional revenue is needed for the city and the passage of the used tax will do that
- Sales tax starts in January but must pass on November 8<sup>th</sup> to go into effect on 1-1-23
- Financial report as of June 30, 2022, which is a draft-still reconciling.
- Over \$100,000 trying to tie down.
- This is not a complete final report.
- Want the board to see what will be presented monthly, to see if we are on target with our budget.
- We need to make sure checks (funds) are written from the correct account.
- When netted all out I believe we will be \$140,000 to the positive for last fiscal year.
- Meaning the budget was not overspent, will re mend the budget.
- I think we will be fine, let us finalize all this and will know a little more as we move forward.
- Will know more in just a couple more weeks.
- By the November report we will not be over budgeted in anything, at least we should not be.
- Each department will be separated out.
- RFP is needed from good strong Banks but that is up to the board, but this is highly recommended.

- Again, scanners are needed in each area.
- Each category will be reported and separated on the monthly report
- In our negotiations with a new bank, we should not have to pay any bank fees.

#### **CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT -DOROTHY WHITE COLEMAN**

- **No Report**

Attorney Dorothy White-Coleman made a statement as to why she doesn't typically make a report at the meeting. Pursuant to the City Code of Bellefontaine Neighbors specifically section 2-86. The role of the City Attorney is to provide legal service to the Board, The Mayor, and certain designated officials. Unlike the Directors, Police Chief or City Treasurer. What the City Attorney does is not lend itself to reporting monthly at these meetings. There are times that I will make a report because I think there are matters of general interest that both the Board, the Mayor and the Citizens might want to know about, when in particular when the Wayfair legislation was passed. I reported on several occasions on that legislation because I thought it was important that everyone understand what it did and how the city had to go about implementing it. But that is not going to occur at every meeting. When we attend these meetings our role here is primarily to provide the Board, the Mayor advise and counsel in the event anyone had any questions as to why I did not make reports like the other directors, although I am not a director, I did want you to understand why my role was different.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**BILL NO. 2651- (TABLED) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH SC ENGINEERING, LLC D/B/A COCHRAN FOR APPLICATION AND PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE SHEPLEY ROAD STP PROJECT IN BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS, MISSOURI. (INTRODUCED BY ALDERMAN ALEASE DAILES)**

**BILL NO. 2655- AN ORDINANCE UPDATING THE PAY PLAN AND COMPENSATION FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES IN THE CLASSIFIED SERVICE OF THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS, MISSOURI, AND REPEALING OTHER ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith (INTRODUCED BY ALDERMAN PEG WARNUSZ)**

Alderman Peg Warnusz made a motion for the first read of Bill No. 2655, 2<sup>nd</sup> made by Alderman Alease Dailes. Mayor called for discussion.

**DISCUSSION:** Alderman Peg Warnusz, Alderman Dinah Tatman and Alderman Alicia Smith had issues with the wording of the ordinance. Alderman Alease Dailes explained the ordinance wording.

Mayor called for a motion to approve the first read. Alderman James Thomas motion to approve first read in short form, 2<sup>nd</sup> made by Alderman Alease Dailes. Mayor called for an all-in favor-Ayes have it.

Alderman Peg Warnuz made a motion for the second read of Bill No. 2655, 2<sup>nd</sup> made by Alderman James Thomas. Mayor called for discussion, none. Mayor called for roll.

- Alderman Alicia Smith-N
- Alderman Alease Dailes-Y
- Alderman Regina Harmon-Ward-Y
- Alderman James Thomas-Y
- Alderman Peg Warnusz-N
- Alderman Theresa Hester-A
- Alderman Dinah Tatman-N

3 Ayes/3 Nays/1 Abstained. Motion failed.

**BILL NO. 2656-AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (INTRODUCED BY ALEASE DAILES)**

Alderman Alease Dailes made a motion for the first read of Bill No. 2656, 2<sup>nd</sup> made by Alderman James Thomas. Mayor called for discussion, none. Mayor called for an all-in favor, Ayes have it.

Alderman Alease Dailes made a motion for the second read of Bill No. 2656, 2<sup>nd</sup> made by Alderman James Thomas. Mayor called for discussion, none. Mayor called for roll.

