

**MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY DECEMBER 01, 2022 – 7:30 P.M.**

PRESENT Mayor Tommie Pierson, City Attorney Dorothy White-Coleman, Director of Public Works Jeff Ross, Director of Parks and Recreation Jimmy Kirincich, Chief of Police Jeremy Ihler

ABSENT City Clerk -Semmie Ruffin-Hall and Treasurer-Rick Rognan

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY Mayor Pierson called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGEANCE

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

- Alderman Dinah Tatman-Present
- Alderman Theresa Hester-Excused Absent
- Alderman Peg Warnusz-Present
- Alderman Lynette VonSeggern-Present
- Alderman James Thomas, Sr.-Present
- Alderman Regina Harmon-Ward-Present
- Alderman Alease Dailes-Present
- Alderman Alicia Smith-Present

7 Present/1 Excused-Quorum was met

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor called for a motion to approve the agenda as is. Alderman Alicia Smith. Made a motion to approve agenda as is. Second made by Alderman Regina Harmon-Ward. Mayor called for all in favor-eyes have it. Motion passed.

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

- Wanda Lane-99XX Martingale Lane
-RGSD on Monday (12/05/22) will hold a meeting at Gibson Elementary School at 6 pm regarding the incident of Human Trafficking that has elevated in our area.

-Tuesday (12/13/22) second Town Hall Meeting at Westview Elementary at 6:30pm-
Concentrating on Bullying and fighting in our school district.

- Jamie Papinder-12XX Nectar Drive
 - Concerns residents, streets and homes.
 - Trash cans left out
- Carla Colbert-12XX Nectar Drive
 - Disappointed of how neighborhood looks
 - Landlords need to be reprimanded.
 - Neighbor is a nuisance. Her children walking on neighbors' roof.
 - Seven trashcans on Ashbrook.

PRESENTATION OF UNAPPROVED MINUTES (Regular B.O.A. Regular Minutes 06-16-22, B.O.A. Pre-Meeting Minutes 11-17-22, B.O.A. Regular Meeting Minutes 11-17-22) -Motion made by Alderman Alease Dailes to approve the unapproved minutes; 2nd made by Alicia Smith. Mayor called for all in favor-7 Ayes/0-Nays. Motion passed

APPROVAL OF INVOICES OVER \$500 (11-15-22 through 11-29-22)-Motion made by Alderman Alicia Smith to approve invoices over \$500, 2nd made by Alderman Lynette VonSeggern. Mayor called for all in favor-7 Ayes/0-Nays. Motion passed.

PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT-JIMMY KIRINCICH

- On Saturday, November 5, the maintenance staff noticed the indoor pool pump was making a loud noise as if one of the bearing was going out in the motor and a seal was leaking. On Monday, November 7 Jim and I disconnected one of the motors from the outdoor pool and swapped it out with the broken motor from the indoor causing no interruptions to the indoor pool schedule. Luckily, we had one motor that runs the outdoor pool that was an exact match. We will need to send the indoor pool pump off to be repaired before summer operations.
- In 2021, the City received a Community Development Block Grant for pool repairs for \$30,000. We are going to be replacing all the pool plumbing and valves in the pump room for both the indoor/outdoor pools. I created an RFP for this work and the attorney approved it. The RFP is due on Tuesday, December 13th. The bid is posted on the Countian, St. Louis County Hub, and our website. There is a bid opening meeting on December 13th at noon at City Hall. I will present the bids at the December 15th BOA meeting and provide a recommendation to the board of the selected contractor.
- The brochure was sent to the printer and should be in resident's mailboxes within the next week. Registration dates for winter programs are December 12 for Residents and January 3 for non-residents.

