

**CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS  
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY JANUARY 5, 2023 – 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, Collector Jeff Howe, and City Clerk Semmie Ruffin-Hall.

**MEETING 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 Dinah Tatman-Present
- Alderman Theresa Hester-Present
- 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

8 Present -Quorum was met.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Mayor** called for a motion to approve the agenda as is. **Alderman James Thomas** made motion to approve agenda as is. Second made by Alderman **Regina Harmon-Ward**.

**Alderman Theresa Hester** made a motion to amend the agenda. She would like to rescind her no vote to a yes vote for waiving the fees for the North County Fire District, **Alderman Alicia Smith** made a second. **Mayor** called for any further discussion. **Alderman Alease Dailes** asked for a roll call vote. **Mayor** asked for a roll call:

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

- Alderman Dinah Tatman-Yes
- Alderman Theresa Hester-Yes
- Alderman Peg Warnusz-No
- Alderman Lynette VonSeggern-No
- Alderman James Thomas, Sr.-No
- Alderman Regina Harmon-Ward-No
- Alderman Alease Dailes-Yes
- Alderman Alicia Smith-Yes

**Tie-4 -Yay's/4 –Nays.** **Mayor** broke the tie, and he voted No. Motion to amend the agenda failed.

**Mayor** called for a motion to approve the agenda. **Alderman Regina Harmon-Ward** made a motion to approve agenda. Second made by **Alderman Lynette VonSeggern**. **Mayor** called for any further discussion, none. **Mayor** called for all in favor. One opposed. Ayes have it.

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

- NO PUBLIC COMMENTS

**PROCLAMATION PRESENTED BY MAYOR TOMMIE PIERSON, SR. TO MRS BEBE SLONSKI**

**PRESENTATION OF UNAPPROVED MINUTES (Regular B.O.A Meeting Minutes 12-15-22)** - Motion made by **Alderman Alease Dailes** to approve the unapproved minutes; 2<sup>nd</sup> made by **Alderman James Thomas**. **Mayor** called for all in favor-8 Ayes/0-Nays. Motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF INVOICES OVER \$500 (12-17-22 through 1-03-23)**-Motion made by **Alderman James Thomas, Sr.** to approve invoices over \$500, 2<sup>nd</sup> made by **Alderman Lynette VonSeggern**. **Mayor** called for all in favor-7 Ayes/1-Nays. Motion passed.

**PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT-JIMMY KIRINCICH**

- Pool plumbing repair- I had a conference call today at 10am with St. Louis County and Westport pools to go over the Community Development Block Grant requirements from St. Louis County. Westport is compliant with all requirements. St. Louis County is going to provide payment of \$30,000 directly to Westport once work is complete rather than the city paying and being reimbursed. The city will be responsible for the remaining amount due. Construction is scheduled to start on January 10, 2023, pending notice to proceed letter from St. Louis County. The parks maintenance staff removed all the outdoor pool plumbing already and will remove the rest once the indoor pool is completely drained on January 9, 2023. The indoor pool is shut down to the public from January 7-January 22.
- Gymnasium Update- Crallo has started prepping the indoor portion of the gymnasium to seal off all the doors and prepare for any water that may enter the gym once the roof is removed. The demolition contractor has started removing some of the brick from the exterior, shingles, and rock from the existing roof. Weather depending on the gymnasium roof will be fully removed in January.
- Weight Room- A purchase order was placed to purchase the weight room equipment and flooring through a state bid Source well contract. We received the exact amount of grant funds to purchase the equipment with 2022 pricing which was \$193,500. If we delayed purchasing the equipment until 2023, the city would have had to pay \$13-

15,000 out of pocket due to pricing increases. The equipment is estimated to arrive in April/May. The current equipment is in the process of being sold at we buy gym equipment auction. I hope to have a purchaser here shortly so we can approve the contract and receive the revenue from our old equipment. For safety to our residents, the weight room is currently closed to the public until May 2023 when both the roof and weight room renovations are completed.

