

**3CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2023 – 7:30 P.M.**

PRESENT Mayor Tommie Pierson, City Attorney Dorothy White-Coleman, Chief of Police Jeremy Ihler, City Engineer Clayton, Collector Jeff Howe, Planning and Zoning Board Pat Barrett and City Clerk Semmie Ruffin-Hall.

ABSENT Treasurer Rick Rognan

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY Mayor Pierson 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

Eight Present -Quorum was established.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor called for a motion to approve the agenda. **Alderman Alease Dailes** made motion to approve agenda, to table under #14 of new business, items #B and #C, and to go into close session when accountant is present. Second made by **Alderman Alicia Smith**. **Mayor** called any further discussion. None. **Mayor** asked for roll call.

City Clerk Semmie Ruffin Hall called the roll:

- Alderman Dinah Tatman-No
- 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

5 -Ayes/ 3-Nays. Motion fails.

Mayor called for a motion to approve the **agenda as is**. **Alderman Lynette VonSeggern** made motion to **approve agenda as is**. Second made by **Alderman James Thomas, Sr.** **Mayor** called any further discussion. **Alderman James Thomas, Sr.** would like to amend the agenda for the close session to discuss the items the Attorney had notified us by email. Second made by **Alderman Regina Harmon-Ward.** **Mayor** called an all-in-favor. **7-Ayes/ 1-Nay.** **Ayes** have it. **Mayor** called for a motion to approve the agenda as amended. **Alderman James Thomas, Sr.** made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Second made by **Alderman Regina Harmon-Ward.** **Mayor** called an all-in-favor.

7-Ayes/ 1-Nay. Ayes have it. **Motion passes.**

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

- **Anthony Green-92XX Waldorf Drive**
 - Anthony passed out something only to the aldermen and the mayor. He Stated all the aldermen need to get a copy of the FY 19 and FY 20 audit.
 - Right now we do not have an FY 21 audit we got excuses, do not have an FY 22 audit we got excuses.
 - I have not seen the treasurer here. We are supposed to have 12/31/22 Semi-annual statement unaudited ready. I have not seen them.
 - I sent all emails to you (the aldermen) reminding you, you have a fiduciary obligation to make sure you publish the city annual financial statements They were due 12/31/22, when they are not published the city is not suppose to make any more expenditures per state law, I have given that to everybody by email except Dinah, because I had the wrong email address.
 - But there is a statutory MO Law that you are required, the board. This is the law. You must publish the financials.
 - You the board and the treasurer are not to approve any new expenditures until financials are published,
 - So, as you vote to approve invoices tonight, just consider the fact you need to talk to your city attorney about that. I sent the email to everyone. You will be in violation of a Class A Misdemeanor for trying to approve invoices

when you have not published those finances. Now correct me, if you published them let me know where I can go look at them. I have not seen them on any website or newspaper. You have a fiduciary obligation to do that for the city to do that. It is not me just saying that. If you are voting yes I want you to know what you are violating so that if it comes back home to root you are situationally aware of the risks involved of voting yes when the MO State Law has told you, you have to publish them. Again, I have not been told they have been published, but if they have let me know.

-Lastly, I gave you copies of the findings that the auditor has, they said you need to look at the expertise and experience of the accounting staff, that could have been the treasurer or accounting staff. They have said this for two years in a row, FY 19 and FY 20. That was on the independent audit report and internal controls for financial reporting and compliance on other matters based on audit report of financial statements. Your audit said to look at that because it could lead to material misstatements. As I look on the balance sheets for FY 22 and we have this minus of three quarters of a million dollars for the Citizens bank account that has not been updated and the treasurer is saying we are waiting on an adjustment entry, then that is a problem.

PRESENTATION OF UNAPPROVED MINUTES (Regular B.O.A Meeting Minutes 02-02-23) -Motion made by **Alderman James Thomas, Sr.** to approve the unapproved minutes; 2nd made by **Alderman Lynette VonSeggern.** **Mayor** called for all in favor-8 Ayes/0-Nays. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF INVOICES OVER \$500 (01-30-23 through 02-13-23)-Motion made by **Alderman James Thomas, Sr.** To approve invoices over \$500, 2nd made by **Alderman Peg Warnusz.** **Mayor** called for any discussion-none. **Mayor** called for an all-in favor-6 Ayes/2-Nays. **Ayes have it. Motion passed.**

CITY COLLECTOR REPORT-JEFF HOWE

- Within last week or so, you should have been able to see a couple of updated reports for the months of November and December. The month of January should be ready before the next meeting.

