

**CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY JANUARY 19, 2023 – 7:30 P.M.**

PRESENT Mayor Tommie Pierson, City Attorney Susie McFarland, Director of Public Works Jeff Ross, Director of Parks and Recreation Jimmy Kirincich, Chief of Police Jeremy Ihler, Treasurer Rick Rognan, and City Clerk Semmie Ruffin-Hall.

ABSENT Collector Jeff Howe.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY Mayor Pierson called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.
PLEDGE OF ALLEGEANCE

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

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

7 Present/1 Excused Absent -Quorum was met.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor called for a motion to approve the agenda. **Alderman Alease Dailes** made a motion to approve the agenda with an amendment under the emergency clause. The heating system went out in the lower level of city hall. Therefore, we need to add the three bids right away. Second made by **Alderman Alicia Smith**. **Mayor** called for any further discussion. There was none. **Mayor** called for an all-in favor. The Ayes have it.

Mayor asked for a motion to approve the agenda as amended. **Alderman Dinah Tatman** made a motion to approve the agenda to add on the three bids for the boiler under the emergency clause. Second was made by **Alderman Alease Dailes**. **Mayor** called for an all-in favor. The Ayes have it.

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

- **Anthony Green-92XX Waldorf Drive**
 - Acknowledged more people were in attendance.
 - Today is January 19, 2023, and we still don't have our June 30, 2021, audited financial results.
 - Financial accounting or municipal accounting is the backbone of any business or enterprise.
 - If you cannot get the auditor to complete the audit it should be formerly communicated to the constituents of Bellefontaine Neighbors.

- I don't want unaudited results, I want audited results.
- We have received ARPA monies and I would like to hear from our treasurer.
- Are we in compliance with all Federal reporting guidelines for ARPA when we have not completed our audit within 9 months of the closing period, which was June 30, 2021.
- If we are in violation of that I think that is something that needs to be communicated to the public I don't think anything of that importance should be omitted from the public knowing about that.
- I did see in the crime activity report that motor vehicle theft went up to 28 for the month from 24. I would like to hear what kind of other programs we do to address that.
- Anyone serving in an office should be doing the best they can, I am not comfortable with what I have seen from the collector I am not comfortable with what's going on in front of his house. I don't know if there is a compliance issue with code enforcement, we are down one man. I am not comfortable. There is tree debris everywhere, the house looks somewhat dilapidated. And he represents the city. I want to say very clearly, optics do matter. I am not saying your house has to be perfect, but I don't expect him to go to any business and tell them to clean themselves up and his house looks, for a lack of a better word, "A hot mess". This does not represent the city well. I have had my concerns and reservations. You have to look professional both in this meeting and afterwards. I can't take him seriously when I look at that house that way and I can't believe that we can stand on our own two feet and try to advocate for him when his house looks that distressing. It looks distressing to me.
- Other than that, you guys are doing a great job.
- There are some risks here and I want us to address the audit risk, we have to address that. I think there is some exposure for the city there and maybe there's not. It just doesn't feel right to me we are in 2023 and we don't have any 2021 audited results. That's an internal control issue and I want to know what we have done to address some of the internal controls that we have.
- **Caroline McDonald-100XX Ashford Drive**
 - Questioned the cleanup of common ground area of Bellefontaine that backs up to their homes. They do not want to look at that. Stated last time she spoke to a young man, and he had planned on getting on that. **Director of Parks and Recreation Jimmy Kirincich** stated they are finishing up some of the indoor things that need to be done during the cold weather we are planning on getting out there before March.
- **Michael Geary (Invited by Alderman Theresa Hester)**
 - Owns an investment company called TMC Pro Home Buyers, LLC.
 - Our business is to help any homeowner and add value to the community.
 - We give help in any financing or even buying their property.
 - We have an investment company that comes in and rehabs.
 - We put new homeowners in homes that we purchase.
 - We just received funding for the year 2023.