- Tanglewood Fence- A few days ago a driver that had a stolen vehicle crashed through our wooden fence at the entrance of Tanglewood Park. The car damaged several sections of the fence. We will get a quote to repair the fence, but I would like to purchase a large rock to go from the creek to the parking lot. We have now had multiple cars crash through the park in the last year and the rocks would provide better safety for the kids in the park and our playground equipment.
- Bus Update- We received the written quote from complete auto body & repair for the transportation bus. The cost to repair the bus is \$10,915.52, but the company said there could be hidden damages that might bring the total cost closer to the 13-15,000 range once they start taking the bus apart. The bus is a 2016 with 126,178 miles on it.

I received a quote from a company to purchase a new shuttle van that has 1 handicap lift and 7 passengers for \$75,361 if the city chose to purchase a newer vehicle instead of repairing the old one. I will need a decision to be made, so I can either move forward with repairs on the bus or create an RFP to purchase a new van.

- Program Registration- Program registration is underway for winter 2023 session. Swim lessons, stroke clinics, water exercise and fitness classes will begin the week of January 23. Registration is open until classes are filled.
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#### **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT-JEFF ROSS**

- The water company has begun replacing water mains in the 900 block of Fontaine.
- 206 vacant homes have been identified and letters have been sent out to come within compliance with our vacant house ordinance. Income from the registration fees so far is about \$3,000.00.
- Residential renter forms are complete and will be sent out.
- Kay-Bee did indeed come and repair electrical panels.
- Communicated with MSD regarding a broken sewer at 1411 Blackhurst. They have yet to be repaired. Ongoing issue since August of 2022.

- Filled potholes 9400 block of Duenke, 800/900 block of Fontaine, 900 block of Marias, 800 block of Lebon 900 block of Lebon.
- Picked up and disposed of limbs from streets throughout the city.
- Street sweeping in progress in the Bissell Hills Neighborhood
- Maintenance on city vehicles is up to date.
- Yearly inspection of HI Lift truck is complete. Needs bucket insert – cost \$625.00.
- Currently getting yearly inspection and charges on all fire extinguishers.
- Performed emergency service work on the gasoline pump. Still waiting on replacement part (4-week eta)
- Four residents have utilized the sewer lateral program and had their lateral lines replaced.
- Winter Storm Elliott hit us at a most inconvenient time! Salt and sand mixture spread throughout the community but with temperatures and wind chills around negative 50, it did little to combat the buildup of snow & ice on our streets. A second storm hit on Christmas evening and some street department personnel did what they could to get salt down for our neighborhood. We used a total of 26 tons of salt.
- Three drop off locations for Christmas trees are in place until January 31. St. Cyr Park, Bissell Park, and Wilderness Park.
- Seven various street signs and poles have been replaced.
- Looking to get a microchip scanner donated to help get loose dogs who have been chipped back to their owners.
- Still in search of a building inspector with little to no results, I would like to ask the board to consider a wage review for the position to establish an appropriate pay range for the position. Currently \$47,248.
- That completes our report. Happy New Year.

**IMAGE AND BEAUTIFICATION REPORT-READ BY MAYOR TOMMIE PIERSON, SR.**

- **Mayor** read Jennie Stewarts resignation letter.

I am resigning as Chairperson of the Image and Beautification Board effective December 31, 2022. I have served on this Board since its inception in May of 1998; to be exact 23 years and eight months. Eighteen of those years have been as Chairperson. Now, it is time for me to step aside and allow someone else an opportunity to take the helm and lead.

Lynn Gordon, who is a current member of the Board, has so graciously agreed to serve as the next Chairperson does. She has served on this Board for several years and I have full confidence that she will do a great job. I plan to remain on the Board as a member and help in whatever capacity that I can. Currently, there are seven members, but we need one more person to volunteer.

By the way, the Board has already met for the last time in 2022. The next meeting will be in March of 2023. Please let me know if Lynn will need to be appointed by the Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen.