CITY ENGINEER/BUILDING REPORT-CLAYTON KLEIN

- You have reports in front of you.
- This month was a busy month of 149 inspections were performed.
- Fifty-two certificate of occupancy released.
- Kelsie has been doing a great job keeping up with the workload.
- Trying to work with the fire department in getting their permit paid.
- Qtrip will be doing their remodeling up at their store for the interior. That probably will be starting in a month or two.
- Jimmy has been giving you an update on the recreation center. We have been having weekly meetings and they have been proceeding well.
- I have been reviewing some of their materials and so far, we have been getting our materials in on time.
- We should be able to check on the roofing material, the roofing might be the only stickler.

Discussion: Alderman Alease Dailes stated **Clayton** I sent an email on January 26, do you have any answers for me. **Clayton** stated well yeah before, most of those streets Joe would go look at them and if he had any questions I would go look at them. I would look at the drawing before they are submitted. I go as needed to look at those. **Alderman Alease Dailes** stated Mo. American Water Is changing the water line on multiple streets in Bellefontaine Neighbors, are you inspecting their work as it relates to our City. You said if someone asks you, is that what you said. Since we do not have an inspector do you go and inspect their work.

Clayton stated I have not, no. I will try to go out and look at that. **Alderman Alease Dailes** stated are you making sure the streets are in great shape after the construction, so that would be a **Clayton** stated he tries to get out to them, but he relied on Joe a lot of times before so I will get on those and make sure that they are ER(Engineer and Design) standards. The trick also is to let them know what is needed before they start and I will get with Brittany on that. **Aleese Dailes** stated can you email the board with any information, **Clayton** stated I answer to the Mayor. I will look into that for you but I answer to the Mayor. **Aleese Dailes** stated well could you send it to the Mayor so he can send it to the board. **Clayton** stated sure if that is what the Mayor wants to do.

Mayor made a statement: Let me say this I checked the records today and the fire department built a fire department down the street on Bellefontaine Road and

Jennings I believe it is and they pulled and paid for every permit that they needed. Everyone. Now I am trying to figure out why you would pull your permits down there because you know that is what you need to do. But then, today you want to build a firehouse without paying permits. I mean they just working like crazy down there. No permit, no nothing. Now what is the difference between then and now? The only thing I can come up with is that when they built the firehouse down here it was a white regime running this city and they felt the need to comply. Now it is a black regime and they do not feel the need to comply. Well I am telling you and the citizens that they are going to comply or they will not complete that firehouse down there. It is up to them. The next move is theirs, but that firehouse will not and I am telling you it will not be completed unless they come in here and get the permits that are needed and pay for them.

Alderman Dinah Tatman stated mayor I just want to say sometimes, some of the things we do or say that's does not have assessment to back up can be detrimental to those who listen to it. I think the assumption to say that because the regimes have changed. We can assume that, but to make a statement like that can be detrimental to the citizens who are listening, because we do not know. **Mayor** stated, let me tell you something, they are going to get those permits down there or they want finish that firehouse. **Alderman Dinah Tatman** stated I am not talking about. **Mayor** stated it can be detriment or whatever you choose to make it. That is the law and they gonna follow it. **Alderman Dinah Tatman** stated now see you just misunderstood what I said. I agree with that, what I said was the statement to say it was racially connotation is what I was speaking too. **Mayor** stated that is not what I said and so you can end the conversation because you are not going anywhere.

PLANNING AND ZONING-PAT BARRETT

- At our meeting this past Monday, we had an informal discussion with members of True Transformation Church who is currently leasing Bellefontaine United Methodist Church at 10600 Bellefontaine & Belgrove. Church members Pastor Trish Williams, Deacon Eric Williams and Evangelist Sherry Thomas were on hand to take part. This discussion was to talk and learn about their plans to operate a homeless shelter in the former school on the property before applying for a Conditional Use Permit. Homeless shelters are not an allowed use in the R-1 Single family dwelling district the facility is located or in any other district in the city. Their letter of intent &

correspondence was provided to Commission members ahead of the meeting.