PRESENTATION OF UNAPPROVED MINUTES (B.O.A. Pre-Meeting Minutes 01-05-23 and Regular B.O.A Meeting Minutes 01-05-23) -Motion made by **Alderman James Thomas, Sr.** approve the unapproved minutes; Second made by **Alderman Alicia Smith.** Mayor called for all in favor-7 Ayes/0-Nays. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF INVOICES OVER \$500 (01-04-23 through 1-18-23)-Motion made by **Alderman Alicia Smith**. to approve invoices over \$500, Second made by **Alderman James Thomas, Sr.** **Mayor** called for all in favor-7 Ayes. The Ayes have it. Motion passed.

COLLECTORS REPORT-JEFF HOWE

- **Report Attached**

CITY ENGINEERS REPORT-CLAYTON KLEIN

- Reports are attached both for the City Engineer and Building.
- Judy's last day was Tuesday (01/17/23) so Brittney is flying solo and doing a fantastic job.
- The recreation roof has been removed. Steel for the roof joists is scheduled for the middle of March. Once it comes, they will start to erect it and then follow with the steel roof, it is an acoustical deck, so we are trying to get all the major stuff where we have to have cranes done well in advance of any pool openings.
- We had a meeting yesterday with CRallo and went over a few things. Went over how they are handling the side conditions. Jimmy has said that so far, they have been really good to work with. They communicate with us very well.
- They will let us know when they have to shut down any utilities. Give us plenty of time to coordinate activities around there.
- Looking forward to getting that done by the end of May.

PLANNING AND ZONING-PAT BARRETT

- I checked with the building department on January 3, 2023, and there was no new business for planning and zoning to take up.
- Since there was no new business, we did not hold a meeting in January.
- We do expect to have a meeting in February. There has been some business to come up since that time.

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT -JEREMY IHLER

- Last meeting, I discussed motor vehicles thefts. I did put together some statistics comparing 2021 to 2022.
- Last year crime dropped by 12% across the board compared to 2021. We are looking at homicide, rape, robbery, assault, burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle thefts.
- Homicide increased by 2, counts of rape dropped from 6 to 1, robbery dropped from 23 incidents to 18, assault dropped from 331 to 228 (31% decrease), we had a slight uptake in burglaries 52 in 2021 and 56 in 2022, larceny went down by 6% and motor vehicle thefts went up 16%. In 2021 we had 120 counts and in 2022 we had 143 counts.
- Another thing to prevent motor vehicle theft If you park your car in your driveway preferably but on street is fine too but flood lights on your home will work very well. Keep your yard well maintained. Criminals are looking for opportunities. Places that are dark and unkept are easy targets.
- Do not leave any property openly visible within your vehicle.

- We still have wheel locks for free for Kia's and Hyundai's for anyone that wants one. If you have 5 eligible cars, you get 5 locks. The key is prevention, but nothing is full proof.
- To qualify for locks there is a certain year range. For Hyundai's the years are 2012 to present and for Kia's the years are 2015 to present.

Mayor asked the chief at the next meeting could he give an update on how many police officers we have and the position they hold.

TREASURER'S REPORT- RICK ROGNAN

- Quick synopsis of the financials for the city so we can get a quick snapshot of what's going on. We are six months in now, December 31.
- I want to caution everyone when you look at the ARPA Funds they will be spent over time. Those will be going by the wayside. Keep in mind ARPA'S requirements by December 31, 2024. They have to be committed. Committed. So, we have roughly 2 years for that and that is going to deplete.
- Keep in mind ARPA's requirement for disclosure is as we spend through the fiscal years being audited. We didn't spend any of the money, so we are just now starting to spend it this fiscal year.
- So, the fiscal year under audit there was no expenditures coming out of ARPA. The fiscal year after that, that ended June 30th of last year there were no expenses out of ARPA the money literally just sat in the bank account.
- So, we are now committing this fiscal year, so we will be spending and then we will also be spending the next fiscal year the money. Keep in mind ARPA does have significant requirements for reporting, that's why we have a separate bank account set up. And that's we are making certain that money does not co-mingle with other expenses. So that's being done here in the city. So, keep that in mind as we move forward.
- **The ARPA** money is going to go away, the **Street Bond** money we are committing. So, keep in mind it either will be used this fiscal year or next fiscal year. But once again by budget we have committed to getting those funds spent. So that money is going to go away too. **Debt Services** we know that is specific only to retirement of bonds, can't be used for anymore. So, keep in mind you look at the difference in balances between the two years we got tax money that came in that Lori still needs to get allocated to the funds. So, keep that in mind when that happens those balances will grow. So, we will see that in the next month. **Sewer Lateral** we know what that is spent for. It is a restricted fund solely for that purpose. So, keep in mind you can't spend that on general operations here in the city. **Capital Improvement** is growing. Why? Because we predominantly used the General fund for every single expense. So, when we get into the banking situation this is going to change. Each account is going to be set up, the board will be seeing more check registers and it is going to be specific. Whatever we budget the account out of or fund that's the check that is going to be used. So right now, the Capital improvement checking account doesn't get used, it is coming out of General entirely. So that's going to change as we move forward with the selection the board makes tonight on the banking situation. So, we are going to get a lot of things changed and adjusted.