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

- New Year's weekend – 2 calls for service and 18 calls for shots fired. No injuries reported. 2 reports of vehicle property damage.
- 5-year study of vehicle thefts – common contributing causes for most vehicle thefts include leaving vehicles unlocked, leaving keys in the vehicle, and leaving vehicles running while unattended. If these factors are eliminated, the number of vehicle thefts would be extremely low because the opportunity for theft would be removed. For 2022, KIA and Hyundai vehicles accounted for 49.7% of all vehicle thefts. The police department gives away wheel lock for both styles of vehicles free. Contact the police department if you need one.
- Notable Activity – there were several shootings within the period of 12/08/2022 to 01/05/2023. Arrests were made. No life-threatening injuries.
- Salary – Riverview PD has increased their starting police pay to around \$56,000, along with the North County Cooperative at around \$60,000 and Northwood's (allegedly) around \$56,000. Bellefontaine Neighbors PD starting pay is well below these figures.
- Reminder – on average there are three police officers patrolling the city at any given time. This will change when employees stop leaving and when we hire more employees.

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

- Next meeting, we should have December's financials.
- Will have Semmie set up meetings with the four banks for next week and they will be given 30 minutes each to speak.
- We want to make sure the banks comply with everything we are asking for needing.
- Semmie and I have been talking and we are looking at the internal controls.
- Before we do anything with internal controls, we will present it to the board to let you know what will be done.
- Regarding the Audit we are still waiting, cannot do anything with 2022 until 2021 is completed.

- Once 2021 audit is closed, the auditors will start on 2022. 2022 Audit probably will not be ready probably by (being audited and completed) April. Want to make sure everyone is realistic as to what is transpiring.
- Will come before the board and present 2021 Audit then will start on 2022 audit, but that does not mean immediately. Then we will have to wait for the Auditors to complete that audit.
- Want to make sure everyone understands.
- The delay is in the auditor's hands at this point and time; they are having personnel issues like everyone else.
- 2021 was a mess. Everyone knows that 2022 should be better. Keep in mind 2022 was still under the old regime but we cleaned up a lot should be better, should be quicker, should be better should be smoother and then next year there should be no problem.
- Next year we should be able to roll in right after June 30, should be able to get started sometime in August and be done on time.
- Had correspondence from Gilmore and Bell that they needed a reply to. The questions are:
  - A. *The City's audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022. If the audited financial statements are not available, please provide the unaudited financial statements and the date you expect the audited financial statements to be available.*
  - B. *The operating data identified on the attached draft of District's Annual Report. for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022*
  - C. *The City still needs to file its audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021, and a supplemental Annual Report for some of the tables that were filed last year. If you have a copy of the audit for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021, please send me a pdf copy and I will get working on a Supplemental Report.*
- Keep in mind this is regarding our compliance with our existing debt. If there are no concerns and acceptable, I will go ahead, respond tomorrow, and copy Semmie in so you will have for City records.

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

- Follow up on the City of Wentzville vs Charter Communication matter. If you recall a couple of weeks ago, Alderwoman Dailes asked about the status of that litigation, and it was still pending before the Missouri Court of Appeals for the Eastern District of Missouri. Well in December, the Court of appeals issued a ruling in favor of the City of Wentzville and the municipalities. So, the municipalities have won another round. If you recall if that decision holds up the city stands to get approximately \$198,000. On the heels of it, however, Charter did exactly what was expected. They filed a motion to transfer to the Supreme Court of Missouri. So that is pending now before the Supreme Court. So, we will have to wait a little longer to see the outcome.
- On another note, however, the city did get a portion of its settlement funds from the National Opioid Litigation that was filed by the Attorney General for the State of

Missouri. It is not a lot of money, and we are still trying to figure out exactly what the city is entitled to. It looks like it will be approximately \$15,000 over a couple of years. The city did, however, get a payment of approximately \$6,600 in December. So that money is not as significant as the city would get from the City of Wentzville litigation, but it is something. So, I just wanted you to know there is something coming in, it is not what we anticipated but one of the litigations has ended up paying the city some of its funds.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

