

**CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS
TOWN HALL MEETING
September 15, 2016**

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 7:00 p.m. by City Attorney, Kevin O'Keefe.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG was led by City Attorney O'Keefe. He then introduced Mayor Robert J. Doerr.

PRESENT: Mayor Robert Doerr, Police Chief Jeremy Ihler, City Attorney Kevin O'Keefe, City Clerk Deni Donovan, City Collector Mark Tranel, Alderman Paro, Alderman Schultz, Alderman Merz, Alderman Roth, Alderman Jordan, Alderwoman Dailes, and Alderman Fields.

ABSENT: Alderman Al Herl

MAYOR DOERR: Mayor Doerr welcomed everyone to the annual Town Hall Meeting. He introduced the Elected and Appointed Officials, Department Heads, and asked the members of the City's Boards and Commissions to stand up. He stated the purpose of the Town Hall Meeting was to meet the City Officials and to report on the state of the City.

CURRENT EVENTS: Mayor Doerr reported on the following:

- Please be aware of your surroundings. All are invited to attend the monthly Neighborhood Watch Meetings on the 1st Wednesday of the month at City Hall;
- National Night Out is October 4th. Contact PD know if you would like to host a gathering on your block;
- Ruler Foods opened today bringing a much needed economic growth to the community. Please support all of the stores in Bellefontaine Neighbors;
- Mathews-Dickey Boys' and Girls' Club held a ceremony at Bob Russell Park to dedicate "Adam Wainwright Field". Riverview Gardens School District has agreed to help with getting kids signed up to play ball; and
- The City needs to work together to keep up housing issues, such as tall grass, unkept yards, etc... The City needs the help of its citizens.

BOND ISSUE UPDATE:

The City Treasurer had not arrived yet, so Mayor Doerr introduced Alderman John Jordan to discuss the recent passage of the Bond Issue for street improvements. He explained the process of having a Bond Issue and the next steps. He is hopeful the street work will begin in April, 2017. It will be approximately a 2-year process. The street selection will be reviewed, evaluated and discussed. He asked anyone with questions to contact him.

STATE OF THE CITY REPORT:

Mayor Doerr introduced City Treasurer, Bill Krenn. Bill said it was a pleasure and privilege working with City Treasurer, Larry Abeln, who had served the City for over 40 years; he asked for a moment of silence due to his recent passing.

Mr. Krenn reported on the significant reduction in receipts which has been happening for the last couple of years. The budget has had to be adjusted twice this last fiscal year to accommodate the decreases. The expenditures have been pretty much on track with the budget, especially in the Administrative, Building, Streets, and Parks and Recreation Departments.

The General Fund Budget for the coming year is \$4,345,000. Capital Projects has grown by \$57,000 and the Sewer Fund has grown by \$45,000 offsetting the reduction in the General fund.

HOME AWARDS:

Ward 1:	Bill Johnston/Keith Dagenais Charlie/Barb Whittington	Present Absent
Ward 2:	Andrea Buckner Dave/Sue Sullivan	Present Present
Ward 3:	Robert Herron Joseph Conley	Absent Present
Ward 4:	Elam Family Rozlyn Hoffman	Absent Absent

Alderman Fields said the Board is looking for members. He reminded everyone about the city Beautification Day on September 24th; all are welcome. Jennie Stewart thanked everyone who keep their homes looking nice. She stressed the importance of picking up litter in the neighborhood, whether it's yours or someone else's. "Our community reflects its residents".

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:

CHARLES VOGELSANG, 101XX COBURG LANDS DRIVE: He wanted to know out of the \$8 million for the Bond Issue, how much would actually go directly towards the street costs; Alderman Jordan said approximately \$7 million.

ROBERT PIEKUTOWSKI, 102XX TAPPAN DRIVE: He read a prepared statement bringing up police issues such as the city budget, collective bargaining, police staffing, and salaries. When he requested answers, Mayor Doerr asked Mr. Piekutowski to send him the letter for his review; he said he would. This was not the venue to discuss negotiation issues.

BARBARA WEST, 97XX TAPPAN DRIVE: Questioned the hiring practices of the city. Mayor Doerr stated the best qualified individuals would be considered. When questioned further, Mayor Doerr, along with the City Attorney, stated the city cannot discuss personnel issues in public. She asked Chief Ihler, currently, how many Officers are working in Bellefontaine Neighbors; he said 26 Officers.

KATHY MASON, 10XX DONNELL DRIVE: She was very grateful to see a flag recycle box set up. Mayor Doerr said they will discuss a permanent location for the box at City Hall

NANCY MIRANTI, 94XX ARDMORE DRIVE: She was very frustrated over the trouble she had when calling 9-1-1; she was cut off several times. She asked Chief Ihler if it was possible to take pictures and send to 9-1-1; he said not currently, but 9-1-1 is working on it.

WANDA LANE, 99XX MARTINGALE ROAD: She had questions over the wording in the Auditor's Annual Report regarding Public Hearings. The City Attorney stated the Public Hearing requirement for the city's annual property tax. She questioned the Mayor's opinion at last year's Town Hall Meeting concerning the Bond Issue for street improvements

VETTA THOMPSON, 99XX MARTINGALE ROAD: She questioned the City Treasurer on the declining receipts in the city. He said it may be partly due to the decline of property owners; down approximately 5%. She had questions about the website.

ALICIA SMITH, 91XX DUENKE DRIVE: She was concerned the way the meeting was going and the lack of answers given.

PASTOR ELLIOTT, 11XX JOLENE DRIVE: He appreciated the police presence tonight and would like to see more community involvement from the Officers. He would like to see some sort of partnership between the residents and Officers. He has tried to contact the Chief about city-wide prayer issues and developmental programs for the youth in the community. Discussions are much needed.

CLAUDIA HARRIS, 12XX WENTWORTH: She noted the Officials seemed very defensive tonight.

CURRENT EVENTS: Mayor Doerr reported on the following events:

- The stone dedication and the Sgt Peggy Vassallo Way dedication on Lewis & Clark Blvd. went very well;
- RGSD Homecoming Parade is September 17th. It is dedicated to Sgt. Peggy Vassallo;
- National Night Out is October 4th. Call PD if you would like to host a party;
- Annual Beer and Wine Social is October 8th – contact the Rec Center for tickets; and
- Annual Diversity Meeting is October 26th.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Mayor Doerr thanked everyone for coming

Meeting closed at 8:45 p.m.

ATTEST:



Deni Donovan, City Clerk