

**CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS, MISSOURI
BOARD OF ALDERMEN SPECIAL VIA ZOOM
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY JUNE 26, 2023-6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT Mayor Dinah Tatman, City Attorney Dorothy White-Coleman.

Mayor Tatman CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER at 6:05 p.m.

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

- Alderman Peg Warnusz-Present
 - Alderman Theresa Hester-Present
 - Alderman Lynette VonSeggern-Ward-EXCUSED
 - Alderman (Board President) James Thomas, Sr.-Present
 - Alderman Regina Harmon-Ward-Present
 - Alderman Alease Dailes-Present
 - Alderman Alicia Smith-Present
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- **Six Present/ One Absent** -Quorum was established.

Mayor asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Alderman Alicia Smith made a motion to approve the agenda for June 26, for the special meeting to pay the over and under bills from our meeting on June 22, 2023, **Alderwoman Regina Harmon Ward. Mayor asked** if there were any questions. **Board President Thomas stated** concerning check #46011 in the invoice it is 17008 and 17009 and 017023. We need to amend the agenda due to the fact that all these bills are over the limit for a bid that is needed. **Mayor stated** actually they are not. They are three different bids for three different parts of the building, so we have lumped them together on one check, but they were individual bids, we do have the bid information which is allowable. **Board President asked** if the bids were given to the Board. Mayor stated they do not have to go to the board if they are \$10,000 or under. **Mayor stated** I sent the ordinance over to the board. **Board President stated** he read it said bids still have to be obtained, Mayor stated bids were obtained and does not have to be approved by the board if you read **Sec 2-249. Sec C-1:**

- Items estimated to cost ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) or more can be purchased only after obtaining formal written and sealed bids or by special board action on sole source, specialized and non-standard items.
- Items estimated to cost between two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) and nine thousand nine hundred ninety-nine dollars ninety-nine cents (\$9,999.99) may be purchased by the director of purchasing after obtaining three (3) or more price quotations on company stationery.

Mayor stated that is the procedure that was followed if you would look at it before you, one bid was \$6,200 another was \$5,700 and the third one was \$1,344.00. All of these meet the criteria under **section 2-249**. **Mayor stated** she would like to refer to legal counsel if there are any more questions or clarity that is needed **Alderman Alease Dailes stated** she can answer this question as well it has to be brought to the board, its **American Recuse Plan Funds**, there was no vote taken. They may be individual bills; however, they are going to one company for **\$13,234.00** and anything under the **American Rescue Plan** need to be voted on by the board and the bids need to be presented to the board. For the record so she can have that on file. **Attorney Dorothy White-Coleman stated** she heard some information she was not certain about, did **Alderman Dailes** mention ARPA Funds (**Mayor stated yes**), what is the source of payment, **Mayor stated** these are coming out of the General Budget, **Alderman Dailes stated no** it says the American Recuse Plan Act and it says \$13,234. It is three separate bids going to one company and it was not brought before the board, there was not a vote on it nor has the board been provided with the bids. **Mayor stated** and the question was under **Sec 2-249. Sec C-1 under Director of Purchasing**. Even though it is going to one company that company did three different parts of the building:

- One Bid the Police Department
- Second Bid Administrative Wing
- Third was the cleaning of the floors

All of those under the permitted amount do not have to be brought before the board and the Director of Purchasing, with three bids which we got from three different companies can make that determination. **Alderman Dailes stated her question again** it is not a question it is a statement under the **American Recuse Plan**, which is Federal Funds, we were not provided with the bids, and it is one

company they may have done different bids for each room, but they did the cleaning at one time. **\$13,234.00** is going to one company. We were not provided the RFQ's, or the bids and I need to look at the **American Recuse Plan** to see if this is under the safety plus it needs to be board approved. **Attorney Dorothy White-Coleman stated** with respect to the **ARPA Funds** it was not my understanding it would be out of ARPA Funds is that correct **Mayor Tatman, Mayor responded** that is correct. **Alderman Dailes stated** I can only go by what is stated on our sheet, **American Recuse Plan Act**. **Alderman Smith** stated outside of that **Sec 2-252** talks about purchase orders, and it does limit \$10,000.00 but it does state in **Sec B (like Baker)**:

- Requests for bids for items of more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) should be submitted at least six (6) weeks in advance of the time the materials or services will be needed. Delivery of many goods will demand advance planning and early ordering.

