

**CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS
TOWN HALL MEETING
September 21, 2017**

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 Herl, Alderman Paro, Alderman Schultz, Alderman Merz, Alderman Jordan, Alderwoman Dailes, and Alderman Fields.

ABSENT:

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.

STATE OF THE CITY REPORT:

Mayor Doerr introduced City Treasurer, Bill Krenn. Bill said it has been a challenging year, but we have seen positive increases in utility and property tax receipts. The city has not seen an increase in employees' benefits and health insurance costs for the past two (2) years which is very positive.

The General Fund Budget for the coming year is \$4,770,000. The 10% increase is primarily due to the passage of Prop P funds. The Capital Fund has grown by \$219,000 and the Sewer Fund by \$125,000. The Debt Service Fund is more than adequate to cover the increases due to the new bond issue for street improvements.

Mr. Krenn will continue to monitor spending very closely to keep the City financially secure.

ALDERMAN FIELDS AND ALDERMAN SCHULTZ – CITY ADMINISTRATOR ISSUES

Aldermen and Shultz and Fields made the following comments:

- There seems to be an increased interest in hiring an Administrator;
- Thanks to all who attended the previous meeting and commented;
- Listed some of the residents' concerns on this issue; and
- All upcoming meetings will be posted

WANDA LANE, 99XX MARTINGALE ROAD: Asked what the Mayor's duties would be if an Administrator was hired. Alderman Fields explained, since the Mayor is part-time, his duties would change.

GINA SHARPLEY, 9X GREEN ACRES ROAD: When she asked how the Administrator would be paid, Alderman Fields said the funds would come out of the budget, not from taxes.

ALDERMAN JORDAN – STREET REPAIR PROJECT

Alderman Jordan gave an update and reported on the following:

- Thanks to all those who voted to approve the Bond Issue;
- He explained how the streets were selected;
- What will be done with the extra funds, such as adding on a few more streets and street maintenance;

- The city's street department will continue with street maintenance to extend the length of the streets;
- Hired two (2) contractors so the project would move along more efficiently;
- The process is going well and most of the goals have been met;
- He gave an explanation of the upcoming Ashbrook Project; and
- Thanks to McClure Engineer, Kevin Shepard and the City's Assistant Foreman Mark Kuchta for all of their hard work to make sure the project stays on track.

WANDA LANE, 99XX MARTINGALE ROAD: She asked about the life span of the new streets. Alderman Jordan said about 15 years if they are maintained. Concrete streets last longer than asphalt.

JEANETTE PETERMAN, 93XX MELANIE DRIVE: She was told Melanie was not on the list to be repaired.

THERESA REED, 11XX AVANT DRIVE: Questioned all of the work done on Ashbrook Drive in the past. Alderman Jordan said those have been repairs and updates by the utility companies.

RHODA _____: She questioned the Ashbrook Project also. Alderman Jordan clarified the work was done by different utility companies who did not repair the streets; they only replaced the slabs where the work was done.

CURRENT EVENTS: Mayor Doerr reported on the following:

- Danforth School, in the Riverview Gardens School District, will be renamed to Michelle Obama School on Monday, September 25th, at 8:30 a.m.;
- The Riverview Gardens High School Homecoming Parade is September 30th;
- National Night Out is scheduled for October 3rd – contact Officer Owens if you are willing to host a party that night;
- The Annual Wine and Beer Social is October 14th behind the Rec Center;
- The Human Relations Commission will hold their annual Diversity Meeting on Wednesday, October 18th at 7:00 p.m. at the Rec Center; and
- The annual Frightful Family Fun Night is scheduled for Friday, October 20th at the Rec Center, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE TOMMIE PIERSON, JR (66th District):

Representative Pierson is happy to be representing the community and will do so to the fullest. He is determined to keep an open line of communication. His focus is to represent the people to the best of his ability. He encouraged all to sign up to receive his Capitol Reports.

POLICE CHIEF JEREMY IHLER'S REPORT: Mayor Doerr introduced Chief Ihler. The Chief said his main focus is the volume of crime in the area and staffing issues. He emphasized the importance of communication between the police department and the community.

At this time, Chief Ihler recognized several officers and citizens.

In closing, Chief Ihler said he submitted a grant for body cameras; the determination should be sometime in October. He continues to work with the Board of Aldermen regarding Prop P and how best to use the funds to insure public safety. He thanked his department, administration, and the community for all their help.

RIVERVIEW FIRE CHIEF KEITH GOLDSTEIN'S REPORT: Chief Goldstein was introduced by Mayor Doerr. The Chief thanked the Mayor for inviting him to the meeting tonight; he commented on the following:

- He gave an update on fire calls and EMS calls;
- The ISO rating for the district went from a Class 4 to a Class 3 – he was very proud;

- The RFD website has been updated;
- He explained the EMS Initiative;
- Chief Goldstein gave an overview about Prop A which will be on the November ballot. This money will allow for advanced life support pumpers. He recognized the following who were in attendance at the Town Hall:
 - Fire Board Director Bobby Smith
 - Fire Board Director Richie Tiberghien
 - Firefighter Tony Miller
 - Firefighter Tony Gutierrez
 - Firefighter Steve Sexton

WANDA LANE, 99XX MARTINGALE ROAD: She asked the Chief's opinion on speed bumps. He said whatever the City decides; the Fire Department will not supersede it.

BILL KRENN, 1XX GREEN ACRES: Supported Prop A.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:

JAMES CARROLL, 103XX ASHBROOK DRIVE: When he asked about "staffing issues", Chief Ihler said training is a big factor. He added crimes against people are more important. A discussion on the hiring process ensued.

BARBARA WEST, 97XX CALUMET DRIVE: Thanked Chief Ihler in his efforts to make his department community oriented. If the officers did wear body cameras, she was concerned about them being turned off. Chief Ihler explained there will be policies in place.

HOME BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS:

Mayor Doerr thanked the Image & Beautification Board for their hard work throughout the year. Jennie Stewart, Chairman of the Image & Beautification Board and Alderman Fields, the Aldermanic Representative, along with members Leo and Lyn Gordon, Clarence Cherry, Rodney Weeden, and Shelly Davis presented the 2017 Home Beautification Awards to the winners and thanked them for taking pride in their homes:

HOME AWARDS:

Ward 1:	Hester Family	Absent
	Debra Westcott	Absent
Ward 2:	Bolden Family	Present
	Gerald Eberle (son)	Absent
Ward 3:	Sandra Enloe	Present
	Costella Grey	Present
Ward 4:	Odessa Chambers	Present
	Foster/Washington Family	Present

Alderman Fields thanked all of the winners for all their hard work. He mentioned the Board is looking for members. He reminded everyone about the city Beautification Day on September 30th; all are welcome.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Mayor Doerr thanked everyone for coming

Meeting closed at 8:48 p.m.

ATTEST: Deni Donovan, Deni Donovan, City Clerk