- Anthony brings up great suggestions in regard to internal control. This will change. We have talked about that at a lot of meetings. The mayor was present and leading the charge in regard to what needs to be done. We will see a lot of changes for the better. So, we are not going to do anything to handcuff anyone to make it more difficult, we are going to make it easier from accountability and from an internal control standpoint. We are going to be tightening things up.
- **General Fund** right now, so keep in mind the general fund still has tax dollars to allocate. Most of our tax revenue comes in December and January, so keep that in mind. When you see the balance, Lori is in the process of allocating those tax dollars so once they get allocated, they will be going to specific funds. So, you will see the general fund is starting to deplete as a result, so keep that in mind. So that is why I am cautioning everyone when you look at the balances. The balances look healthy, but we want to make sure we understand them this can deplete quickly. So, the goal is to protect what we have and that is where we are right now.
- In regard to the audit. She was here today, locked up in a room trying to get this complete. We will see how long this will take. There are still a lot of items that need to be addressed. But she is pretty comfortable we should be able to get this, but certain things have to be done and I think its being done. Can I commit to the fact it's going to be here, it should have been here by now, but unfortunately all our hands are tied. Basically, the auditor has got to do it on their terms and right now we could not switch auditors if we tried.

BANK DISCUSSION

- Interviews started last Wednesday at 10am with the first bank being **Regions**, second bank was **Commerce** at 11am. Friday, we talked to **Simmons** at 10am and **Busey** at 11am.
- The committee was able to ask questions based on follow-ups with the RFP. We received sealed bids, and these were the 4 banking institutions that bid on the accounts.
- **Commerce** and **Regions** both came back with revised RFPs after our meeting with them. Of all people Regions we thought knew everything about us and would have been the least likely. Regions started at 3.9% they were going to give us an interest rate and when it was all said and done the next day, they changed their proposal to 2%. This is who we bank with and the fact that that transpired did not sit well with the committee. Commerce did the same thing. They had us on a different platform, again they knew all about us. They could do the research they work with other municipalities, so that became an issue also.
- **Simmons** did a great job and so did **Busey**. The questions we asked were about Interest rates that are important to the city.
- Are they willing to waive banking fees. In talking with all the banks, not one was willing to waive all the fees. Simmons will work with us the most. They offer something called earning credit. Earning credit simply is the more money you get in based on the rate they going to pay they will offset the fees with that. You get what they call a net, a net in theory according to **Simmons** was going to be more than their fees. Which was good news. And they even suggested they will work with us to see what they can do in regard

to those fees. So, all the banks were still going to have fees, bear in mind **Regions** was charging us over \$300 per month. Even with earnings credit and all of that. Quite excessive compared to what we will be looking at doing.