### **RFP-RICK ROGNAN-Banking Institution Discussion**

- Keep in mind this is just a synopsis of what we discussed.
- Semmie opened four seal bids on December 15, 2022
- Based on what was presented, the two best so far before we sit down and discuss were:
  - A. Simmons
  - B. Busey-One of the largest banks presented. Ten-million-dollar bank one of the strongest banks.
- Commerce the issue with them is the interest rate they are willing to pay us is substantially less than anyone else's.
- Regions do a lot of activity with the city.
- If the board agrees to see if we can coordinate a meeting with these four next week so we can present something at the next meeting in January, position to move forward.
- The Mayor, Department heads, Lori and a Representative from the board and myself participated so we got a consensus to hear the same thing.
- One of the things we will be asking for internal control is scanners. Each department receives money no need to send to Lori for her to do all the work. They will have scanners to scan in, get separate bank accounts and they will be responsible for reconciliation. A second person will go over it and then we will start tightening up those internal controls.
- No cash should ever leave this building, these banks should come in and courier these dollars out of here. The liability is too significant.
- We will be asking these questions.
- The RFPS are what they are suggesting. Let us hear what they have to say when their representative sits in front of us and if any of us have a question or concern this will be the time to address it before we finally conclude on the bank.
- The scanners are going to be big, separating those deposits are going to be big, tightening up those controls are going to be big and removing liability from the city those are all significant issues and we also must have read and print capability. So, on the first day of the month, we can get that information to present the reports to the board sooner, not later.

**BLL #2661-AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 2196 AND OTHER ORDINANCES DEFINING THE WARD BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS AND FURTHER ESTABLISHING NEW WARD BOUNDARIES FOR ALL FOUR WARDS IN SAID CITY AND CONTAINING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (INTRODUCED BY ALDERMAN REGINA HARMON-WARD)**

**Alderman Regina Harmon-Ward** made a motion for the first and second reading of Bill #2661. **Alderman Regina Harmon-Ward** gave first read, second made by **Alderman James Thomas, Sr.** **Mayor** called for discussion. **Alderman Alicia Smith** asked if this would change the wards, **Mayor** responded no. **Mayor** called for an all-in favor-8 Ayes/0 Nays-Ayes have it. **Alderman Regina Harmon-Ward** gave second read, second made by **Alderman Lynette VonSeggern.** **Mayor** asked for roll call:

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

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

8 Yays/0 Nays. Motion passed. **Bill # 2661** becomes **Ordinance #2636** if and when the mayor signs it.

**LAPTOPS-Dell Information attached-Mayor** asked for a motion to approve the purchase of the Dell Laptops for \$11,947.60. **Alderman Alicia Smith** made a motion to approve \$11,947.60 for the Dell Laptops, second made by **Alderman Alease Dailes.** **Mayor** called for any discussion.

**DISCUSSION:**

**Alderman Lynette VonSeggern** stated we are voting on purchasing the laptops I thought we were going to wait to approve the laptops once we decided what to do with the rest of the ARPA funds. **Alderman Dinah Tatman** stated we prioritize everything, but this was separate. **Alderman Dinah Tatman** stated just for the record could we put so that it could be in the record we are voting because we put out RFP's and only one came back. **Alderman Dinah Tatman** states also we need to set rules of having access to the laptops. What we have access to where they will be kept. Rules and regulations of having that laptop. **Alderman Dinah Tatman** made a motion to amend the vote on laptops that we also add setting criteria and guidelines of the usage and possession of having the laptop, second made by **Alderman Alease Dailes.** **Mayor** asked for roll call:



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

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

8 Yays/0 Nays. Motion passed.

**BILL # 2663-AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH WESTPORT POOL, INC. FOR POOL REPAIR SERVICES FOR THE BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS COMMUNITY CENTER POOLS. (INTRODUCED BY ALDERMAN THERESA HESTER)**

**Alderman Theresa Hester** made a motion for the first and second reading of Bill #2663, second made by **Alderman Dinah Tatman**. **Mayor** called for discussion. None. **Mayor** called for an all-in favor-8 Ayes/0 Nays-Ayes have it. **Alderman Theresa Hester** gave second read, second made by **Alderman Alease Dailes**. **Mayor** asked for any further discussion. None. **Mayor** asked for roll call:

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

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

8-Yays/0 -Nays. Motion passed. **Bill # 2663** becomes **Ordinance #2637** if and when the mayor signs it.

#### **LIQUOR LICENSE-JEFF HOWE**

- For 2023 a six applicants for liquor licenses.
- In December, we approved four of those and we have two remaining.
- Aldi's and Conoco are the two remaining.