- Pastor Williams said their proposed homeless shelter is a response to an opioid crisis in our area. The proposed shelter will be for women only with up to one child each. It would not be a shelter for victims of domestic violence and would not be a confidential location.
- When asked about her experience running homeless shelters, Pastor Williams stated she was program manager for Shalom House for a number of years.
- When asked about accreditation, licensing or approval from government agencies, she stated Shalom House did not have state or government involvement, implying the same for the proposed shelter.
- She said funding for operating the shelter would be by the church initially, then they would pursue outside funding. She stated that NACA, a homebuyer's association, would help with funding later.
- Pastor Williams went on to say that potential residents will be screened before being accepted and will be required to sign a contract for 12-18 months to become a resident. She stated a volunteer psychiatric nurse would come in to help with mental health issues.
- Meals, three per day, would be prepared for and served to residents seven days a week by volunteers. No smoking or alcohol would be allowed in the shelter. When asked if residents will be required to contribute towards their stay, she said residents will only pay for the cost of their toiletries.
- Security for the facility was briefly discussed. Pastor Williams stated security cameras are already in place. Volunteers would undergo security training. Commission members emphasized the need for security and 24/7 trained staffing as opposed to volunteers. Pastor Williams stated residential monitors will be on staff.
- According to their Letter of Intent, "the proposed shelter...will be in operation daily by our church membership and community volunteers". There was concern expressed by Commission members about dependence on volunteers to operate and provide security for the shelter which would operate around the clock, seven days a week.
- Residents would be allowed to have weekend passes and be picked up at the shelter. Pastor Williams was asked if their staff would know where the residents were going. She said residents would have to sign in & out as they come and go. They would not be allowed to have guests at the shelter.

- Individual living units (subdivided classrooms) will not have individual bathrooms. Plans are for residents to use the six restrooms in the school and three bathrooms with tubs/showers in the Parsonage, a separate building. She stated they're making cosmetic changes to classrooms to convert them into living units. There was some discussion of existing foldable partitions as walls in the classrooms. City Engineer Klein stated he'd have to consult the building code to determine if either arrangement is allowable.
- They were asked why was the Church wanting to open a homeless shelter now and put money into the building if they are only leasing the property? If True Transformation was not to buy the building, any investment in the facility would be lost. It seemed more logical to open a shelter after buying the property rather than before then. Pastor Williams stated they have a lease-to-own contract with the property owners. They will buy the property in three years.
- Their letter of intent forwarded before the meeting stated "the proposed shelter will house up to 16 participants at one time..." There was no mention of a focus on individuals with drug problems. During the meeting, Pastor Williams supplied an Executive Summary to Commission members. It stated their "program will serve up to 18 women...", two (2) more than in their letter of intent.
- The 16 or 18 residents would not include children; children would be in addition to those numbers.
- After discussion about the matter concluded, we congratulated P&Z member Leo Gordon on the Chief's Citizen's Award given to him for tackling someone who stole and crashed a car in Bellefontaine, holding them until police arrived. Commission members and members of the audience gave him applause.

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT -JEREMY IHLER

Crime comparison between January 2022 and January 2023:

Homicides:

- 01/30/2022 – shooting homicide 900 block Rayford Court. Victim and shooter were known to each other. The victim was the ex-boyfriend of the

shooter's girlfriend. Shooter turned himself into authorities with his attorney.

- 02/07/2023 – shooting homicide 800 Block Surrey Lane. Based on the investigation, it believed that the victim and the shooter know each other. 2 to 3 people were last seen running out of the house and leaving in a gold mini-van. The investigation is ongoing.
- 02/09/2023 – shooting homicide in the area of Ashbrook and Golden. Victim was shot while sitting in a vehicle. The investigation is ongoing.
- Assault: Increase from one incident to 13 incidents.
- Burglary: Decrease from six incidents to four incidents.
- Larceny: Decrease from 15 incidents to 14 incidents.