- Another question that was addressed was cash. Cash that comes into the building. Right now, we as a city have a liability, we have someone that literally takes this to the bank. That should not happen. Now the best proposal on that was a **vault by Busey Bank**. They have a vault that you put the money in and automatically deposits it and they are the only ones with a key. Completely secure and locked up. The problem is they are probably not going to be the best bet. So, we will see if we can encourage the best bidder to come around and possibly bring this type of vault to the city. In the interim what we will look at is a courier service like Loomis to come in once a week to pick up the cash and deposit it on behalf of the city. No one will take money out of here; it will sit in the safe until that happens, so it is completely secure and locked down. So that is one of the proposals, again all of them are willing to do it but some of them said it was going to be a third party and others like **Simmons** say they will be willing to work with us to coordinate that and they have already started to do that. **Scanners** all are willing to work with the scanners. Whether we elect to buy it ourselves is a very inexpensive item. Which is an immediate deposit. Again, good internal control and it is great cash flow from the city's standpoint because it is an immediate deposit for the bank.
- So, when it is all said and done, the consensus of the committee having looked at all these proposals and gone through all these interviews. It was unanimous **Simmons** was the best bank for the city based on all they said, all they were willing to do their follow up and all the other items they are willing to work with the city on. All of these banks are willing to give back and work with the city on some of these community events. So, keep in mind that opportunity is here. Even with **Simmons** when we enhance our website, they are willing to connect some of residents to some of their services. Also, to come in and talk to our employees about free benefits, like free checking as a result of being one of their clients. Again, the recommendation that came from the committee (but up to the board to make the decision) was for the city to select **Simmons Bank**.
- Anyone of these banks the board elects to select is a good bank. I would not veer from any of these. I don't know if there is anything on here of concern. But again, you can see all the due diligence the committee did in regard to this selection.
- We are going to have fees they are not going to go away completely.
- Checks that will be scanned, for audit purposes I recommend we get a binder put them in the binder. By day, we get the deposit we know who it is, we have the front and back of check we know everything about it, and we have all the details from an internal control. The banking system requires you to consider destroying those checks. I would say from an internal control standpoint as long as we keep that information locked up, we are good to go. Every deposit will be identified. Now going forward the real question is how many accounts we want to set up and how we are going to do it. My recommendation is going to be, depending on who we agree with, bring them in next week. Our committee gets together, and we decide how we want to adopt the new banking and the scanners, so everybody is involved, including Lori from the accounting

standpoint. So, we work together cause at the same time we are going to be working to improve internal control that Semmie and I have been talking about. So, we don't have these audit concerns when the auditor comes in. Anthony brings up good points about internal control we have the ability now to make a difference in regard to what goes on going forward. The opportunity will be there with this new bank and all of this that has been proposed with all of this. With the scanning capabilities, pickup of our cash with all of these we can really start locking things down and improve our internal control.

- From the auditor's standpoint the reason we were so delayed is it was such a mess they did not know what was going on. So, they have serious concerns well that means internal control concerns. Not just the numbers, it is an internal control concern. We can identify this now. We cannot do anything about the past, we are just talking about moving forward and getting it for the city, putting the city in a position where we think as a collective group.

Mayor called for **Alderman Alease Dailes to make a motion. Alderman Alease Dailes** made a motion to accept **Simmons Bank** as our new Banking Institution and that we will call them in next week to get the final instructions and work on the ordinance. Second made by **Alderman Alicia Smith. Mayor** called for a roll call vote.

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

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

7-Years/0-Nays-Motion passed to accept **Simmons Bank** as our new banking institution.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT -DOROTHY WHITE COLEMAN

- **No Report**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: APPOINTMENT OF NEW CHAIRPERSON FOR I&B BOARD (Lynn Gordon). City Clerk Semmie Ruffin-Hall read the letter of recommendation. **Mayor** acknowledged Ms. Jennie Stewart for her wonderful job over the years as well as preparation to leave this position she recommended a replacement.

Mayor called for a motion to accept the recommendation. **Alderman Alicia Smith** made a motion to approve the new chairperson, Lynn Gordon for the Image and Beautification Board, second was made by **Alderman Lynette VonSeggern.**

NEW BUSINESS:

BILL #2664- 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 ALEASE DAILES)

Alderman Alease Dailes made a motion for the first and second reading of Bill # 2664, second was made by **Alderman Theresa Hester**. **Mayor** called for any discussion. **Alderman Alicia Smith** states she wanted this to go on record she did ask Jimmy myself different questions for anyone who may have questions. In regards to the pay plan that goes along with ordinance for the bill. This would be for the recreation specialist but the actual bill itself is for all three positions (Recreation Supervisor, Recreation Specialist and Recreation Custodian) so therefore if and when the recreation supervisor and custodian are hired they would actually have a pay schedule. I like things in layman terms. That's what this whole entire bill is in regards to. But the hire would be for the recreation specialist.

