

**CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS, MISSOURI
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
MEETING MINUTES VIA ZOOM
THURSDAY-JULY 20, 2023-7:30 P.M.**

ROLL CALL MADE AT BEGINNING BUT RECORDING WAS NOT ON. CALLED ROLL AT END TO VERIFY QUORUM.

PRESENT Mayor Dinah Tatman, Sitting in for City Attorney Susie McFarlind, City Engineer Clayton Klein, Planning and Zoning Board Chairman Pat Barrett, Treasurer Rick Rognan and City Clerk Semmie Ruffin-Hall.

Mayor Tatman CALLED MEETING TO ORDER at 7:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY Mayor Dinah Tatman at 7:30 p.m.

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

- Alderman Alicia Smith-Present
- Alderman Alease Dailes-Present
- Alderman Regina Harmon-Ward-Present
- Alderman (Board President) James Thomas, Sr.-Present
- Alderman Lynette VonSeggern-Ward-Present
- Alderman Peg Warnusz-Present
- Alderman Theresa Hester-Present

Seven Present -Quorum was established.

President James Thomas, Sr. made a statement concerning the motion that was made on June 15, 2023 and recorded in the minutes where we asked that this meeting on July 20, 2023 be held as a budget meeting and to pay the bills. That did not happen and now we are faced with the agenda and it is my desire this evening to make motions to remove certain items on the agenda so we can get to the budget. Anyone else have anything as far as my comment. **Alderman Alicia Smith** that was a piece of mine, some of them were the bills I am confused on

how the bills are compared to how the bills were during the previous meeting that we met. I am trying to pull up the check numbers and actual bill so we can all speak on them

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT)

- **Yolanda Cox-105XX Byfield Drive**

- My mother and I are new to Bellefontaine. Been here going on 3 months. The issue we are having is our neighbor behind us they have two dogs and the one dog keep jumping over into my yard.

- Some of you may know Joey Lancaster he cuts my lawn every two weeks, this Monday had to call the police because the dog jumped over into my yard again, bit Joey on the back of his foot.

- Animal control came out unfortunately there is nothing they can do since dog did not break any skin.

- One looks like a pit bull and can put his paws on my fence and if he does that he can jump my fence.

- I am unable to do yard work because of this.

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

- Just a few things. (One)-I want to thank the City for completing the FY 2021 Audit. There is much more work to be done. (Two) I was not physically here but I was concerned in the audit some of the deliverables related to the Finance Department I honestly believe even if there was a preliminary discussion that is outside the scope of this meeting. I believe the Finance Director needs to be here. When Angela Dorn from Sikich was going over the audit report there were things where the bank reconciliation do not quite look right there are still items of checks that do not seem to clear year after year. I think the Finance Director needs to be here.

- I am talking specifically about the Audit Report from FY 19, FY 20 AND FY 21. I will forward that report to each of the Aldermen because I think you clearly need to understand what financial findings were in each one of those reports and which items are repeating themselves over and over.

- These are internal control lapses. Some of these issues may have to be resolved behind closed sessions.

- I think not for me, but in closed sessions, the board need to talk to Angela Dorn about any struggles she had in terms of producing that FY 21 Audit. We are making many assumptions of what is going on in the back office. I think as stewards of the cities money you need to keenly know what

blockage is happening whether it is by Sikich, the former mayor (Tommie Pierson) that we are not doing the audit because Sikich allegedly had a talent issue or do we have internal issues. Because there were 44, audit adjustments that is what Sikich did for the FY 21 Audit. That is many adjustments. FY 20 we had 26 and that is still an unseemly amount.

-We need to look at the comment that is repeating itself year made by Patrick Howard (whether he is here or not) which is management and the board must look at the education and the expertise and training of the Finance staff. That has been the comment in FY 19, FY 20 and FY 21.

Especially on the Governmental Audit side of the Standard Report.

-What things have been done to address that?

-This issue is spilling over in order for us to comply with state law.

-Research, investigation and discussion is not over for the board, yawl need these answers because again we already lost our bond rating.

- **Wanda Lane-99XX Martingale Road**

-Because of state statue now I do not know if we can do this because of the situation we are in that Mr. Green mentioned, but we should have three years of running audits for the citizens.

-The issue regarding education for training that had been an issue from two administrations. It has always been an issue. Therefore, that is not new.