- Alderman Alicia Smith-Y
- Alderman Alease Dailes-Y
- Alderman Regina Harmon-Ward-Y
- Alderman James Thomas-Y
- Alderman Peg Warnusz-Y
- Alderman Theresa Hester-Y
- Alderman Dinah Tatman-Y

7 Ayes/0 Nays. Motion passed.

**BILL NO 2657-AN ORDINANCE SUPERSEDING AND AMENDING ORDINANCE 2400 OF THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS, MISSOURI, AS WELL AS ALL OTHER ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES OF SAID CITY IN CONFLICT HERewith, ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION FOR CERTAIN OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS OF SAID CITY. (INTRODUCED BY ALDERMAN DINAH TATMAN)**

Alderman Dinah Tatman made a motion for the first read of Bill No. 2657, 2<sup>nd</sup> made by Alderman Alease Dailes. Mayor called for discussion.

**DISCUSSION:** Alderman Dinah Tatman had issues with the wording of ordinance. Mayor called for an all-in favor-Ayes have it.

Alderman Dinah Tatman made a motion for the second read of Bill No. 2657, 2<sup>nd</sup> made by Alderman Alease Dailes. Mayor called for discussion-none. Mayor called for roll.

- Alderman Alicia Smith-Y
  - Alderman Alease Dailes-Y
  - Alderman Regina Harmon-Ward-Y
  - Alderman James Thomas-Y
  - Alderman Peg Warnusz-Y
  - Alderman Theresa Hester-Y
  - Alderman Dinah Tatman-Y
- 7 Ayes/O Nays. Motion passed.

Alderman Alease Dailes asked the Board to reconsider passing Bill #2655. Alderman Dinah Tatman stated the verbiage is confusing. Alderman Peg Warnusz said she was confused on verbiage. Alderman Thomas stated closed session meeting stated 4% and in this meeting vote affirmative. Only way we can correct this is one of the Aldermen that voted no would have to ask for it to be reconsidered.

Motion made by Peg Warnusz to rescind her vote on Bill #2655 to reconsider, 2<sup>nd</sup> made by Alderman James Thomas. Mayor called for an all-in favor -Ayes have it. Alderman Peg Warnusz made a motion for the second read of Bill No. 2655, 2<sup>nd</sup> made by Alderman James Thomas. Mayor called for discussion-none. Mayor called for roll.

- Alderman Alicia Smith-N
  - Alderman Alease Dailes-Y
  - Alderman Regina Harmon-Ward-Y
  - Alderman James Thomas-Y
  - Alderman Peg Warnusz-Y
  - Alderman Theresa Hester-A
  - Alderman Dinah Tatman-Y
- 5 Ayes/1 Nay/1 Abstained. Motion passed.

#### **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES HARDWARE REQUEST (INTRODUCED BY CHIEF JEREMY IHLER)**

- Request to purchase additional memory for the server
- Memory upgrade needed

Alderman Alease Dailes made a motion for Information Technologies Hardware Request, we have three quotes, and the suggested quote is CSCW I would like to make the motion for \$1,572.60 for the Police Department to purchase this for the memory for the city, 2<sup>nd</sup>

made by Alderman Regina Harmon-Ward. Mayor called for discussion-none. Mayor called for all in favor-Ayes have it.

### **DISCUSSION OF WAIVING THE FEES FOR THE NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION (INTRODUCED BY ALDERMAN ALEASE DAILES)**

- North County Fire Protection is asking for an ordinance where we do not charge them \$17,540 in fees for building of their new fire station and in return, they will not charge us fees for the construction at the Recreation Center. Just great partnership.

### **ST. LOUIS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT (SENIOR CITIZEN EMPHASIS-LIFESTYLE CHANGE-ERNIE WILLIAMSON-(10 MINS)**

- I am a community health educator.
- We are in a health crisis-heart disease and diabetes are ravishing our community.
- North County and North City are called promised zones where citizens are being hospitalized at a high rate.
- Department has two programs:
  - National Diabetes Prevention Program
  - Blood Pressure Self-Monitoring Program
- These programs are initiatives from the Center of Disease Control and Prevention
- Year 5 and we are in the midst promoting these programs to various entities within the city.
- Partnering with the Recreation Center
- Have centers like Bellefontaine Neighbors' be a hub where these programs can be promoted.
- Brochures will be on table

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

- Mayor thanked the Board for their good work done tonight and thanked Rick Rognan for his financial report that was excellent.
- Thanked the Citizens for their time and support of the city.
- Will do the best that they can to make it the best city that it can be.