Alderman Alease Dailes first reading, second was made by **Alderman Dinah Tatman**. **Mayor** called for any further discussion. None. All in favor-7-Yays/0-Nays. Second read by **Alderman Alease Dailes**, second made by **Alderman James Thomas, Sr.** **Mayor** called for any further discussion. None. **Mayor** called for roll:

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

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

7-Yeahs/0-Nays. Motion passed. Bill #2664 will become Ordinance #2638-A, if and when the mayor signs it.

RFP REQUEST-WEBITE DESIGN OVER \$10,000.00 (INTRODUCED BY ALDERMAN ALEASE DAILES)

Alderman Alease Dailes made a motion asking the board if they would approve sending out an RFP for hiring an IT Consultant to come in and make the assessment of what we need for a new website, second made by **Alderman Lynette VonSeggern**. **Mayor** called for an all-in favor. 7-Ayes/0-Nays. Ayes have it. Motion passed.

THREE BIDS FOR HEATING SYSTEM IN THE STREET DEPARTMENT-JEFF ROSS

- Last week there was a gas leak downstairs and the fire department had to come as well as Spire to turn the gas off. At this time there is no heat downstairs.

- Three bids were collected:
 1. Mueller Heating and Cooling-\$4500 (this is just for the furnace replacement)
 2. B & B Heating and Cooling. To replace the furnace \$4,950.00. To replace the cooling, it would be an additional \$6,500 .00 for a total of \$11,450.00.
 3. MC Mechanical Services, \$4,885.00 for the furnace.
- I suggest we should also go ahead and replace the air conditioner at the same time too. Currently one of the fans is not working.
- My suggestion is to go with MC Mechanical Services.

Alderman Dinah Tatman made a motion under the emergency clause we replace both units, and we would go with the bid from B & B which includes the air conditioner and the furnace. One for \$6,500.00 the other is the furnace for \$4,950.00 for a total of \$11,450.00. I would like to amend my motion at the recommendation of the Director of the Public Works Department to take the bid from MC Mechanical Services for the furnace total of \$4.885.00. Second was made by **Alderman Theresa Hester**. **Mayor** called for a roll call vote:

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

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

7-Ayes/0-Nays. Ayes have it. Motion passed.

Alderman Alicia Smith wanted it to go on record she inquired if there would be any fire district fees with reinstatement of services.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- I have had a couple of meetings with a developer. That's somebody's ideals on the sheet I placed on the table. This is nothing but ideas being thrown around, nothing is concrete. Because before we can move forward, and really nail things down, it has to be approved by the board. Right now, it is just ideas.
- The developer would like to meet in a couple of weeks. I think he is getting pretty serious about it.
- As I said earlier, the Zoo is a game changer for North County, not just Bellefontaine Neighbors, but North County.
- They are projecting over a million people a year will come through here going to the zoo. Where will they eat, sleep and play.
- We want them to eat, sleep and play on our land up there.

- There are no other hotels in this area why anybody would want to stay and nothing for them to do but drive through this town.
- We want them to stop here. Because everything is going Southwest.
- Bellefontaine Neighbors and North County are being overlooked and neglected.
- I believe it is my job to bring attention to Bellefontaine and what it offers and what it can offer.
- We will get some traction on that and make it happen and I just got to tell you this because I was fascinated by this myself. The developer (and Alderman Thomas was with me), the developer threw out this, and indoor track. Do you know what that means if we had an indoor track (it will not take up all the land only a small portion) we would have high schools and colleges from around the state because there are no,(that we are aware of) indoor tracks.
- We are boarder downtown with all of this sports activities and conventions centers downtown and St. Charles, St. Charles is preparing to receive these people right now. We want to stop it; we are closer to it than anybody.
- We are only 10 -15 minutes from the zoo and 10-15 minutes from the airport. We are attractive and we are not going to let it get away from us.