-I want to talk very briefly about city services. I asked the board in writing if you could tell me one service that the city if providing for the citizen. The reason I am bringing this up is, there was a time when those of us who care about maintaining our yard, could cut down the branches and take them to the curb and the city would come and put them in the chipper. We no longer have that service, I asked. The chipper still works but we do not have the personnel that is the issue.

-We talked about essential workers; we talked about it last week. Citizens in my opinion should get services from our city, especially in light of; I know my real estate taxes have gone up astronomically. Therefore, I have to pay someone to come pick up limbs, pay them to take them away and dump them. We do not have a county dump to my knowledge, so that is an inconvenience.

-We just opened a very nice Recreation Center, very nice. I asked the director what we need to do get citizens more involved in the Recreation Center. He explained to me he is short staffs and several positions need to be filled.

-Personally I think if all our positions were filled and people were doing their job we probably would not have to have a City Manager. But the other side is that person really is responsible for everything that is happening in the city. I just think that I would like you all as we talk about the budget to consider these other issues that are truly citizen oriented. Truly, services for the city, I wish you all would consider that.

-Lastly Mayor regarding The Riverview Garden School District. Our SAB (Special Administrative Board) we will have a joint training session with the Normandy Collaborative Board as well. Because there are several issues between our two districts that have come up since The April 4 election, where there is no decorum, bickering and The MSBA (Missouri School Board Association) thinks we need more training and we agree to that as well. Because we have to work together. We never had this issue until the April 4 election. However, we are here now so I am going to encourage all citizens, I know it is a big sacrifice but when we have these positions open and we don't have anyone to run there is no choice what the citizens have, this is what happens. We have to have options.

- **Fay Davis-97XX Colony Drive**

-I live in the First Ward. When are we going to get an Alderperson to serve with Alderwoman Hester?

-I think you talked about this before I got here about the court record that was tabled, tabled and then tabled again. Have you all discussed that or came to some kind of decision. –Ms. Davis was advised it is on the agenda to discuss.

-Do we have a Business License Collector? –Ms. Davis was advised it is our City Clerk Semmie Ruffin-Hall and our Finance Director-Lori Lenz.

-I came in on the Special Meeting Mayor you had called on June 26, 2023 about flowers for Alderwoman VonSeggerns brother, \$132.00, what was that about. Mayor Tatman, stated as a courtesy, she is part of the board. City Clerk intervened stated we misspoke. The \$132.00 was for Jimmy (Parks and Recreation Director), wife for an extensive surgery she had. . Mayor Tatman stated as a courtesy we sent an edible to Alderwoman Lynette VonSeggern (she also was reelected) and then she had a death of her brother. Therefore, we do those things for our board and our staff as a courtesy. Part of a morale builder.

- **Delores Evans-93XX Melanie Drive**

-My question is the streets, what are we doing about them. Especially at my house at the end of the curve, there are potholes. Mayor Tatman stated she will let her Director of Public Works or the City Engineer can answer that. Jeff Ross (Director of Public Works) stated we have in the budget still street bond money. There are different areas of the city we have to bring in an engineer to re-access those roads. We have four different sections that are left to be done. Therefore, the Mayor and we are looking at bringing in an engineer and accessing the roads. I know Melanie is bad, there are some in Bissell. They are all over. That was not done on the first go round. We have about \$932,000 left in there. Mayor Tatman stated \$939,000 and we added \$50,000 for lights. We still have \$939,000 for lights and the bond issue that was done in 2017 and we have to hurry up and get that money out, but we have to get it out properly. Therefore, we are making assessments like Jeff said we have an engineer coming in to help us through that process and then make an assessment on what streets we can do. In addition, we are embarking on several grants that we are looking at and we are writing.

- **Karen Green-90X Surrey Lane**

-There is an abandoned house on our block. Therefore, I called earlier to put it on record that the grass needs to be cut. Therefore, what is the process and period? The home is being foreclosed and going back to bank. At what stage will the city step in? Mayor Tatman stated she would let Felicia Bishop (Code Enforcer) respond. What first will happen is I have to come out, inspect the property, and take photos. I tag the house with a seven-day notice. It has a re-inspection date. Eight day I go out and re-inspect and at that time, if they do not come into compliance then I refer to Jeff (Director of Public Works) he puts it on his agenda and has his crew go out and cut it. Regarding it being taken over by the bank, normally when the bank takes over most banks are good to make sure the property is pretty well maintained.