### **ALDERMAN'S REPORT**

- Alderman Alicia Smith
  - Thanked everyone for coming out.
  - Her and her counterpart are still driving around Ward 4.
  - Questions or concerns please reach out.



-CoCo Santa is upcoming event and Alderman Alease Dailes can provide further information but will be at the Recreation Center.

- Alderman Alease Dailes

- Thanked the Board for passing the increase for the Police Department.
- Bids for computers must be made by ordinance.
- Brunch with Mayor in December.
- Coco Santa in December for the children.
- Ask everyone in your neighborhood, Turn on your lights, the more lights the safer.

- Alderman Regina Harmon-Ward

- I thank everyone for sticking through the meeting.
- Future meeting, we will continue to build our city up.
- Glad we got something accomplished tonight.
- We must bring unity back to our community.

- Alderman James Thomas

- Thanked everyone for coming out.
- I would like to address the issue at hand, we the Board of Aldermen has been elected by the citizens of Bellefontaine Neighbors to legislate to the best of our ability on behalf of the citizens of Bellefontaine Neighbors and we should at no time circumvent the authority of the mayor nor should we create a hostile work environment by doing so we are not fulfilling our duties as Aldermen. There is a need for all of us to follow the protocol that is set forth in the ordinance (Sec 250) interference by aldermen prohibited no member of the Board of Aldermen shall directly interfere with the conduct of any department, agency or office with the duties of employees subordinate to the administrator except at the express direction at the Board of Aldermen or with the approval of the administrator, and that administrator is the Mayor. Thank you.

- Alderman Peg Warnusz

- Apologized for her negative vote.
- Happy police are getting their raise and they deserve more.
- Community based Police force.
- Thank you for coming.

- Alderman Theresa Hester

- Thanked everyone for coming out
- Voted Abstained because she has further questions.
- She would like to know about the Police Department.
- Should be able to approach our officers.

-Would like a better relationship with Police Department moving forward and looking forward to that.

- Alderman Dinah Tatman
  - I am a stickler for processes and procedures.
  - Words do matter.
  - Consistency on how we legislate.
  - I do support our Police Department but also support doing what is right and in the right manner.
  - A lot of things ahead of us.
  - A lot of new faces and hope this will not be your last time coming.
  - This is where you get the truthful information not on social media because it gets skewed.
  - City is not falling apart, we have a budget, the best one we have had in years.
  - We have structure now. We just need to build on it.
  - Thanked everyone for coming.

#### **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (With 3-minute time limit)**

- Anthony Green-92XX Waldorf
  - Internal control matters.
  - Segregation of Duties needed.
  - Building Department Inspector needed would like an update on that.
  - Document on policies.
  - Update on Green Acres \$100,000 is that collectable?
- James and Felicia Anderson-14XX Akron
  - Former Police Officer.
  - Love the area where he lives.
  - Not our last meeting and whatever we can do please let us know.
- Roy Royce-18X Elba Lane
  - Each time I have called the Police they show up three or four cars deep.
  - Apologize to Alderman Hester that she feels the police are unapproachable because he can talk to them.
  - Will be cooking hotdogs for the officers and they can just show up.
- Terri Case-10xx Addison
  - Thanked the Board for approving the 4% raise but the seniors are receiving an 8% raise.
  - We should keep our police department up with the inflation.
  - Budget is large but can we print it back-to-back.
- Cynthia (Queen) Newsom-81X Neighbor Lane
  - Can anything be done in reference to leaves being blown to the curb?
  - Clogging sewers up.

- Can they be ticketed for blowing leaves in someone else's yard?
- Asked if there is something that can be done about temporary tags?

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor called for a motion to adjourn, Alderman James Thomas made a motion to adjourn, second made by Alderwoman Peg Warnusz -9:37 P.M.

**ATTEST:**



Semmie Ruffin-Hall, City Clerk

Approved by the Board of Aldermen on 11-17-22