**DISCUSSION: Alderman Alicia Smith** asked if we verified their insurance. **Jeff Howe** stated we did. **Alderman Dinah Tatman** made a statement. That business entity has been a plaque for our community. We get calls after calls after calls from our citizens about Conoco. The other thing I am concerned about is we say we want to stay in accordance with our ordinance and

hold people to compliance. Conoco is a gas station, not a liquor store. The amount of liquor they have in there is comparable to a liquor store. Which is directly against our ordinance. Number one. When you take inventory liquor stop is over the amount that is allowed, number one (5% over) and number two the sales from that liquor exceeds what they sale in gas. So I am going to make those statements because I am going to vote no, for those reasons. We keep saying we want to hold people accountable. Number one for breaking our laws and number two they are a liquor store according to what they sale. But their business license says that they are a gas station so they are even out of compliance with their liquor license. Just want to give that information to the board before we vote, and I want to be on record. **Jeff Howe** stated our own ordinance says if they maintain thousand dollars of other items that they are complying. I am sure they have more than a thousand dollars in items, and they have racks of all kinds of other things. **Jeff Howe** asked for approval.

### Conoco

**Alderman James Thomas, Sr.** made a motion to approve the liquor license for Arch 94, LLC (Conoco), second was made by **Alderman Regina Harmon-Ward**. **Mayor** called for any further discussion.

**DISCUSSION:** **Alderman Regina Harmon-Ward** asked how much revenue Conoco brings to the city. **Jeff Howe**-I don't know that number originally but I can tell you we do receive a lot of tobacco revenue from that store. **Alderman Alicia Smith** stated wouldn't that be part of your report? That doesn't come with the collecting of the tobacco. **Jeff Howe** stated he has given that information in the other reports and will have it again, soon. I want to say it is about \$17,000.00 a month in tobacco revenue for the city. **Alderman Alease Dailes** do you know how much that particular station brings into the city. **Jeff Howe** stated I can find out I do not have that number off the top of my head. **Alderman Dinah Tatman** pleading with the board, tough decisions sometimes have to be made. They just have to be made. Are we going to keep advocating, and this is just my statement. We keep putting money over people. Our demographics right now, alcohol is a direct effect, a health hazard. I am pleading with this board, yes, this business has been here, but has it been healthy. Are we going to put profit over health and safety over our citizens? And I am done. **Jeff Howe** stated that is something that the board hasn't looked at or discussed. The ARPA Funds can be used for substance abuse counseling, and it would be a pretty neat and maybe special occasion where our city could provide substance abuse counseling for those who need that anonymously. See what we can do about that. **Alderman Lynette VonSeggern** asked the Chief of Police when the last time a call was placed to the Conoco station and for what. **Chief Ihler** stated he doesn't have that data in front of him, but from what he understands the ATC from the state to get a business on a liquor license the incident has to happen inside the store on top of that they fail to report it as well. **Mayor** stated there are a lot of things to consider, it is just not cut and dry. **Alderman Alicia Smith** asked do we not have an ordinance that's in place talking about the usage and selling of liquor between a school and churches. Isn't there a church on Chambers Road right

down the road on the right-hand side. **Alderman Alease Dailes** stated it must be a distance of 300 feet. **Alderman Theresa Hester** asked if Conoco was out of compliance with the ordinance we have now. **Jeff Howe** stated he does not believe so. **Mayor** asked him to find out. **Mayor** asked for roll call:

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

- Alderman Dinah Tatman-No
- Alderman Theresa Hester-No
- Alderman Peg Warnusz-Yes
- Alderman Lynette VonSeggern-Yes
- Alderman James Thomas, Sr.-Yes
- Alderman Regina Harmon-Ward-Abstain
- Alderman Alease Dailes-Yes
- Alderman Alicia Smith-No

4 -Yays/3- Nays/1 -Abstain. Motion passed.