- **Patricia Ann Douthit-94XX Adler**

-Problem that I have is a summons I received on 5/6. I spoke to Major Willis and he gave me 10 days. Detective Willis gave my finance a ticket to come to court. I do not understand how the Major gave 10 days to move the car then the Detective give me a ticket in the mail stating he took a picture on the 16th. From the eighth from the 16th is not 10 days. They keep on doing this to this house right here. I do not mess with nobody, I do

not talk to nobody and I do not want nobody talking to me. In that order. Do I need to go get a lawyer, because this is unacceptable? Mayor Tatman stated to bring your evidence to your court date.

- **Barbara Walker-1XX Green Acres**

-My question is about our streets. We live in Green Acres sub division, which is supposed to be a private association. However, at some point, it has been more than 10 years; part of Green Acres was sold and surrendered by to Bellefontaine Neighbors. You people have done nothing for our street. Our poor street is actually coming apart. Whom are we supposed to go to get that street repaired? Jeff (Director of Public Works) I remember speaking to you and you Mayor about that, but that should be part of the street grant.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Tatman called for a motion to approve the agenda. **Alderman Alease Dailes** made a motion to approve agenda with an amendment. To do a special meeting for item #8, #9 table item #16 until August 2023. Second made by **Alderman Regina Harmon-Ward**. **Mayor** called any further discussion. **Alderman Theresa Hester** asked if this is to discuss the onetime payment for the employees. Special Meeting is to approve the bills. **Mayor** stated all in favor:

7-Ayes/0-Nayes. Ayes have it motion passed.

PRESENTATION OF UNAPPROVED MINUTES (B.O.A Regular Meeting Minutes 06-

01-23)-Alderman James Smith made a motion to approve the unapproved minutes, second made by **Alderman Regina Harmon-Ward**. **Mayor** called for any questions. **Alderman Alease Dailes** stated there should be a correction under **Alderman Alease Dailes**, last paragraph she **(being the City Clerk)** put **Alderman Alicia Smith**, it should just be a name change. **City Clerk** duly noted and made the change from **Alderman Alicia Smith to Alderman Alease Dailes**. **Mayor** stated all in favor:

7-Ayes/0-Nays. Motion passed to approve unapproved minutes.

NEW POLICE OFFICER INTRODUCED BY CHIEF IHLER

- Joseph (Joe) Edwards-Officer Andrae Spraggins recognizes Joe as the greatest thing since sliced bread and he is his mentor.

- Joe has about 30 some years of law enforcement under his belt.
- He has a lot of assistance with the children outreach program and family assistance.
- He brings leadership, management, risk management and crisis intervention management.
- **Alderman Alease Dailes** asked **Officer Edwards** what city did he come from and he stated Columbia, IL. Left Berkley to come to Bellefontaine Neighbors. Mayor stated he has two beautiful Daughters (23-year-old twins) and wants to move into the community. Officer Edwards states he is an ole school police officer, I think it is important that you live in the community you police

BUILDING DEPARTMENT REPORT-CODE ENFORCER-(FELICIA BISHOP)

- I wanted to inform you of the progress being made regarding the city. As I become more settled into my position, my plan is to shake the city up. It is time homeowners, renters and management companies become aware of our ordinances and begin to comply. I hope that this breakdown provides insight on my efforts.

Regards,
 Felicia Bishop
 Code Enforcement

NUISANCE LETTERS

TALL GRASS	11
TRASH/DEBRIS	17
ROOF (DAMAGE) TARPS	3
REPAIR/REPLACE DOORS	2
SIDING	2
ANIMAL NEST	1
NO VISIBLE ADDRESS	3
VEGETATION	26
DEAD TREE	4
GARAGE REPAIR/REPLACE	6
AWNINGS	7
GUTTERS	6
ROTTEN WINDOW CASING	2
ROTTEN WOOD REAR PORCH	3
WINDOW TREATMENTS/SCREENS	2