ALDERMAN'S REPORT

- **Alderman Alicia Smith**
 - Thanked everyone for coming out, staying, and listening to us.
 - I want to thank my counterparts, we are getting out of here before 11:00pm.
 - My counterpart and I continue to drive our ward. If you see something, please contact us morning, evening, or night.
- **Alderman Alease Dailes**
 - Thanked everyone for coming and staying here.
 - Next month we have Archwell coming over to the recreation center on February 15, 2023. So, all is welcome. It would be good to get to know and meet your neighbors.
 - If you know of any vacant properties in your neighborhood or of a violation feel free to call our city clerk, because we are trying to clean up our city and get things right. So you can continue to live in a beautiful neighborhood.
- **Alderman James Thomas, Sr.**
 - Thank everyone for coming out tonight.
 - Congratulated Jennie Stewart for her many years of service to the community and I would like to welcome Ms. Lynn and I look forward to seeing more as we go forward. I partnered with D. Battle, and we cleaned the corner of 367 and Comet we got 5 bags off

that corner. It is a bad spot. All we were picking up was empty liquor bottles, which was sad.

-I charge all the citizens, if you see it, pick it up. When we were in the service they said if it didn't grow, it came up off the ground.

-Thank everyone again for coming out and tell your neighbors the meetings are interesting and they are not lasting until 1:00am in the morning now. And that the Aldermen are participating in the legislative duties of the city.

- **Alderman Lynette VonSeggern**

-Thank everyone for coming this evening, it is a good crowd and we need more resident participation.

-Peg and I drive the wards and we were out Saturday. I will compose my report and give it to the Chief, Jeff, Semmie and the mayor. For problem properties that we have and other things that we have seen.

-If you need anything reach out to us, we are here for you guys and thanks again for coming this evening.

- **Alderman Peg Warnusz**

-Thanked everyone for coming.

-I also would like to welcome Lynn Gordon who I don't know very well, but Jennie Stewart I have cooked hotdogs for her and her crew on trash pick up day and I would volunteer when time comes around again, so please don't hesitate to call.

-I would also like to thank Jeff for going up and down Crete Drive today picking up goonie balls by the bucket.

-So don't hesitate to call if you need something that the city can provide.

- **Alderman Theresa Hester**

-First I would like to say thank you to Jennie for your hard work and the time you have served.

-Welcome to Lynn Gordon I am sure you will do well and I will be right there with you.

-We are also driving our wards to and noticing changes happening. For example, the house Chambers that you really didn't know it was a house there because it was all trees and bushes. I just drove by there one day and it was a tree service tearing down trees. I waived at the guy and he waived back, I said finally somebody is doing something there.

-I don't know if Rejis has our account anymore because I called today because I couldn't get in my emails and they said they don't do that anymore.

-Trying to do voter registration. Will be reaching out to any residents to help volunteer to go out and get people registered to vote.

-Also I would like to see fresh fruit here in Bellefontaine. Would like a farmers market here, Soulard does not have to be the only place that we get those fresh vegetables and things.

-There is a serious concern here in Bellefontaine with the trash, it is out of control, and we need to hold companies accountable for the trash on their property.

- **Alderman Dinah Tatman**

-Good evening to the citizens and I am glad you guys stayed.

-Jennie, you have been working 23 years keeping this city beautiful.

-Lynn welcome aboard and the same help Jennie received you will receive that plus some.

-I gave all of my colleagues a packet. I have been working on a health issue in our city. The meeting we had, Wednesday, again with the St. Louis County Episteme, the Infectious Disease, and a person from civil engineer. This health disparity that came from that team is very alarming. You guys know my pet peeve is health and safety. All of the determinants (suicide, diabetes, hypertension and mental disorders) compared to North County we are at least 50% to 60% higher than anybody else. One thing we are looking into and glad it was brought up, that it is environmental. We did a ride through down St. Cyr where those plants are and it looks like it is an environmental hazard. We have 3 or 4 companies back there. It looks like Chernobyl. I mean mud slides, metal trash and it is right by the creek that comes through our city. I had someone from Senators Mosley's office on as well because we are looking at getting the state involved because it is a health disparity. I want to encourage the citizens that we are going to be holding a health summit April 15th at Riverview Gardens High School. If you want to volunteer for that, we are looking for citizens because the rates that are highest are suicides, self-inflict, hypertension and diabetes. The age group that has the highest rate of disparity is our children. Our children. So, I want to encourage you, if you want to get involved contact me. Like we did with the Crime Summit, we want to be able to offer our citizens practical information, resources, and access to resources to try and combat some of this.

-I will be meeting with Superintendent Pruitt Adams to talk about our school district, because we partner with them anyway.