- During the month of November, the Recreation Center participated in the Feed the Masses event where over 20 Recreation centers compete to see who can raise the most canned goods. This year we raised 339 items. Those items will be dropped off Grace New Covenant Food Pantry on Friday.
- Coco Santa will be coming to the Recreation Center on Saturday, December 17th from 2-4pm. This is a free event for everyone. Bring the kids out and take a picture with Santa. There will be toys available for each child while supplies last. We are taking toy donations for this event. Donations can be dropped off at City Hall or the Recreation Center.
- On November 30th our maintenance staff noticed over 35 black crappie dumped in pruet park. I contacted the Missouri Department of Conservation and they deemed it wonton waste of natural resources. They documented the incident in case there is another incident in the future. Unfortunately, we have no suspect or evidence from the individual that dumped the fish. The fish were cleaned up by the maintenance staff and discarded.
- I provided you a full report on the van accident that happened on October 27th in email yesterday. We are still waiting on a quote to see how much it is going to cost to fix and how long it will take to get parts in for the bus. I will provide another update once I get more information. I received a quote as an option to replace the bus. That quote was roughly \$75,000 to purchase a smaller vehicle that can hold the same amount of passengers that we are currently transporting in the bus. The parks department currently has four operating pickup trucks, one ranger car, and one senior bus. Three of the pickup trucks are older than 2010. We have one broken bus that is on the front parking lot.
- Gymnasium Roof Renovation. I met with Steve the Site Manager and John the project manager from CRallo. They will be the two main individuals in charge of our project. They plan to start prep work in January to prepare for demolition. In February, demolition will start on the gymnasium roof. The steel trusses and decking are scheduled to be delivered on March 1st. At the point, Crallo will be able to start rebuilding the roof. I will provide a project schedule once I receive that from CRallo.
- Metro bus stop at the corner of Bellefontaine and Jennings station road was hit by car. The bus station pole and trashcan both received damage. This is a bus stop that the parks department maintains the trashcans. I reported the accident to Metro and that will be replacing both shortly.
- The men's sauna heater broke back towards the end of July. I was able to put money in the budget for this item. Our breakers are currently labeled for 208v 3 phase breaker. So a 3 phase heater was ordered. It took several weeks to receive the sauna unit. An electrician came out to install the unit this morning and someone rewired the breaker to be 240v 1 phase so the unit would not work. I contacted that company and they are

going to swap the units out with the correct one. I am hoping to have the correct heater by the end of December.

- Do we have any update on the vacant positions that were not included in the recent pay scale adjustments? Since ordinance 2401 was repealed with this latest pay ordinance? I still need a pay scale for the office supervisor position and recreation supervisor position before I can hire an office supervisor. I would like to have an office supervisor hired asap so that I can be freed up from the front desk to meet with contractors as we get busy with renovations over the next few months. I am hoping the board can include an amendment to Bill 2655 to include all the vacant positions in the city that are currently budgeted for.
- Weight Room Renovation. Part of the grant that I received from the St. Louis Municipal Park Grant commission in October 2022 went to renovating the weight room. I am requesting to use the website sourcewell that provides state bid pricing on items. I would be able to get this project completed at state bid cost or I can go out for RFP? wanted to check with what the BOA preferred before moving forward.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT-JEFF ROSS

- Administrative warrant letters have been sent to:
 - 936 Fontaine
 - 10256 Ashbrook
 - 1039 Addison
 - 1014 Bakewell
- We are working on developing residential renter forms.
- Contacted Waste Management to remove trash bins from vacant properties.
- Working on replacing lighting throughout city hall. Requested bids from Electrical companies to include circuit testing, troubleshooting, and circuit labeling. Received the following bids:
 - Kaybee Electric \$110/hour
 - Hanenkamp Electric \$123/hour
 - Schaeffer Electric \$120/hour
- Communicated with MSD regarding broken sewer at 1411 Blackhurst. They have yet to repair.
- Filled potholes
- Picked up limbs from streets after windstorm November 29.
- We received parts and repaired the street sweeper. We have started to sweep streets in Ward 1, Ward 2, and Ward 4.
- Received 200 tons of road salt.
- Our plow trucks are ready for inclement weather.
- Maintenance on city vehicles is up to date.
- Performed emergency service work on the gasoline pump. Replacement part should arrive next week.

- Four residents are currently in the works with the sewer lateral program to have their lateral lines replaced.
- Holiday decorations have been setup.
- Scrap metal will be sold for cash to purchase toys for the Coco Santa event.

IMAGE AND BEAUTIFICATION REPORT-READ BY ALDERMAN JAMES THOMAS, SR.