Motor Vehicle Theft:

- Increase from five incident to 24 incidents.
- Contributing factors:
 - Doors Unlocked: 4
 - Engine on: 4
 - Keys left in vehicle: 4
 - Hyundai and KIA related 12+4=16. Hyundai and Kia wheel locks are available through the police department.
- NCFR: Chief Goldstein stated the Fire Board Directors has waived the permit fees for the BN Recreation Center. C. Rallo has already drawn the permits from the FD.
- The police department is currently staffed with 15 police officers. Requested that the Board to approve BILL 2667 and BILL 2668 regarding police compensation. The pay adjustment for police officers will most likely stop more police officers from leaving the police department and give the police department greater recruiting power when hiring new police employees.

Mayor called for discussion- **Alderman Alicia Smith**, I just have two questions: **(1)** since we are shorthanded what would be overtime percentage fee for the officers, completely. **Chief Ihler** stated, like what it is costing us right now, I could not even begin to tell you. It is a lot. **(2) Alderman Alicia Smith** stated, just for

public record. I asked you in the pre-meeting what are we doing to attract diversity. You explained you have a recruiter, but where? **Chief Ihler** stated we have nobody right now; everybody is working the streets that is the problem. **Alderman Alicia Smith** stated that is all I needed. Thank you.

TREASURER'S REPORT- RICK ROGNAN

- **Excused Absent**

In the absence of the treasurer, **Lori Lenz (Director of Finance)** made a financial statement: Meeting today with **Angela Dorn** (our auditor) we are unraveling everything that has been done, I do not know what more we can tell you but we are working on it. I hope that we will get everything straightened out, the audit will be complete, and we can move forward. I wish I could tell you more but I cannot.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT -DOROTHY WHITE COLEMAN

- I do not have a report this evening I will save it for the close session.

BILL #2666- AN ORDINANCE CONFIRMING HELLMICH, HILL & RETTER, LLC AS SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR CERTAIN PENDING MATTERS. (INTRODUCED BY ALDERMAN DINAH TATMAN)

Alderman Dinah Tatman made a motion for the first read of **Bill #2666**, second made by **Alderman Theresa Hester**. **Mayor** called for any discussion. **None**. All in favor -**8 Ayes/ 0- Nays**. **Ayes have it**. **Alderman Dinah Tatman** made a motion for the second read of **Bill #2666**, 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-Ayes/0-Nayes. Motion passes. Bill #2666 will become Ordinance #2640 if and when the mayors signs it.

BILL #2667- 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 JAMES THOMAS, SR.)

Alderman James Thomas, Sr. made a motion for the first read of **Bill #2667**, second made by **Alderman Dinah Tatman**. **Mayor** called for any discussion. **Alderman Alease Smith** according to the current ordinance we were to receive an annual review. I did not receive one, did anyone else. **Mayor** stated he received one (City Clerk took copies and handed review out). **Alderman Dinah Tatman** asked for clarification from Legal counsel because it is stated in both ordinances can we go forward with the vote under an emergency clause because it is stated on both ordinances there supposed to be evaluations, can we proceed under emergency clause. **Alderman Smith** stated that is not what this ordinance reads. **Attorney White-Coleman** asks which ordinance are you referring to. If the mayor says he has evaluation, **Alderman Tatman** states yes he has one for the chief, I think that is what he said (**Mayor** stated yes). **Attorney White-Coleman** stated so you are referring to the other ordinance. Have the evaluations been done, or are they going to be done. **Alderman Tatman** stated well I think that is the question. That is why I was referring to you. **Attorney White-Coleman** stated, well the mayor has one for the Chief, so the question would be with respect to the other ordinance. Whether or not they have been done or are they in the process of being done so that is a question I would have to pose to the chief. **Chief Ihler** stated in the process. **Attorney White-Coleman** stated then that is the answer to your question. **Alderman Tatman** stated I just wanted on the record. **Alderman Dailes** stated so based on the ordinance we didn't get, well I didn't get an evaluation. I can only speak for me because there are other things that happens that I am not privilege to, since all of this was discussed with the accountant before bringing it to the board. Based on the ordinance we are supposed to move forward is that correct, yes or no attorney. **Attorney White-Coleman** stated the ordinance I am reading says employee evaluation shall be completed in each fiscal