Alderman Smith stated it does show that a bid should have been submitted. **Mayor** stated and a bid was submitted for each section of the building as stated before, **Attorney Dorothy White-Coleman (interjected) and stated Mayor Tatman** they were cleaned at separate times, right? **Mayor said** yes, they were. **Attorney Dorothy White-Coleman stated** that you got a bid for each portion of the building that was cleaned by this company. Is that the way this transpired? **Mayor stated**, yes, we did. And you really did not need a formal bid, **Mayor interjected** and stated we knew this might be an issue so we did it anyway, so we have the bids here, we did it that way we knew that might be called into question. **Alderman Dailes stated** let me say this, so you did it separately, **Alderman Dailes stated for the record** knowing that each bid would be under \$10,000.00 so when it came to the total of **\$13,234.00** it would not be questioned. **Mayor Tatman stated** no, that is not what I said. I said we got bids let me clarify and state what I meant. Because the interpretation is incorrect. What I said was even though bids are not required we added an extra layer of clarification for transparency, so under **Sec 2-249.**, it states the direct procedure of what on what is to be put in place and we followed those procedures. **Alderman Thomas stated** that even though you knew that you did not need the bids, you got the bids anyway. **Mayor said** yes Sir. **Alderman Thomas stated** even as a courtesy and you knew there was going to be a situation are a problem or a question to this purchase just asking a question why you did not present this to the board, and we would not be even

having this discussion. **Mayor stated**, first of all it is not required, and I do not have to. I did it as an extra layer of transparency. As to why I did it, we have been doing a lot of things that are not required but as an extra layer of transparency we have been offering this board extra transparency and extra information that is not even required. **Attorney Dorothy White-Coleman stated** it was my understanding when this initially came up there were people who had contacted COVID and there were other illnesses that were in the building, and you felt the need to have it cleaned? **Mayor stated** yes. **Attorney Dorothy White-Coleman stated** you acted with a certain amount of expediency as a result. **Mayor stated** that was one thing in our city-wide meeting, you are absolutely correct. Unanimously the first thing that the employees asked and all the building. We have not even gotten the Recreation Center cleaned yet. Because we had two outbreaks of COVID in this building and the vents had not been cleaned for over 30 years. I have pictures; we have dead mice and birds and everything. And because we have three employees with pulmonary issues that can be tied back to dirty air and a dirty building. Not only did we get the vents cleaned we also got the carpets cleaned and the floors. I have pictures, I will show the board the next time we meet in person. If the **Health Department** (which we did call) if we show the Health Department the pictures of our vents; the reason you cannot pinpoint per say our building had not been getting clean air because all of the ducts (100%) of the air ducts were blocked. So, all the germs and air coming into the building were coming out of the cold air ducts. That is why they were so dirty. Not only that but ALL of the vents had mold (we have pictures) so when we had the three different companies come in, we called the Health Department first. And they did recommend a couple of companies and yes, we did need to get it cleaned. So that is the reason. **Alderman Smith stated**, so I have two concerns with this company (**Dalmatian Cleaning and Restoration**) I do not know where to begin; this company lists an address of 33 Mercury Drive which is a private home this is not a cleaning business outside of that, there is a Dalmatian Cleaning and Restoration Company listed but not for this address, but for me looking at the company, I don't know it to be is it the address or is it the company who did the cleaning it list the company but the address is not correct. **Mayor Tatman interjected and stated**, thank you Alderman Smith because you are good at this would you also check the **Better Business Bureau** because we did that to, we have their certificate from the **Better Business Bureau**, so they were totally vetted. And what I am going to do, I know this is important, I do not want to prolong this any longer if this board has an issue with us cleaning the building for the health of our employees and it was