- **Flowerbed Cleanup**
-All flowerbeds and pots have been cleaned. Shrubs, perennials and annuals were cut back or thrown away.
- **Letter To Businesses, Schools and Religious Organizations**
-Jennie stated that thirty-eight letters were mailed on October 14th encouraging businesses, schools and religious organizations to keep their property free of litter. A big thank you to the receptionist at City Hall and the City Clerk.
- **Letter to Bordering Cities**
-Jennie stated that the letter addressed to the four bordering cities inviting them to partner with Bellefontaine Neighbors to pick up litter in their city was approved by the Mayor. The letters were mailed on November 8. Four members from the Board agreed to follow-up with each City Leader.
- **Painting of Flowerpots**
-Lynn stated that flowerpots will be painted in 2023.
- **Correction of Grass and Trash Container Ordinances that was published in Bellefontaine News**
-Jennie stated that Alderwoman Alease Dailes will put a correction in the next Bellefontaine News.
- **New Business (Image and Beautification Article)**
-Jennie stated that the Image and Beautification Board will have an article in the next Bellefontaine News.
- **Judging of Christmas Decorations**
-Judging of Christmas Decorations will take place during the week of December 11.
- **Follow-up Items**
-New City Sign

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT -JEREMY IHLER

- Today (12/1/22) at Bella Fontaine Park a dedication for fallen Officer Antonio Valentine was held.
- Influence Church received their occupancy permit after 3 years.
- Suggestion using ARPA Funds to make repairs on City Hall
- Big deal we have been asking for the Prosecutor to have satellite offices throughout St. Louis County
- Applying for a state grant for equipment (ARPA Grant)
- Two more officers resigned now there are 16 full time commission officers

TREASURER'S REPORT- RICK ROGNAN

- **EXCUSED ABSENT-NO REPORT**
CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT -DOROTHY WHITE COLEMAN

- Follow up on question Alderman Alease Dailes raised at last meeting regarding City of Winchester vs Charter Communications. If you recall this is a case I reported on in March of 2021. At that time, the City of Winchester had sued Charter Communication in a class action lawsuit on behalf of a number of municipalities. The allegations in the lawsuit was that Charter was to pay a license tax on its gross receipts derived from fees for services connected to its operations and Charter had not been paying those taxes. At the trial level, the municipalities won and in the judge's order, it listed the amount of money each municipality would be entitled to receive if the lawsuit was ultimately upheld in favor of the municipalities. The total award was thirty-nine million dollar and the City of Bellefontaine Neighbors is slated to receive \$198,495.00. I was under the impression that there had been some activity on the lawsuit, however as I had reported then it typically takes 2 years for these cases to go through court and Charter is appealing all the way up. As far as it can. I did check and the last pleading filed was a motion to transfer the case to the Supreme Court of Missouri. Charter lost at the court of appeals but it is now asking the Supreme Court to take the case up. So there has not been a ruling on the application to transfer the case so until the case is completed decided and the Supreme Court denies the application or Charter decides not to appeal anymore the Cities will not get any money because the lawsuit is not final. Given the way Charter is fighting this they may even seek a writ of certiorari to the United States Supreme Court. So, it's going to be awhile before the city or any city receives any money as a result of this lawsuit. So, I just wanted to update everybody on that. You still got some time to go.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. BILL #2658-AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 3 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS, MISSOURI RELATING TO A POINT SYSTEM EVALUATION IN SUSPENDING OR REVOKING LIQUOR LICENSES (INTRODUCED BY ALDERMAN DINAH TATMAN)-

Alderman Dinah Tatman stated just wanted to read the Bill and have a discussion and not to vote on unless the board feels comfortable voting on it. Alderman Dinah Tatman motion for the first read. Mayor called for a second-Motion dies for a lack of a second.