FASCIA PAINTING	1
ROTTEN WOOD FRONT OF HOUSE	1
HANDRAILS	1
DOG	3
MOLD	1
OUTDOOR FIXTURE/LIGHTPOLE	1
YARD WASTE	1

- TOTAL 63 NOTICES/103 VIOLATIONS
- STOP WORK/NO ENTRY ORDER ON 9300/9310/9312 LEWIS CLARK (NO CONDITIONAL USE REVIEW, NO PERMITS) per ordinance Article XVI Chapter 29, sec., 29-94
- STOP WORK/ NO ENTRY/ UNSAFE ORDER ON 1039 ADDISON. This property owner in required to provide documentation from a structural engineer the integrity of the home. Then must comply with all further permit process as detailed in our ordinances. Per ordinance 2034 s1, 5-4-2006: Ord. NO 2162 s1,2-3-2011. Ord No 2034 s 1,5-4-2006; ord no.2162 s1,2-3-2011, ord. chapter 5 sect 5-120 & sec 1-10 Code 1964, s 1-8; No.1877 s1, 4-5- 2001
- CODEMNATION: 936 Fontaine is in desperate need of attention. These home have been neglected by the listed owner or abandoned. One house has had sewage backup for years as well as trash, tall grass, debris rotten roof etc., this is a health and safety issue as well as nuisance to neighbors.
- The other house 944 Fontaine has a rodent infestation, damaged roof, trash, debris etc.; I have discussed these matters with my chain of command and plan to proceed within the guidelines legally in having these structures taken down.
- I have made contacts within Saint Louis County, to assure my steps in the in sync with current BOCA guidelines/procedures.
- All things require proper procedure, policy and patience.

CITY ENGINEER/BUILDING REPORT - (CLAYTON KLEIN)

- My reports are attached. Getting another, Inspector will help get more of these done.
- It is great having **Felicia (Code Enforcer)** walking around getting up and close and personal with the building department.

- I have been working close with The Mayor and Chief Ihler and Jeff. We are trying to get grants together for improving our streets both surface and safety wise; lighting and speed bumps.
- Ameren has some exciting programs that they are trying to work with us for lights.
- They also have mentioned they will be sending out their engineers at the areas we have designated that we need help with the lights. They will survey it to determine what exactly we may need. We have been asking just to change out light fixtures but they may have something that may help illuminate the streets.
- Obviously, we do not want to have the lights shining into your homes. There are features on the fixtures that can add shade coming into your home and still illuminate the streets.
- I do want to give a shout out to Jimmy, also Pat Barrett were a big help getting the recreation center up. There are still some things that need to be completed.
- Full payment will not to be paid until everything is completed.

PLANNING AND ZONING REPORT- (PAT BARRETT)

- Planning & Zoning held a meeting this past Monday 6/12/23. Since, there was no new business to be discussed; we took the opportunity to review Conditional Use Permits. We reviewed applicable sections of the city code:
 - A. -Sec. 29-94 (Conditional use regulations – purpose)
 - B. -Sec. 29-95 (Conditional use regulations – procedures)
 - C. -Sec. 29-96 (Conditional use regulations – Conditional uses in certain districts)
- The reasons for reviewing this matter with members are that it's been a while since we've had anyone *properly apply* for a conditional use permit and we've had a couple recent applications:
- Pastor Trish Williams/True Transformation Church @ 10600 Bellefontaine. We have her LOI but no other documentation required by the city code – No out boundary survey, no legal description, no credible authorization by or establishment of ownership of the property. Applicant is a lessee. She is proposing to open & operate a homeless shelter for women & their children, which is not an allowed use in the R1 Single family dwelling district the church is located in.

- Ms. Tawana Austin/Royalty Café & Events @ 9312 Lewis & Clark who has very recently submitted all required documents for a CUP (The C1 Local business district the shopping center is located in requires a CUP for a restaurant per Sec. 29-96(4)(c) of the city code).