### **Aldi's**

**Alderman James Thomas, Sr.** made a motion to approve the liquor license for Aldi's Incorporated #6, second was made by **Alderman Regina Harmon-Ward**. **Mayor** called for any further discussion. **Mayor** asked for roll call:

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

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

8-Yays/0 -Nays. Motion passed.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**BILL #2662- AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH UNION ELECTRIC COMPANY D/B/A AMEREN MISSOURI REGARDING TWO (2) STREET LIGHTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF LEWIS AND CLARK AND HAVILAND DRIVE WITHIN THE SHERWOOD HILLS SUBDIVISION IN THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS. (INTRODUCED BY ALDERMAN JAMES THOMAS, SR.)**

**Alderman James Thomas, Sr.** Made a motion for the first and second reading of Bill #2662. **Alderman James Thomas, SR.** gave first read, second made by **Alderman Regina Harmon-Ward**. **Alderman Dinah Tatman** would like to amend that to add that the cost the city going to concur can we amend our budget to show that. **Treasurer Rick Rognan** stated we could, but we are going to have a lot of other items to amend so we can do them all at the same time. **Alderman Dinah Tatman** made a motion to amend the ordinance by putting in we are going to add the cost to adjust our budget to show additional cost to the city. **Attorney Dorothy White-Coleman** states she does not know if that is necessary Mayor that can be done without adding it to the ordinance. **Alderman James Thomas, SR.** gave second read, second made by **Alderman Lynette VonSeggern**. **Mayor** asked for any further discussion. None. **Mayor** asked for roll call:

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

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

8 Yays/0 Nays. Motion passed. **Bill # 2662** becomes **Ordinance #2638** if and when the mayor signs it.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

- Mayor thanked Mrs. BeBe Slonski and family for attending her presentation and the meeting.
- You cannot and should not put city official's names on your material as if they are endorsing you.
- Keep the campaign clean, above board, and it shows that win, lose or draw we will still have a city that is not at each other's throat.
- People will ultimately choose who they want anyway.
- Thank everyone as well as the department heads for their reports.
- Thanked Rick Rognan, one of his biggest headaches is the finance side.
- Judy Mantych gave her resignation yesterday. She is retiring after many years of being with the city.
- Correct information needs to be put out as we move forward.
- Let us all do what we can to move our city forward in a positive way.

## ALDERMAN'S REPORT

- Alderman Dinah Tatman

- Greetings colleagues and the citizens that are left.

- First thing I want to do is answer the accusations that were brought up earlier.

- First, I want to say is I am not a politician, so I do not like politics, and how they do. But, I am very fore seen in what I do and how I do it. I want to read a letter, not all of it.

- That I got approval before I used the verbiage. Verbiage as you guys know, words are important, and it is what you say and how you say it and how you say what you say. So in my letter, which states fact, all the things in the letter states all the things I have accomplished and all of those things I have accomplished. But, just to answer the accusations that were brought up the letter says:

1. *I have worked with which is different from partnering with and I worked with our City Engineer (Clayton Klein) and our Chief (Jeremy Ihler) for 3 years (I have) to devise viable solutions to our concerns about speeding. The Board of Alderpersons passed legislation that I sponsored, all true facts. To start the process hopefully (facts) we will be able to embark on our street repair, lighting enhancement and speed bumps (traffic enforcement) in the fall of 2023. The funds for the project will be utilized from ARPA and street bonds. The estimated cost is \$989,000.00.*

That is different from saying I am partnering with. I think all of you know me, citizens know. Enough to know my integrity should not be questioned. Because everything I do, I do it getting permission #1, making sure that the information I am sharing is accurate and permissible. So, I talked with Chief Ihler and The Ethics Commission, Missouri Ethics Commission to make sure verbiage that was being used would not be construed because I know the guidelines the ordinance that you read or the email that you read, I did to. That was questioning a specific employee or a person who said they were an employee that was actually taking endorsements. So, that letter that you read was to that specific employee issue. Again, I wanted to read the letter. All of those were facts. All of those things in the letter are all of those things that have been accomplished with other people.

- Opioid Crisis along with alcohol is a direct effect of health in our community per St. Louis County Health Department, Epi Team, and Infectious Disease people. Who are experts, and Christian Northeast Team who are experts, as well.

- They have asked us to partner with them to sponsor a Health Fair.