done decently and in order. Also, it was checked before we did that. I want that on record too. **Mayor stated** if you (**Alderman Smith**) would check the **Better Business Bureau** we have all the papers here if you want to see them. **Alderman Smith asked** if she could finish her question. She stated there is a business at 13574 Industrial Drive, but it is in Bridgeton 63044, and it does list their telephone number of (314) 423-0101 so is it them or is it the people at 33 Mercury, which is for me. Outside of that there is an **Ordinance number of Sect 2-253-C, C** like Charlie that talks about purchases and emergency purchases to not exceed \$5000 without board of alderman approval. I get the whole thing, but for me I think this is a conversation I had with you guys, meaning the board and with you Mayor, for me I am confused on what is so new compared to a year ago in regard to how things were done and what was being presented to the board. That is confusing for me, starting out as an elective official. I am being presented with specific things and it is coming to the board and now all of a sudden, I am being told I do not have to. Well, was this the proper procedure then or is it the proper procedure now? It forces me to go look. No offense Mayor you throw State Statues and there are Federal Statues too and Federal trumps State. So how far is the rabbit hole going to go? She is not going to let it go far, we need to end this conversation. If the board does not want to pay this bill, I will let you guys deal with the legal issues and ramifications I think we kind of exhausted the conversation on this, If we can move forward and you can make a motion or not but I want to end the conversation I think we have exhausted all of the avenues, if anyone wants to see the bids you welcome to come see the bids, you welcome to come see the license, the Better Business Certificate that we have on this company we have on this company. **Alderman Smith asked** if we have any other bids. Was this the only one? **Mayor stated** no, we have all the bids of actually four companies. That we sent the bids out too. So, we have them here if anyone would like to see them.

Mayor stated I would like to end the discussion here. **Alderman Dailes stated** she has a question if I may, a point of order this is the board of aldermen talking and it was called for a discussion and there are some more questions that are on the floor and at least I would like to ask my question and state that, it's not that we don't care. I am just going about what I heard you say, if yall do not care about the staff. Yes, we do care about the staff and everybody in there, however if you say transparency. **Mayor stated** exactly. **Alderman Dailes stated** what is wrong with informing the board because we would not be here today and its not about you stopping the discussion if there is a discussion and the board of alderman

want to ask as many questions as they want. **Mayor interjected** and states as the Chairman, **Alderman Dailes stated** but we ask a question. **Mayor stated** I did not say you could not, but as the Chairman point of order, I am calling a point of order and I am inviting the board if you want the extra documentation, it is free and transparent, and you can do that. And so, I am calling a point of order and I am asking either we make a motion or table it, whatever the boards pleasure. So, I will go back to saying that I would ask for the approval of the agenda, we did that. The next is the **approval of invoices over \$500 dated June 1-June 14, 2023, in the amount of \$77,907.38- (Can be found on 06-15-23 Agenda).**

Board President Thomas made a motion to amend the agenda and remove check #46011, invoice #17008, invoice #17009 and invoice #017023. The minutes and the RFQ must be provided because we are using **Federal ARPA Funds** and also within this motion to remove check #46013 and we ask that the City Clerk please provide the minutes and the vote tally of the board of aldermen for this purchase. I would also add to this motion that all of the bids be provided to the board for review since the work has already been done. I want to put this on the record, if we are going to be transparent, then we need to be transparent from the beginning not at the end. **Alderman Thomas stated** that is the motion. **Mayor Tatman** made a statement because one of those checks in a reimbursement for myself and I want it for the record that the board wants to remove check #46013 which is reimbursement for the **mayor** in the amount of \$659.82 which were items that were bought for Memorial Day Co-Sponsorship Program, for the record. Now may I have a second. **Alderman Dailes, second and** with that second its Ok and we honor our veterans we just want transparency, and I second that motion.