DISCUSSION:

B. BILL # 2659-AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 3 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS RELATING TO SECTION 3-8 CERTAIN ACTS PROHIBITED ON PREMISES LICENSED TO SELL AT RETAIL INTOXICATING LIQUOR, WINE OR BEER AND SECTION 3-25 QUALIFICATIONS OF APPLICANTS. (INTRODUCED BY ALDERMAN DINAH TATMAN)

- Alderman Dinah Tatman stated just wanted to read the Bill and have a discussion and not to vote on unless the board feels comfortable voting on it. Alderman Tatman stated both should have just been on agenda for discussion.
- Alderman Alicia Smith states Bill #2659 states business should not be allowed to post advertisement of what they are selling, then how do they sale their liquor.- Attorney Dorothy White Coleman states this is part of your code already and the language states prohibited.
- Alderman Dinah Tatman states but in two things, one is the point system all of our liquor stores are out of compliance. We should get an inventory of their stock and we do not get that. Points will be taken away if not in compliance with the ordinance. I still advocate for our citizens safety over money.
- Alderman Alicia Smith states we already have an ordinance that only allows so many liquor licenses.-Alderman Dinah Tatman states she was not trying to prohibit liquor licenses but put something in place that will hold the ones that have liquor licenses to comply by our ordinance already in place.
- Alderman Alease Dailes asked a question pertaining to Bill #2658 to the City Attorney. If there are issues after issues with (Family Dollar, Gas Station) can we pull their liquor license at any time.
- Attorney Dorothy White Coleman stated no. There has to be some kind of due process somewhere, and this Ordinance does indeed, as Alderman Tatman builds in some safe guards to protect not just the city the holder of the license as well. If you look at the purpose clause, it specifically states *“that the intent of the point system is to provide the board of alderperson with a non-arbitrary means to evaluate incidents occurring on premises for which a license to sale intoxicating liquor has been issued and to guide the board of alderperson in suspending or revoking a liquor license”*. This makes sure that there is a process in place so you don’t get sued by someone by someone arguing that you been arbitrary in revoking are suspending their license. There is a procedure set forth on page 4 under section 4 that specifically says there has to be an incident report by the city police and then the board will look at that report and determine if there is probably cause to believe that the licensee has indeed committed a violation. If that is the case and the board decides based on the number of violations that it wants to revoke or suspend their license then that the holder of the license will get a hearing at that point and time. It just provides a system to guide the board and hopefully keep the city out of lawsuits. People who are claiming you are not treating them fairly.
- Alderman Peg Warnusz concerned about ordinances getting lost like a lot of other things. Who will have the responsibility of bringing the report to the board? In addition, to make sure it is thoroughly done.
- Attorney White Coleman stated Alderman Warnusz point is well taken. This is something the license collector handles. Because the board determines whether there is probably cause to believe that a violation has occurred, however there has to be follow-ups to the licensee at that point and the person in the best position would be the license collector.

- Alderman James Thomas, Sr. states he thinks we are missing elements right now that are not being taken care of. Putting points on it is not going to do anything else, if they are not turning in what they are supposed to be turning in. That issue should be put back on the collector to get those reports. If he is putting those on the reports in my opinion, we do not need a point system because we will already have the evidence there. Because they have not done it. The other point I want to make, if we were to pass this tonight and people came for their liquor license in 26 days they would not be happy. We can hold them accountable through what we have in place now, and that is the collector's job.
- Alderman Dinah Tatman stated this is just a discussion.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor went to court yesterday; four of our prior alderpersons filed a lawsuit against the city and myself for not paying them. Two of them had a court date yesterday (Miranda Avant Elliott and Theresa Reed). Miranda informed the Judge she was representing herself and Theresa. Judge advised her she could represent herself but no one else.
- Case dismissed without prejudice
- Judge wants all four to appear at one time, not one here and one there.
- Intent there Carroll will represent Barbara West and the Judge will inform him of the same thing.

ALDERMAN'S REPORT

- Alderman Alicia Smith
 - Thanked everyone for coming out.
 - CoCo Santa will be at the Recreation Center 12/17/22 (2pm-4pm)
 - Collecting Toys
 - Alderman Dailes and she continue to ride their ward
 - Myself and Alderman Dailes are a little unique
 - Trash containers out we put ordinance on front door and still no myself and Alderman Dailes are a little unique
 - Trash containers out we put ordinance on front door and still no compliance we will knock on your door as well as bring trash can to your front door.
 - Hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving.
- Alderman Alease Dailes
 - Happy everyone is here.
 - We plan to dress up in our Christmas costumes
 - We do need toys for all ages
 - Gift cards ask a teenager what restaurant they go to

- Neighbor sends letters to everyone anonymously.
- We try to stay visual.
- We need to become block unit-all you need is three people.