year, and each department head will make recommendation to the mayor as to advancement of each of his or her covered subordinate employee. So as long as it is completed within the fiscal year then that will be in compliance with what is stated here. **Chief Ihler** stated Mayor there was a previous discussion quite some time ago about the review of personnel evaluations and per the city attorney we were make them available for the board where they can come and see them and review them. We cannot give out copies or email them. They are part of the personnel record which is covered by the sunshine law. But as being members of the board of aldermen you can review them and we did make copies of them that were done back in May. We had announced that they were available for review and anyone could make an appointment and look at them. But to my knowledge no one did. **Alderman Hester** stated and that was sent out in an email that the evaluation were available, **Chief Ihler** stated no that was discussed at a board meeting. **Alderman Hester** stated but was it sent out in an email that the evaluations were available to come up and review. **Chief Ihler** stated that was 6 months ago, I do not remember. **Alderman Dailes** stated so basically it was just shared with the mayor. **Alderman Smith** stated the review she has was completed for today do have one for 2022. **Mayor** stated he has one for 2022. **Mayor** called for any further discussion. **None.** All in favor -**8 Ayes/ 0- Nays.** **Ayes have it.** **Alderman James Thomas, Sr.** made a motion for the second read of **Bill #2667**, second made by **Alderman Regina Harmon-Ward.** **Mayor** called for any further discussion.

City Clerk Semmie Ruffin Hall called the roll:

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

6-Yeahs/0-Nays/2-Abstain- Motion passes. Bill #2667 will become Ordinance #2641 if and when the mayors signs it.

BILL #2668- AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NUMBER 2607 AND ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION FOR PERFORMING THE DUTIES OF THE OFFICE OF CHIEF OF POLICE FOR THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS, MISSOURI. (INTRODUCED BY ALDERMAN JAMES THOMAS, SR.)

Alderman James Thomas, Sr. made a motion for the first read of **Bill #2668**, second made by **Alderman Lynette VonSeggern**. **Mayor** called for any further discussion. **None**. **Alderman James Thomas, Sr.** made a motion for the second read of **Bill #2668**, second made by **Alderman Peg Warnusz**. **Mayor** called for any further discussion. **Alderman Hester** stated is this **Bill #2668** is that in reference to officers now or chief, so **Bill #2667** is for the officers. **Mayor** called for discussion. **None**. **Mayor** asked for roll call.

City Clerk Semmie Ruffin Hall called the roll:

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

6-Yeahs/2-Nays- Motion passes. Bill #2668 will become Ordinance #2642 if and when the mayors signs it.

Mayors Report

- Good to see each of you here tonight.
- Encourage our neighbors to come to the board meetings; they will not be all night anymore.
- Have a great weekend coming up.

ALDERMAN'S REPORT

Alderman Dinah Tatman

-Creating Healthy Life Styles Building Healthy Community Summit will be April 15 2023 from 10 am until 4 pm at the Riverview Garden High School Gymnasium.

-We had our fourth meeting and we did add an environmental entity and several representatives to speak.

-I want to stress again that our city has the highest health disparity in 6 categories;

- Hypertension
- Asthma
- Suicide
- Opioid addiction
- Mental Illness
- Hypertension

-This health summit is to bring as many health providers to the city that can offer practical information, resources and access to our citizens.

-We also teamed up with the Riverview Gardens School District Nurses and the Counselors. They will be on hand because they are extremely concerned about what our children are experiencing. High level of anxiety and suicide in the Riverview Gardens School District.

-So that our families and our children receive the resources that they need.

-Thank you to the citizens that continue to come and I encourage all of you to continue to come and receive the information to give to your neighbors.

Alderman Theresa Hester

-Thanked everyone for coming out.

-To the chiefs point that is why the city needs a city administrator. If you have different pay scales like all over the place, people cannot read it or make sense of it. We have a city administrator who oversees those things and we do not have that type of issues.

-The way things are going now it is not feasible or functioning the way it should. My personal opinion. I hope that soon we can have a city administrator.

-Thank you all for coming out.

Alderman Peg Warnusz

-Thanked everyone for coming.

- I agree with the City Administrator, and my question is what are we waiting for. I know we have an election coming up with the mayor but that does not mean we cannot begin the process of finding that person. Like Theresa said, it is something we desperately need and we need it now.
- We seem to spend a lot of time talking but not doing.
- If you think, we should not have one because the election is down the road we got another month or more to be working on it.
- Something to think about why are we waiting on that magic date to hire a city administrator.

