

**CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS, MISSOURI
BOARD OF ALDERMEN SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
VIA ZOOM
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2024-6:00 PM**

PRESENT, Interim Chief of Police Major Warren Willis, and City Clerk Semmie Ruffin-Hall.

President James Thomas, Sr. CALLED MEETING TO ORDER at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

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

- Alderwoman Theresa Hester- **Present**
- Alderwoman Peg Warnusz- **Absent**
- **Alderwoman Lynette VonSeggern-Excused Absence**
- Alderman (Board President) James Thomas, Sr.- **Present**
- Alderwoman Regina Harmon-Ward- **Present**
- Alderwoman Alease Dailes- **Present**
- Alderwoman Alicia Smith- **Present**
- **5 Present/1 Excused Absence/1 Absent** -Quorum was established.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Alderwoman Alease Dailes motioned to approve the agenda with an amendment to table \$89,810.00 (Police cars) until the next meeting and further information is received.

ROLL CALL: City Clerk Semmie Ruffin Hall called the roll for agenda approval with amendment:

- Alderwoman Theresa Hester- **Yes**
- Alderman (Board President) James Thomas, Sr.- **Yes**
- Alderwoman Regina Harmon-Ward- **Yes**
- Alderwoman Alease Dailes- **Yes**
- Alderwoman Alicia Smith- **Yes**

5-Yays/0-Nays-Motion passes

APPROVAL OF INVOICES

- **02-10-24 through 02-23-2024-\$70,438.34**

Discussion:

Alderwoman Alicia Smith stated disagree with a lot as well as some of the bills 02-23-24 through 03-11-24. So, the totals are not correct. First set of bills 02-10-24 through 02-23-24. I would like all of what I am saying for the record. No offense to anyone. But I am tired of coming through these bills, some of these bills are extremely old and I do not understand how they are getting put in the set of bills. So, Bill #, I am going to start from the beginning. Bill # 46803. It is ok to pay, the due date was 1-29 so the city along with its taxpayers had to pay a late fee because the bill was paid late, not understanding why these bills are late. The late fee was \$15. The bill that comes into question is a duplicate from 02-24, its check #46807 in the amount of \$80 it is from Americom. Then check #46810 question mark by it, it is a question that goes hand in hand with the second set of bills. The amount is \$25,877.52. One of these units should be under warranty, I asked in previous meetings I still have not received a response. One of the units is under warranty, I asked which unit is under warranty, so we do not include it in the bills, but it is included in this bill. The other set again which is check detail 02-23 through 03-11, there is a bill in the amount of. Sorry I am trying to find the other one where basically we paid for a condenser. The condensers should be completed, and part of the units being replaced, why are we paying separate bills? So that amount was pulled as well. Before you pull check #46810, I am trying to understand, if we are paying for the whole unit to be replaced, why are we replacing individual parts. Check, #46811 the paperwork states it is for part time staff salaries however, it is conflicting. Is it part-time staff for Bellefontaine or is it Elevation Health? So, if it staff and Bellefontaine staff; salary should be with salary and not a bill and if so, why did we receive a bill from Elevation. So, I was lost and confused, is it our staff or their bill? This is just a question. Check #46814 is for an individual and I did receive an email or letter that talks about some mans mailbox, but none of this was brought to the board. I have no clue as to where this person lives, who they are or do they even live in the city. Check #46815-the invoice date is from December 2023 so I put on here a possible duplicate and the only reason I say that is because I know I have seen a bill from

Marsh & McLennan. Check #46817 bill for \$75.69 there is no bill in the packet at all, and I triple checked it. So that bill from the ledger was pulled. Then I just have a question on this one. Check #46818 is a two-year renewal for what city vehicle. I was also lost because it does not provide license plate numbers. **President Thomas stated** it does have a license plate #. Check #46820-\$315.20 was pulled only because the bill says \$315.29 so it is nine cents short. So is I \$315.20 or \$315.29. We can pay just need to add nine cents. Check #46821 is being pulled completely. It is a December invoice, and it goes back to the first bill as to why these bills are being paid late. If the city clerk received it in January, then why is it being paid in February? So, I do not know if it was paid previously. **Semmie (City Clerk) advised** several times an audit was done, and Office Depot needs to be paid. We were behind a lot. **Aldерwoman Theresa Hester stated** is there anyway we can vote to pay the bills and Semmie send in explanations and pay bills so late fees do not occur. **Aldерwoman Smith stated** the last bill she wants to pull was bill #46845 that was the beginning of my concern regarding the condenser, that bill is for condenser and other parts of the unit. Bill #46485 along with bill #46810. I thought bill #46845 would have been a part of 810. Yes, that needs to be pulled. **President Thomas stated** Semmie said she would look into the bills in question. **President Thomas asked Aldерwoman Smith** if she had a new total. **Aldерwoman Smith stated** the new total is \$33,705.10. which includes adding the nine cents.

❖ **Aldерwoman Peg Warnuz joined meeting at 06:20pm**

Aldерwoman Dailes motioned to pay bills for 02/10/24 through 02/24/24 in the amount of \$33,705.10; second by **Aldерwoman Regina Harmon-Ward**.