Mayor asked if there were any questions for Planning and Zoning. **Alderman James Thomas, Sr.**, yes Pat when the homeless shelter did not she come before the board like last year. **Pat** stated she came before planning and zoning in February of this year. **Alderman Thomas** stated you must have given that in your report before because she came before. Did you tell her she could not do it, **Pat stated** he told her she needed a conditional use permit? I laid out the entire requirements per the city code in order to do that. She has sent in a lot of documents but only the letter of intent needs to be intentional code no outbound, **Alderman Thomas stated** no he was talking about the point that we don't allow women shelters isn't that what you said. **Pat** said homeless shelters are not allowed use in residential district; **Alderman Thomas stated** you did tell her that. **Alderman Thomas stated** he is trying to figure out why she came back a second time if she was told they are not allowed. Did she not follow through the first time? **Clayton Klein** stated the first time she was just inquiring. **Alderman Thomas stated** you might want to remind her so that she does not go out and spend a lot of money. **Pat** stated he agrees with you. The city attorney and I have talked about that very subject. I have to come up with a way of delicately talking to her about wasting time and money. There is a \$400 fee involved and sometimes these are small businesses, I would suggest and informal discussion with planning and zoning before they go through with the formal application. Just to get an idea what the city requires and not spending money unnecessarily and that was our discussion with this person initially. They have not come before P&Z formally; we are still waiting for their documentation. **Alderman Alicia Smith stated** the city engineer answered her question. It just was not logical in my mind why would we even allow a usage permit for something we do not allow in the city. So if we do not allow it in the city if we allow the usage permit, the usage to do what? **Felicia Bishop stated** you are misinterpreting it, it does not mean it will be allowed. It is still a process. The board may know it is not going to happen, but we have to let that business owner make their own educated guess if they want to try to proceed hoping they will sway through or not. You still have to allow them to go through the process. Even if it not allowed. That is why it is called special

use permit because they are hoping it is allowed in an area it is not allowed. **Alderman Alicia Smith stated** the city engineer did explain that.

POLICE REPORT (CHIEF JEREMY IHLER)

- Crime and Activity Report YTD compared to last year
 - A. Three more homicides than last year.
 - B. No incidents of rape.
 - C. This time last year, we had six robberies and so far, we have had none.
 - D. Assaults are up just 3%. (58
 - E. Burglaries are down 10%. (19 vs 21 incidents)
 - F. Larceny down 27% (48 incidents)
 - G. Motor vehicle theft up 38%
 - H. Arson is down 48%
 - I. Our Calls for service has gone up 20% as oppose to this time last year. Where we had more staff then we have now
 - J. Accidents we are down 11%
 - K. Motorist contact we are up 33%
 - L. In the last week, we had two officers resign. We have three opening.
 - M. I had the pleasure to talk to Felicia for about an hour. We are cut from the same cloth. Good conversation about enforcement. It will take a little bit of time. I think this will be a great working relationship between the police department and the building department.
 - N. Thanked the Mayor for getting ducts, carpet cleaned and thanks for getting and AC wall unit for downstairs.
 - O. Working in the building as long as I have many maintenance issues have not been addressed.

Mayor asked if there were any questions for The Chief. **Alderman James Thomas, Sr.,** yes Chief since we have lost three officers do you have anybody in the pool that you have interviewed with. **Chief Ihler stated** we do have a two people in the process and from what I understand by word of mouth, we have two or three more people interested. In addition, they are all experienced people that is who we are looking for. **Alderman Alicia Smith asked** how many officers are we short total. **Chief Ihler stated** the board decided I was authorized to have 19 police officers, 21 staff including 2 clerks. Right now, we have 16 police officers. Normally we are authorized 31 but because of the budget and with the pay increases we had to make some sacrifices. **Alderman Alicia Smith asked** if you

come across an employee that was terminated how you handle that in your department. Do you investigate their reason for being terminated? **Chief Ihler stated** absolutely we do a full background. We as law enforcement we actually have more leeway and more scope depth to do backgrounds. Therefore, if someone is terminated we can find out that information but obviously, other employers would be denied that information. **Alderman James Thomas, Sr.**, but now since **POST (PEACE OFFICERS STANDARD AND TRAINING)** notifies what you were terminated for if it is not unhireable offense. Correct? **Chief Ihler** stated sure it was up until the last few years reporting on how police officers got fired reporting to state was kind of glossed over. Really no protection with sharing that information with the state. Now there is a law that the state says you can be truthful with us know.