Alderman Lynette VonSeggern

- Thanks everyone for coming out this evening.
- Good to see everybody, regular faces and new faces.
- Welcome aboard Simmons, I think we are going to do good things.

Alderman James Thomas, Sr.

- God evening. I like to thank everyone for coming out tonight.
- I will be introducing at the new board meeting hopefully if the ordinance is complete an amendment bill for planning and zoning so we can add more people.
- Closing out, this is our last meeting for Black History Month I would like to leave you with a quote from a great Congressman John Lewis. He said, ***“Never ever be afraid to make some noise, and get in good trouble, necessary trouble.”***
- Thank you.

Alderman Regina Harmon-Ward

- No Report
- I would like to acknowledge some new faces in the audience, Thank you so much for coming out.
- Thank you everybody else for coming out as well. I concur with **Alderman Warnusz**, in terms of a city administrator, and we needed one yesterday. I think it will straightened a lot of things that we are having back and forth and out of array.

-We need some guidance, we need some comradery and I think we have to bring some unity back into this community. We are too divided and it is not right. We are not going to move forward until we do, we have got to get unified here.

-We are spinning our wheels going back and forth. We are talking and not getting anywhere.

Alderman Alease Dailes

-Good evening everyone. I am glad everyone is here.

-I would like to ask the board if anyone has anything for the newsletter. Jimmy says it is due by March 29. We will be adding 80 and 90-year-old birthdays.

-Only adding their pictures and birthdates.

-Hopefully we will start working on the budget.

-I would like to ask the board if they would think about giving \$3,000 for Juneteenth. That is because we have to hire a crew to set up and break down. We need help handling the tables and chairs. We cannot do it anymore. It was just too hard on our bodies. We did have volunteers but they left and we had to haul those heavy tables and chairs.

-We will be paying for the bouncy house and petting zoo for the children.

-I will ask for the \$3,000 for next month so we can start working on it.

-**Theresa** said we should celebrate Juneteenth the whole month and we will start binging that forward for Black History and for Juneteenth.

-I want everyone to know that I am not against our police department getting their raise. I think they deserve it. I just think we need to do things different. I do not, and I do not care what anyone say a \$10,000.00 increase is unfair to the citizens and that is just my opinion. Most officers at least the ones I have spoken to the chiefs I have spoken to have done without so their staff can get it. We have a budget, we have to think about our citizens, and it is just not fair. That is just my opinion. Doing my research and talking to other chiefs in other departments. I think our officers deserve better, but I also think we need to be the verse of this community.

-As far as a city administrator, I do not think we will have one apply until after the election is over. Just being honest. Because they want to know who they will be working for.

-If, we put someone in place I would hope they are a registered voter before we put them on any board or even consider them and look at their voting record. Because if they do not even vote we should not even consider them, or maybe by that time they will be registered by next week.

-Happy to see you.

Alderman Alicia Smith

-As usual, I will be going around the community.

-First, I want to make a correction to the previous statement I made. My treasurer was actually Marcie Gooden and my campaign manager was Minister Joseph Oliverires, who was my special guest.

-I want to thank everyone for coming out and I want to let everyone know that are in Ward 4 that I will be riding the community. If you leave, your trash can out, please put your trashcan in where it should be.

-If you have any questions or comments you can email or text me as well.

-I hope we can find this -\$771,526.00 I think the community, citizens along with the board deserve an answer.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT)

- **Marci Gooden-94XX Duenke Drive**

-Thank you board for giving the officers their raises. I am a citizen and taxpayer so I appreciate it, and hopefully we will get some more officers on the street for us all.

-I want to thank the police department we were talking with a couple of residents in Ward 4 about derelict cars and I have saw a few of them gone this week. I do not know what you guys did or court system but they are gone, except the Black Mercedes we are still working on that.

-I just want to ask a question you can take it however. I was listening to you guys and I am an HR professional for 30 years. I know that things are always in black and white that is just what we go by. **Attorney White –**

Coleman can agree with that. Black and white is the answer. I listen to you guys sometimes, and I am not sure if you are preparing when you look at ordinances, or are you understanding what they entail. Or, is there a way you guys can review them to update them because there were some saying why are we getting raises and no performance and that is not what we do in HR. You get a performance review then you get a raise. OK. So I think you guys need to kind of look at these ordinances to be better prepared cause I was a little concerned. I just want to be safe and have a happy long weekend. I just appreciate the police department doing their job and I appreciate the board of aldermen. You guys are doing what citizens expect you guys to do. But, there is always room for improvement.