- Not against Alcohol license, I voted for Aldi's; I am against those that are using that substance as a direct effect of the health of our citizens and ill responsible. I want that on the record, I am always going to vote no.

- I think it is important we understand our government. We are part of a pool tax, which means all our taxes that are paid to us go out to Chesterfield. It is distributed back to us

according to population. If we get \$100,000.00, a month from Conoco it goes out to the pool tax, and we only get a portion back according to population.

- **Alderman Theresa Hester**
  - Thanked everyone for coming out.
  - Wish we did not have to wait for the 2022 audit but of course, we must get through the 2021. But hope it will happen soon.
  - I am also in the business of cleaning up Bellefontaine.
  - I truly believe we have enough liquor stores here in Bellefontaine.
  - We should not have to use ARPA money as our city collector advised or just made a comment about we can use ARPA funds so they can seek counseling for the alcohol or drug problem that they may have we have citizens in our community now that need that help.
  - Would like to partner with our residents to do a voter registration drive.
- **Alderman Peg Warnusz**
  - Thanked everyone for waiting.
  - Thanked the caretakers of Ms. BeBe. She looked very good.
- **Alderman Lynette VonSeggern**
  - Thank everyone for coming this evening and Happy New Year.
  - Hope everyone has a great year this year.
- **Alderman James Thomas, Sr.**
  - Thank everyone for coming out tonight.
  - I hope this does not become a bully bull pit for those who have chosen to run.
  - There seems to be a lack of decorum when it comes to recognition of the chair.
  - Before anyone speaks, they should be recognized by the chair.
  - This is not the place to argue on your platform.
  - Congratulated Ms. BeBe for turning 100 years old and 2 months.
- **Alderman Regina Harmon-Ward**
  - Thanked everyone who stuck around.
  - Congratulated Ms. BeBe and I think she really appreciated the recognition.
  - Can we please keep politics out of this? This is not the platform for that. We are here for other means.
- **Alderman Alease Dailes**
  - Gave congratulations to Mrs. BeBe on her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and two months.

-When I think that something should be brought up, I will bring it up because I want it for the record.

-I want everyone to know for the record that Dinah, the Mayor, and I are all friends, and we will always be family. In addition, we love each other no matter what.

- **Alderman Alicia Smith**

- Thanked everyone for coming out.

- Called a point of order only because I do not like my time wasted. I am just like you all. I have a 9-5 job and I have sat here just like everyone, since 7 pm.

- Thank everyone again.

### **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT)**

- **Anthony Green-92XX Waldorf Drive**

- Thanked Rick Rognan for the update on the audit.

- Wants everyone to know when we get an audit from Sikich, we get two reports. One is a financial statement, and the other is the income statement that is posted on our website through FY 20. We are currently having Sikich, formerly Hochschild Bloom, for doing the FY 21 and FY 22 audits and those are not available.

- There is also a separate report called an Independent Audit Report (also done by Sikich) on internal controls, over financial reporting and in compliance with other government auditing standards that comes out each year.

- FY 19 report when Mayor Doerr was here there were two significant deficiencies, FY 20 report that was completed had four significant deficiencies, which need to be addressed.

- Be aware that the other risk is that the second audit report is related to the fact we get governmental money, the ARPA money.

- Our fiscal year ended 6/30/21 the general guidelines within 9 months after that you should already have your audit done because the federal government needs to know how the ARPA money was spent.

- There is a risk that the federal government could come back to us and ask where your audit results by a professional CPA firm are. To see that we are complying, and we do not have that right now. The only thing we have now is a narrative.

- Sikich should give us a Measurement date.

- The Federal Government could come back and ask us to prove that we spent the money in line with the grant and if we do not (in an audit perspective), they could ask for the money back.

**ADJOURNMENT-Alderman James Thomas, SR. made a motion to adjourn, second was made by Alderman Peg Warnusz. Mayor called for an all-in favor, 8 -Yays/ 0 Nays. Meeting adjourned at 9:55pm.**

**ATTEST:**

  
Semmie Ruffin-Hall, City Clerk

Approved by the Board of Aldermen on 01-19-23