-I want to encourage you (It is beautiful to see this many people here) to get involved in our city. We need citizen participation, because this is your city, you are our employers. We need our employers to come along side us and help us try to implement and try to get some things done.

-Thank you again.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT)

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

-Just a reminder we didn't get the results per Missouri Law 12/31/2022 City of Bellefontaine unaudited results should be published on the website. Protocol the public deserves to see that. I know you (the board) have attachments and that's great but part of this accountability that we get to see some audited results, so the results you have I think by 1/31/23 has to be published for the public. So, I would like to see that even if you don't have audited results.

-Second thing is and Chief you can clarify this. My understanding is that we have gotten two trances of ARPA Money. The first trance was with Patrick Howard and at the time we did not have a segregated account. That helps keep transparency that the money hasn't been touched. So, I am trying to figure out are you positive that with the first trance we got, which I believe was in 2020, it may have been in early 2021. Are we confident that none of the ARPA money in the first trance was not touched. Not questioning the second one the first one because I am hearing that, but I want to make sure that. **Mayor** interrupted and said it was not touched. **Anthony** stated even though it was all in one account you know that it was not touched. **Mayor** stated right, we have not spent that money.

-Even though you changing the bank policy is Lori bonded and ensured because she was carrying money, opening envelopes and posting all the money. Was she bonded and ensured that is just another internal control measure that goes with handling money. To litigate risk, she should have been and if she still will be doing it until we change over, she needs to be. I haven't heard a definitive answer on that, and I am kind of concerned.

- **Marcie Gooden-94XX Duenke Drive**

-Congratulation Jennie and congratulations to Lynn for joining.

-We clean up all the time in Ward 4 and I picked up 6 bags on Sunday.

-What is going on with the speed bumps, I am now concerned this has been going on for about 9 years and during the budget meeting you were allocating funds but then it may not have been accounted for. You don't have to answer now I will send an email, but that is a little concerning. Because we had the crime summit and Chief informed the residents who were at the crime summit at that time you did a great presentation (because I got it all on video) he mentioned the streets that they were going to pilot and nothing has happened and that is a problem to me. And you all want internet service, he wants a furnace, but we can't get our speed bumps (I know you are cold) but we are important too, we are tax payers. I am a little concerned about that so you all need to figure that out. Use the ARPA money and give us our speed bumps because it is

important. We don't have any respect on the roads anymore. That is important to me as a taxpayer.

- **Cynthia (Queen) Newson-8XX Neighbor Lane**

-Do we have an ordinance on when people should have their leaves picked up, or how they should be done.

-Concerned about the police department, we are hiring them they are coming but they are leaving. Why? Because it can't be because they are going to get paid somewhere else, because when they take the job, they know what the pay is. So, this has to be internal. What are the other police that have been here for years showing the new people that are coming in that is making them run.

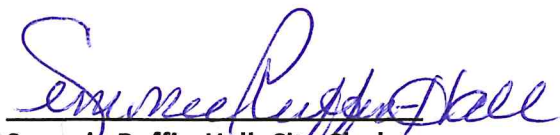
-The speed bumps are very necessary because we are having all these drive by shooting, shooting up homes.

-I moved out here because at one point people did not like to come to Bellefontaine. You are going to get pulled over if your license plates are wrong. We were about business, and we have to get back to that.

-Neighbors burning leaves in the front yard, I called and talked to an officer. No one showed up. Long as he talked to me about the stuff we talked about he could have gotten in his car and drove over there himself. This is ridiculous. We have to get Bellefontaine back. This is horrible. A couple of months back I said we were going to start looking like Kinloch in a minute. Its trash everywhere and if the homeowners are not being held accountable what do you expect. We have got to fix this, Mayor. We got to get this together, we are falling apart, and I don't like it. When I am in my home, I hear gunshots all the time. And another thing, when a situation comes up and a neighbor says call the police, you shouldn't tell the other person I am the person that called. Then that puts me in a situation.

ADJOURNMENT-Alderman James Thomas, Sr. made a motion to adjourn, second was made by **Alderman Alicia Smith.** Mayor called for an all-in favor, 7-Yays/ 0 Nays. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.

ATTEST:


Semmie Ruffin-Hall, City Clerk

Approved by the Board of Aldermen on 02-02-23