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

-I do not know what else to say, I just want to make sure as a board you have the financial information that you need. I think one of the important questions I asked the chief a while ago is (and I am not complaining for not having it) what the average overtime run raise is. So we can know what the police officers all in salary in was before benefits. We don't have that number so the 47,000 sounds very low but I would like to know what does that look like since we are running the officers 12 hours a day, which is running on par, what does their pay look like now with that rate, getting paid time and a half now for your overage. \$47,000 can become \$60,000. So I am just trying to figure that out, I have not heard any numbers all I heard is emotions and everything else. I support the raise but I am an accountant and I need to know the numbers so if the numbers. We have a fiduciary duties to us the citizens, so if you are not talking numbers, you not talking dollars and cents. You are not doing the citizens justice I have not heard those numbers. I do not blame the chief for not answering the question when I asked him months ago. I am also upset because again I asked Patrick or the Mayor, in November 2021 about this audit for the 2021 year. We are a year and 3 or 4 months later and Mr. Green still be patient. I have waited a year and 4 month after the deadline, I think I have been more than patient. I would like all hands on deck to get this done before the election. I think this is a disservice. To have an FY 2023 election we cannot even discuss FY21 results and use that as a barometer to measure those who are running. That is not fair to us. I have not seen a letter to go

to the people to explain the FY21. If it is in a newsletter, tell me the page where is the letter letting people know. People need to know if FY21 finances are not where they need to be and we are still fumbling about producing the deliverable. Where is at in the Newsletter Alease is talking about or where is the self-letter to the public so they will be adequately informed about where we stand financially.

-I just think communication is up leveled, I am tired of the politics, and I want the board to have what you need to have.

-I feel there is compartmentalization going on, on the board where certain people are getting certain people are getting things and other people are not. I am not comfortable with that, because all the board have fiduciary duties not just the mayor. Each one of you have that and if you do not have that information to make an informed decision, you are still putting the city in peril. It does not seem like everyone is getting the same information, that there is a dynamic going on and I am not comfortable with, and I think you need to get in a special meeting to find out why that is happening.

-Compliance issues with reviews. Reviews done first then raises.

-When we hire a collector. This one started November 2021, this bond issue should have been resolved calendar year 2022. You can choose January, February, March, April, May, June or July. Why is it taking a year and 3 months, there is a due diligence that needs to happen. I am not blaming him, he should take the position, but the city has a due diligence to make sure he is bonded and insured. I asked plenty of times was he bonded and insured. This is what I got, now we working on it. It is just not working for me. I think the city can do better. I do not want perfection. I do not want the city to take its sweet old time. Years or months, things that can be done very quickly.

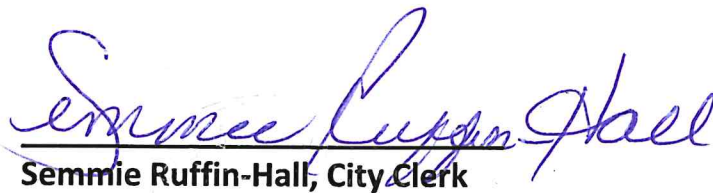
-I still support the board, I think you should get paid more than \$375 a month as aldermen. I think that is unfair to you all, but there is a whole lot of more room to evolve.

ADJOURNMENT-Alderman James Thomas, Sr. made a motion to go into close session. **Alderman James Thomas read the** called for an all-in favor, **8 -Yays/ 0 Nays.** The meeting adjourned to close session at 9:45pm.

Alderman Regina Harmon-Ward made a motion to come out of close session, second made by **Alderman Peg Warnuz**. **Mayor** called for an all-in favor, **8 -Yays/ 0 Nays**. Meeting adjourned at 10:30pm.

Alderman Alease Dailes-made a motion to adjourn, second made by **Alderman Alicia Smith**. **Mayor** called for an all-in favor, **8 -Yays/ 0 Nays**. Meeting adjourned at 10:32pm.

ATTEST:


Semmie Ruffin-Hall, City Clerk

Approved by the Board of Aldermen on

3-2-23