Mayor Tatman states with the insinuating remark of not having transparency, there are things that the government has authority that the board can be informed but does not have authority to make decisions over. I want to make that clear. Mayor stated a motion has been made and seconded. **Mayor called for an all in-favor. Alderman Smith stated** she has a discussion. I would like to amend the amendment, there is an incorrect amount of check #46039 in the amount for the aquatics area the bill is \$1,000 on the check ledger it says \$1,120.65 however the bill provided is says \$1,120.56 so it is a .09 cents difference so that will bring the total from \$77,907.38 to \$77,907.29 and that is if all the bills are paid in full.

Check #46043 this check ledger says it is from June 1 through June 14th the first order in the first bill is an office expense of \$18.17 but it is from May 26th, but that bill should not be in this ledger. Mayor stated what we have done for you all so the checks can be in sequential order instead of separating the overs and unders it is going to bring the checks out of sequence. **Alderman Smith stated** she is not concerned with the amount I am concerned with the date. The date says May, we are paying bills from June 1st so why are we paying a bill from May 26th that is included in June's bills. Mayor stated that the bill was received late. **Alderman Dailes stated** with James's amendment (not with the ones that Alicia stated) but the total will be \$64,013.56 he just did not say the amount.

Mayor stated we will vote on the first motion that is on the floor to amend the agenda and to remove check #46011, invoice #17008, invoice #17009 and invoice #017023 and also check #46013, **Mayor asked for a second, Alderman Lynette VonSeggern seconded. Mayor called for roll call.**

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

- Alderman Peg Warnusz-Yes
- Alderman Theresa Hester-No
- Alderman Lynette VonSeggern-Ward-Yes
- Alderman (Board President) James Thomas, Sr.-Yes
- Alderman Regina Harmon-Ward-Yes
- Alderman Alease Dailes-Yes
- Alderman Alicia Smith-Yes
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Six Yes/ One-No. Motion passed.

Alderman Dailes made the motion to approve the under \$500 for June 1 through June 14, 2023, in the amount of \$4,543.27, Alderman Harmon-Ward seconded. Mayor called for discussion. Mayor called for an all-in favor:

Seven -Yays/ No-Nays Motion passed.

Alderman VonSeggern made a motion to approve invoices over 500 for June 15th through June 23, 2023, in the amount of \$33,829.28, second by Alderman Warnusz. Mayor asked any questions. Alderman Hester states she cannot make a conscious decision on voting on bills over \$500 because she does not have that

information. **Mayor asked for any other questions. Alderman Smith** inquired about #46044 in the amount of \$692.62 but there is a lot of information scratched out. Was this a payroll check, it was manual check. Mine is blurry. **City Clerk responded** it was a payroll check. **Mayor called for an all in-favor:**

Six Ayes- (Alderman Hester could not make a conscious decision to vote) Motion passed.

Alderman Smith made a motion to call for a close session in regard to newfound information in regard to a personnel matter at a later date, not today. Alderman Dailes second. Mayor called for any questions. Alderman Hester, can we have it over zoom. The consensus was it will be over zoom. Mayor called for an all in-favor:

Seven-Ayes/ No-Nays. Motion passed.

Mayor asked for a motion to adjourn. Alderman Smith made a motion to adjourn todays Special Board Meeting for 06-26-23 in regard to paying the bills for June 1 through June 14th, 2023, and June 15th, 2023, for the overs and unders for both dates. Second made by Alderman Dailes.

Mayor called for an all-in favor.

Seven-Ayes/ No-Nays. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.

ATTEST:



Semmie Ruffin-Hall, City Clerk

Approved by the Board of Aldermen on 12-07-23