Alderman James Thomas, Sr., made a motion that we adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. I know that the budget is important; however, we will be here for a long time. I know that the citizens want to hear what the budget is and I do not think anyone of us want to be here until 11:30 like we were the last time. My motion is we adjourn the meeting at 9:15 for our next meeting we only deal with the budget and pay the bills. Second was made by **Alderman Theresa Hester**. **Mayor called** for an all in favor:

7-Ayes/0-Nays. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT- (RICK ROGNAN)

- Rick stated what we are going to have to do as soon as we are done with this because this budget will not be final by state statute carry over our existing budget. Therefore, we will make a motion tonight to carry that over our existing budget. Therefore, we can get the new budget approved on July 20, 2023.

Alderman Alease Dailes made the motion that we continue into the 2022/2023 budget until the 2023/2024 budget is completed and voted on by the Board of Alderman. Second made by **Alderman Theresa Hester**. **Mayor called** for an all in favor:

7-Ayes/0-Nays. Motion passed.

- The way the budget is set, the General Fund has a surplus of approximately \$4,928.00 and Capital Improvement has a surplus of approximately \$3,600.00. Nothing has changed since the original budget was presented to the board.
- Now this year we budgeted to have a surplus of about \$13,000 on those two combined. The city has done much better than that so keep in mind you done a great job. Therefore, from that prospective you can see we have a conservative budget. Each year is independent. We cannot anticipate what happens as we move forward. So keep that in mine.

Alderman Alease Dailes stated she wanted to go back to 2022/2023 budget do you have the numbers. **Rick** stated they are imbedded in this one too; on all the pages.

- Column number 5 on page 2 is the fiscal year budget that we are currently now operating under. In addition, the same one you agreed to move forward with at least one more month.
- Category 6 is what is being proposed tonight.

Alderman Alease Dailes stated if our budget was \$1,182,000 for fiscal year 2022/2023. **Rick** stated are we talking about revenue; **Alderman Dailes** stated no the actual budget for the whole city. **Rick** stated so if you look at each category so that will be the key way to look at this from the standpoint, go to the pages so everyone can see so it is much easier if you see it for yourself. Category 5 go to page four, page 4 there is the revenue for the general fund-\$4,397,298 that's the revenue. **Alderman Dailes** stated, what she is asking our actual budget for 2022/2023 was \$4,397,298. **Rick** stated for the general fund that is correct. That was the revenue, now the expense related to this fund so everyone can see the expenses that would be all the departments in the general fund, so keep in mind this is where the vast majority of your entire payroll and everything is paid out.

- Go to page #11 look at the bottom of column 5 total expenses were \$4,380,752 that left a surplus of \$16,526. That is where we ended last year.

Alderman Dailes stated her question is if our yearly expenses are \$4 million dollars we have a reserve of \$2 million dollars so would not it be better stewards to have at least what are budget is in our reserve. **Rick** stated at some point and time that would be the goal. I will say most political sub divisions have a hard time of getting to one whole year. So many things are out of your control. In addition, we will be talking more this year assuming **SB 190 (Modifies provisions relating to tax relief for seniors)** if everyone knows what is transpiring there. The senior citizen tax credit. If that is approved, what you are looking at today is

frozen, from a tax prospective. From a real estate, tax prospective is what going to transpire. As I said, you got all of these out of your control. One year would be perfect, if we could get through one year that would be outstanding. So I concur that would be the goal for the city. **Alderman Dailes** stated I guess because I am looking at \$2,000,000 for a city of our size and population. If we had a national disaster that would not help us at all, \$2,000,000 would not. **Rick** stated, nope depending on what transpires we agree that is when we have to reach out to SEMA and FEMA for assistance on anything of that nature as far as a natural disaster. All the political subdivisions will be in the same position. If you look around it would be hard to find a most cities that have a year or more sitting reserve.

Ideally, that would be the case, so the more you accumulate in reserve the first question the residents will ask is what you are doing? So that will be the dilemma as we build up, which we should but that means then we are not funding certain services. So keep in mind that is the general fund.

- The second one is capital improvements. Keep in mind we collect capital improvement taxes. Go to page #12 and you can see capital improvement we are bringing in about \$900,000. Column 5 then look on page #14 and you will see \$900,815 we had a surplus budgeting of \$1,185. Those are your two primary operating accounts for the city. After that, the rest is really, what they call passer accounts are ear marked for specific funds: Your Street Bond, AARPA, and Debt Services those are earmark for those specific items. That is all we can use those funds for.
- These are operating funds, so if you look at the combined of \$5.2 million dollars you have to operate here within the city. You can see for the most part we spend almost \$5.2 million dollars each year to operate.