- Alderman Dinah Tatman

- We have a summit we hold every fall-Crime Prevention. This year was our 3rd year and very successful.
- After that summit within a weeks' time our health care partners had a concern about the rising health disparity in St. Louis County, in particular 63137. Opioid addiction is one of them as well as Mental illness, Hypertension and Sugar diabetes. They asked if I would consider putting together a health summit.
- We already have 21 health care providers already a part of the crime prevention summit.
- Had a meeting with the leading epidemiologist on Monday via zoom and the statistical data they gave us was scary?
- Second meeting will be held January 17, 2023. That is when all the leading infectious disease departments will be coming together to talk more about that.
- Pandemic has masked everything else.
- Reached out to RGSD to use gymnasium again for April 15 2023, or April 29th, 2023 (tentatively).
- The name the collective came up with is "Creating Healthy Life Styles Building Healthy. Community Summit".
- Information will be sent out when time comes.
- I want to thank my colleagues for passing out some applications for toys, please take advantage of that. We have 500 toys; that is 500 children that will get toys for the holidays.
- Thank you.

- Alderman Peg Warnusz

- Thanked everyone for coming.
- Feels good to be back after some serious health issues.
- People she did not even know by name called her and wished her well. That was delightful.
- Another vaccination clinic at Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church on Tuesday (12/6/22) from 2pm-7pm.
- COVID is still out there.

- Alderman Lynette VonSeggern

- Heart goes out to Carla.

-Peg and I also drive our ward and any issues we give to the Public Works Department or the Chief of Police.

-We are here for the City not just Ward 2.

-Talked to my HR Lady at work about Paycom and she stated she would be willing to work any of the staff to talk to her to utilize what the City already has. Just let her know and she will reach out to Tracy.

- Alderman Regina Harmon-Ward

-Going through some health situations. Son is in hospital as we speak.

-Not only is the COVID thing going around but this influenza as is very bad

-Not much time for anything but I will get back on track and I ask for your prayers.

- Alderman James Thomas

-Situations within the city are distinct.

-Thanked Ms Carla and Jamie for coming out and calling and reaching out.

-Know that city services are being provided and we are working on it.

-It is a process.

-City was divided in wards years ago, but the city is the city and we take care of each other.

-The citizens are the ones who provide the tax money, the votes when it comes time for election and above all the information.

-I can ride ward 3 and I can ride the blocks all over the city and find all kind of discrepancies. However, when a citizen call, that lets me know that they see it too. In addition, when they come and voice their opinion that is one more voice and that is what we need more of, coming from the City of Bellefontaine.

-Again, I applaud you for coming out and know that your situations are being looked at.

-Thank you.

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

- Wanda Lane -99XX Martingale Road

-RGSD there is rumor there is effort to bring a charter school to the district.

-The RGSD Board issues a statement we do not support charter schools in the RGSD.

-If anyone has this please let me see it because I have not.

-School Board, we have three seats that will be available on April 4, 2023. Three, three-year seats.

-We need citizens that are engaged in this most difficult task to serve our school district.

-It is a labor of passion and love, because there is no money involved in it.

-It requires a lot of time (if you are doing it correctly), a lot of reading, and a lot research.

-Rental properties. I made a proposal (no idea how many years ago) that before we rent any properties, we should ask the prospective renter to view a 5 minute video (this is how we do it and this is how we do not do it).

-People move in that have never owned a home.

-Unprofessional to discuss anyone's job and they are not present.

-I want to see the Police; I do not have to know them.

-There are nuisance properties in every ward in the city

-Would like the board to brace the concept of unity.

- Anthony Green-92XX Waldorf

-We have been talking about the collector situation for a while, his inadequate performance of his job.

-Rognan and Associates would like to see a current treasures report as well as an email, or phone number posted to the website for him.

-City services-data reports from each department:

(1) Collector

(2) Building

(3) Parks and Recreation

-Link St. Louis County Guide Book to our website under the building department.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor called for a motion to adjourn, Alderman Regina Harmon-Ward made a motion to adjourn, second made by Alderman Alicia Smith -9:30 P.M.

ATTEST:


Semmie Ruffin-Hall, City Clerk

Approved by the Board of Aldermen on 12-15-22