ROLL CALL: City Clerk Semmie Ruffin Hall called the roll for approval of invoices dates 02/10/24-02/23/24 in the new amount of \$33,705.10:

- Aldерwoman Theresa Hester- **Yes**
- Aldерwoman Peg Warnusz-**Yes**
- Alderman (Board President) James Thomas, Sr.- **Yes**
- Aldерwoman Regina Harmon-Ward- **Yes**
- Aldерwoman Alease Dailes- **Yes**

- Alderwoman Alicia Smith- Yes

5-Yays/0-Nays-Motion passes to pay the new total of invoices-(\$33,705.10)

Alderwoman Dailes motioned to pay invoices for 02/23/24 through 03/11/24 in the amount of \$82,717.36; second by **Alderwoman Theresa Hester**.

Discussion:

Alderwoman Smith stated this one is a little bit easier but still not correct. I only had two bills that had an issue. Check #46852 and again Semmie yes, it is Office Depot and please follow me. You look at these bills and they are over a year; you cannot tell me we have not paid these bills in over a year. **Semmie (City Clerk) stated**, "I am telling you we have not paid these bills." **Alderwoman Smith stated** we need to have a closed session because I am not understanding, we have the money then why are they not being paid. It does not take a year to pay a bill. Some of this stuff was ordered from October of 2023, due dates were June of 2023. We are in March 2024. There is no way I am not buying it. **Semmie (City Clerk) stated** well when we have this closed meeting, I suggest we have **Finance Director (Lori Lenz)** in there with us. So, the amount of check #46582 was pulled the whole amount for \$246.50. Check #46868 I am not sure what letter this is for. **City Clerk advised** that was the fee for the **mayor's** letter that was mailed out. **Alderwoman Smith stated** we did pay the bill in the last set of bills. **City Clerk advised** that was for the postage. This fee is for the stuffing and printing. **Alderwoman Smith stated** to the board y'all can agree to pay that, but I had pulled from the last set of bills, but the motion had passed. But these are the two bills that I had found. I did know what the letter was for so that is why I pulled it. Bill #46855(M.A.CA.) we already paid that. He belongs to two different memberships and both of his memberships were paid at the same time. Then I had a question (this one was not so bad); the question goes along with the very first bill which is 46848 and these are all its just a question regarding the resolution so if you open your packet you will see the resolution that was introduced by Alderwoman Dailes that was approved in December of 2023. So again, it goes with the question of why they now receive their payment. **City Clerk advised** that was not Lori, which was my fault. It was lack of communication from me to her. **Alderwoman Smith stated** I loved check #46873 (Sunshine Window Cleaning) it was very legible. Question on check #46886 (C & C Associates) the bill amount is \$2,48037. I do not have any issues with the bill, it is just a question.

This is for I am assuming the cameras, but the issue that I have is its going to be paid for by the dept 5032, I thought the cameras and things like that are going to be paid for under ARPA. The City Clerk stated this is the gentleman that put in our Air Conditioners, but I am not sure I will double check on that. Alderman Smith stated then I am really confused why are we cleaning air conditioner units if we are getting new units. Just make sure the funding is coming out of the right account. New total-\$82,395.86. Alderman Hester asked will Office Depot incur late fees, City Clerk stated no.

❖ Alderman Peg Warnuz left meeting at 06:50pm

Alderman Dailes motioned to pay invoices for 02/23/24 through 03/11/24 in the amount of \$82,395.86; second by Alderman Harmon-Ward.

ROLL CALL: City Clerk Semmie Ruffin Hall called the roll for approval of invoices dates 02/23/24-03/11/24 in the new amount of \$82,395.86:

- Alderman Theresa Hester- **Yes**
- Alderman (Board President) James Thomas, Sr.- **Yes**
- Alderman Regina Harmon-Ward- **Yes**
- Alderman Alease Dailes- **Yes**
- Alderman Alicia Smith- **Yes**

5-Yays/0-Nays-Motion passes to pay the new total of invoices (\$82,395.86)

Alderman Dailes stated she has a question for Major Warren Willis (Interim Chief of Police

➤ Do we need two vehicles, or something happened.

Major Willis stated one was involved in the Moline incident which was a 2015 vehicle. That was an insurance payout (not sure of amount) that we received about five or six thousand dollars we received for that vehicle which went to general revenue. The other vehicle was crashed into on 367 by a drunk driver and totaled it out. That was a 2020 Explorer that we got about twenty-four or twenty-five thousand dollars for that particular vehicle that went to general revenue.

Alderman Dailes stated can you email those totals to Semmie. Major Willis stated will have to get the exact totals from Lori. Alderman Dailes stated this is the information she wanted and that is why she tabled it until Thursday.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Smith motioned to adjourn today's meeting to pay the bills from 02-10-24 through 02-23-24 and 02-23-24 through 03-11-24 at 6:57 pm, March 13, 2024; **seconded by Alderman Hester**

Adjournment at 6:57 pm.

ATTEST:



Semmie Ruffin-Hall-City Clerk

Approved by the Board of Aldermen on: 03-21-24