Mayor asked if there were any questions. **Alderman Smith** stated I am on page 11. So for the Police Department salaries over this year of 2022/2023 of \$15,000.00. So where are we now for actual overtime? **Rick** stated, well right now the overtime unless it is being tracked in a different area, Chief I do not see it on the payroll report. I do not know how it is being recorded. **Chief Ihler** stated Lori would know. We have about ten codes we use for overtime. However, it is logged and kept track of it. Therefore, I do not know why it is not showing. **Rick** stated it is not broken out in the report that we get from Lori. **Alderman Smith** stated, so if we do not actually have a tracking system, how would I know these numbers are accurate and the only reason I am asking is when I look at the audit report **Angela Dorn** provided, it stated overtime was 1.9 million and you were

short men and it said the actual amount set was 1.9 million. Therefore, I was confused. **Chief Ihler** stated there was no way it could be 1.9 million. **Alderman Smith** stated I am just saying what it said, do not shoot the messenger. **Rick** stated if you go to the payroll analysis for all the departments. Let us look at page 20. Go to column four annualized so what you see is the payroll we budgeted this year verses what we are going to spend. We are going to spend less then what we budgeted this year, so look at it from that prospective. So there is, no way we would have had \$1.9 million dollars in overtime when the whole budget for this year was \$2.7. That means every dollar worked we would have had to pay overtime. I am not saying it is not there, I am just saying it could be the verbiage and it may be just taken out of context. If you could send it over to me and I will look at it. **Alderman Smith** asked if you provide the actual overtime to us by the next budget meeting of where we are in overtime. **Chief Ihler** stated he could ask **Lori** to produce it. **Rick** stated all we have to do is put that code number in. **Alderman Dailes** asked when you get the code can you email it to the board of aldermen so we can have the actual number. **Rick** stated certainly.

- Even with all the increases this year that were well deserved we still will be under budget and still spend less. So keep that in mind of all the good that transpired this year we are not spending more.
- You look at the budget this year was \$2.7 million dollars big change is this year's budget about payroll, so keep that in mind. That is going to be a big change with a lot that is being requested. Again, the term essential in my opinion every single employee in the city is essential.

Marcie Gooden stated we are taxpayers and we got the budget last year and why didn't we get it this year and we all sitting here listening to you guys and we have no numbers. It does not matter if it is a draft; I got a draft from last year. We are taxpayers that is our money why do not we have copies.

Alderman Smith stated she wanted to make a correction, I want to apologize Chief it is not overtime it is labor that is \$1.9 million. **Alderman Smith** stated her question to Jimmy does your employees have overtime, I did not see it on the budget. **Rick** stated we budgeted \$8,000 for overtime at the Recreation Center. **Mayor** also stated we budgeted in overtime for the Public Works Department for those that have to go out and do the snow and other things. All departments have overtime except the Administrative Department. **Alderman Smith** stated and that is where it is need to be. **Alderman Thomas** stated looking on page 24. It is a twofold question. We are budgeting for a City Administrator, but I see a greater need within the Public Works Department, I see a greater need for three

more employees that will allow the Public Works Department to give the city the services that they need. To go back to picking up the branches, simple things like that. And other duties that will help Public Works to get through what they need because I read the job description for a City Administrator I think if we fulfill all the positions other than that one we will be able to operate without that. **Mayor** stated that would be the decision for the Director of Public Works. **Alderman Dailes and Alderman Thomas** stated at the same time that would be the decision for the board. **Alderman Thomas** states he sees a need. He says where the citizen need is versus a City Administrator (no matter who it is). We have the availability to make that happen. **Alderman Smith** I think, I hope I am not talking out of term. I think what you were trying to say a department head would know how many people he would need, so allow him at least handle their department and communicate with the board. **Mayor** stated yes. **Alderman Smith** stated she concurred. There was a conversation I had last meeting with the Director in regards to a citizen's comment in regards to her limbs being picked up. If there is something on the books an ordinance, law or a rule or something else if a citizen call my department. By right, we handled it whether it is outdated or not. If it is there then your job is to provide the service, if you are short a man that is a personnel problem not a citizen problem is what I said. **Alderman Dailes** stated no disrespect Mayor, we have all spoken with Jeff we all know he is short staff and what we want you to do is take the City Administrator out and add three more positions into the public works. **Mayor** stated now we are trying to build a proficient government and a city administrator is something these citizens have been asking for, for eight to ten years. That is if you look at each department that is represented in government has an assistant. You guys have an assistant, which actually has become mine and it is not fair to her. Because she is doing the administrative work that, an assistant for me would do. The Chief has an administrative assistant, which is Ms. Angie W. Our director for public works he has someone who assists him; well Terri Case has been here for a while. What has happened, I am going to make it short because I have been here every day and to know what is needed. Therefore, the things that the government needs to run had to do is pull my Directors, plus the City Clerk to help me assist me in doing what I am doing. Therefore, what do we do about that piece? **Alderman Dailes** stated so what we want you to do is add those three positions to the public works department then we will come back after we have another solution for **Mayor Tatman** that we are going through Municipal League we are looking at positions. Therefore, we want to add the three positions and this is for the board if I am not

mistaken. The board is working on the budget we ask that you take that City Administrator out three positions into the public works department and then we will come back at the next meeting and we will have more things that we want to add that will be more beneficial to the staff that we are looking at as the board.

Mayor stated keep in mind again the Chief Administrative Officer has the authority to hire the staff that is needed through the directives we have. The board has the authority to adjust the budget. However, not to hire the staff. What I am saying you all have the final say over the budget, but the government, The Chief Administrative Officer has authority to hire the staff that is needed. **Alderman Dailes** stated within the budget. **Mayor** stated I just want to make that clear to citizens so they know the demarcation of authority.

Mayor called on **Mayor** stated **Wanda Lane (resident)**. **Mrs. Lane** stated she was under the impression from the last meeting, that this meeting was going to be a budget only meeting and the opportunity for citizens to express our concerns and our needs; and then when I saw the agenda with all the other things on there I realized that probably not going to actually happen. In addition, I know everybody is busy, I do not want another meeting either but I just think sometimes we have good reason for a special meeting to talk about a particular topic; I do not know how that got lost in communication. In addition, regarding citizens services, again we just opened up a brand new beautiful recreation center. The staff and the recreation center to also administer programs, ideas, and plans to get us as citizens to participate in the recreation center, so it can start to generate some money. So not only Public Works I doubt that but also the recreation center.

Jimmy Kirinich (Director of Parks and Recreation) stated he does not know how the board came to the decision just to get Public Works 3 employees, I was never consulted about having any more staff, and Police need more staff. Everyone is short staffed in the city looking at the services that the citizens want. You guys cut my Recreation Supervisor last year citizens want community events, the Mayor wants community events. That was the direct position to run community events that was just cut and I guess you have no intentions of fulfilling. The citizens are asking for that. I understand Public Works and Police need staff and I need staff it is kind of a fighting battle for the department heads to get staff while the money is there. In my opinion, the money would be best served for getting a City Administrator. **Alderman Dailes and Alderman Thomas** stated at the same time we are not finished. **Alderman Dailes** stated we are not finished. How it works in government the Mayor, the Directors created a budget bring it to the

board, and the board will decide what we are going to take away and what we are going to add. We are not finished. So before, you jump to conclusions and think that we are doing. **Mayor** interrupted with point of order and it is time to go. Mayor stated she encourages the citizens that are sitting here, you already heard first part of the conversation because this is your money that you come back and you bring others and we will make sure we have copies for everybody. We will discuss as a family because that is what we are what is needed. I will say we all need help it is not fair to these other department heads to do what I need to do as well. I need an assistant. I am here every day, I do work 40 hours, and I do not care anything about the money. However, we are doing what is needful and what is needful and because we are here, every day we know what is needful to run the whole city and for a caveat, our police officers will now be out on the beat. We start tomorrow I will be out with them for the first time. We will be out in the community, not only with the police department but with the others too.

Mayor called for a motion to adjourn-Alderman Alicia Smith made the motion to adjourn today's meeting, June 15, 2023. Second made by Alderman Peg Warnusz. Mayor called for an all-in favor;

7 Ayes/0 Nays. Ayes have it and motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

ATTEST:


Semmie Ruffin-Hall, City Clerk

Approved by the Board of Aldermen on

January 18, 2024