

**CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS  
BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING MINUTES  
June 14, 2018**

**MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY** Acting Mayor Alderman John Jordan at 7:30 p.m. Copies of all ordinances and resolutions to be considered at the meeting were made available for public inspection prior to the time of consideration by the Board of Aldermen.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG** was led by Acting Mayor Alderman Jordan.

Acting Mayor Jordan asked for a moment of silence for the senseless killing of Porsha Owens, the School Safety Officer for the RGSD, who was killed in her driveway.

**ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:** City Clerk Deni Donovan, Lt. Warren Williss, Attorney Helmut Starr, Alderwoman West, Alderwoman Reed, Alderman Merz, Alderman Jordan, Alderman Christian, Alderwoman Dailes, and Alderwoman Avant-Elliott.

**ABSENT:** Mayor Robert Doerr, City Attorney Kevin O'Keefe, Collector Dr. Mark Tranel, Chief of Police Jeremy Ihler, and Alderman Herl.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Alderman Merz moved for the approval of the Agenda, seconded by Alderman Christian. Motion carried unanimously.

**PRESENTATION OF THE UNAPPROVED MINUTES:** Alderman Merz moved for approval of the May 17, 2018, Minutes of the Board of Aldermen Meeting, seconded by Alderwoman West. Motion carried unanimously.

**MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** Alderwoman Avant-Elliott moved to open the meeting to the public, as long as the Acting Mayor deems necessary, with a 3-minute time limit, seconded by Alderman Merz. Motion carried unanimously.

**TERRENCE LOTT, SR., 97XX BIRCH MANOR:** A few months ago, there was an issue with his son in which he felt his son was mistreated by the police. Lt. Williss said he would look into the incident. There was another issue with his son regarding his recent Court appearance and the Judge; again, Lt. Williss will research.

**SHARON BURKS, 10XX FONTAINE PLACE:** Commented on the need for speed bumps to control speeders. She was told the Board has been discussing this issue.

**JAMES CARROLL, 103XX ASHBROOK DRIVE:** Commented on the Judge and Court proceedings.

**VERNON ROBERTS, 10XX FONTAINE PLACE:** Commented on the need for speed bumps, also, and how he thought the police and firefighters were in favor of them. Alderwoman Dailes said she was looking into pricing.

**WANDA LANE, 99XX MARTINGALE ROAD:** Stated traffic monitoring has been discussed since 2012 at the Public Safety Meetings. She felt the budget procedure is not community friendly.

**CARNELL JONES, 11XX WENTWORTH DRIVE:** He thanked Mr. Lott for his comments. He would like to see a change in the Court system.

**REVEREND DINAH TATMAN, 3X GREEN ACRES:** Commented on the need for speed bumps. She feels the aesthetics of the city is deteriorating. She would like the city to do more to improve the housing issues.

Acting Mayor Jordan asked if anyone else wished to address the Board. Hearing none, Alderwoman Avant-Elliott moved to bring the meeting back to the Board, seconded by Alderwoman West. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **COMMISSION AND BOARD REPORTS:**

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION:** The Board reviewed the May 24, 2018, Minutes. Alderwoman West had a different take on what happened at the meeting as opposed to how the minutes were reflected. Comments on why the Riverview Fire Department no longer inspects fire hydrants. Comments made as to whether the public should have an input at the monthly meeting.

**YOUTH COMMISSION:** The Board reviewed the May 21, 2018, Minutes. Alderwoman Avant-Elliott said the Youth Swim Party will be July 14<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-9:00 p.m. for kids ages 11-15 years. Alderwoman Dailes and Tommy Pierson will pay for those who cannot afford the \$5 ticket. She will address the issue of being a member of the Youth Commission.

Alderwoman Dailes reported on an organization named Little Bit Foundation which supports giving, serving, and advocating for impoverished children in St. Louis. There will be an Underwear & Sock Drive May 21-August 11, 2018; visit any St. Louis County Library. Donations are needed.

**IMAGE & BEAUTIFICATION BOARD:** The Board reviewed the May 8, 2018, Minutes. Acting Mayor Jordan said Clarence Cherry resigned after many years of service. The Board is in need of members.

**PARKS BOARD REPORT:** The Board reviewed the May 15, 2018, Minutes.

**PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR:** Mark Dickerson reported on the following:

- Plans for Bissell Park will be reviewed by the Park Board on June 19<sup>th</sup>;
- Mark gave an overview of the Discover Nature Program which is sponsored by the MO Department of Conservation. The Rec Center has been designated as a location where the public can check out rod and reel sets free of charge.
- They are getting ready for Pickleball which is a combination of table tennis and tennis combined, but on a smaller court than tennis.
- He was asked if the city should bid out for grass cutting; a discussion ensued.
- Discussion as to why it wouldn't be cost prohibitive to have credit card capabilities at the concession stand; and
- The Bissell Park demolition should be done by next week.

**INVOICES OVER \$500:** Alderman Merz made a motion to pay invoices 1-15, dated June 1-12, 2018, in the amount of \$35,200.79, seconded by Alderman Christian. Motion carried unanimously.

There were several topics discussed:

- Attorney Starr gave an explanation on what a "wash account" is;
- It was suggested to have more clarification on the monthly City Attorney's statement;
- Retainer fees;
- Is it alright for Alderpersons write their own Bills? Attorney Starr said the City Attorney would still need to take the time to review;
- How to read the monthly City Attorney statement; and

- A discussion continued about retainer fees; conversation vs. legal research; and retainer agreements.

**CHIEF IHLER:** Chief Ihler was excused. Lt. Warren Williss said he would look into Mr. Lott's accusation regarding his son. He knows speeding is a big issue. He suggested residents should call the non-emergency phone number to report dates and times of speeders. The newly hired Officer, Michael Jeffers, will begin employment with the city. A recently hired officer had to be let go; an offer was extended to someone in the Academy. He said if anyone has problems with the police, they have the option to file a complaint online. On June 12<sup>th</sup>, he attended a "Bridging the Gap Program" meeting at Bellefontaine Methodist Church to discuss the relations between the community and police; it was very productive.

**CITY ATTORNEY:** Kevin O'Keefe was excused. Attorney Helmut Starr had no comments.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**BILL NO. 2509 – INTRODUCED BY ALDERWOMAN REED**

**AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE 2018-2019 FISCAL YEAR FOR THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS, MISSOURI.**

Alderman Reed made a motion to Table Bill No. 2509 indefinitely, seconded by Alderman Merz. Aldermen Jordan and Christian opposed. Motion carried.

A discussion continued. Attorney Starr said State Law requires the budget to be passed by the end of the fiscal year or it reverts back to the previous budget.

**REPORT OF THE ACTING MAYOR:**

- Acting Mayor Jordan reported strategic, master plans, and new ideas are being utilized regarding the budget.
- Update on the RFQ for construction engineering for the Ashbrook Street Project; and
- All are invited to the MSD Public Hearing to discuss upcoming projects; it will be held on June 20<sup>th</sup> at the Rec Center from 6:30-9:00 p.m.

At this time, there was a question and answer forum with the Board members, the City Attorney, and Supervisor Mark Dickerson regarding the city budget.

Acting Mayor Jordan said Board approval is needed to allow the Veterans Home to have their annual fireworks display on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Alderman West made a motion to approve the fireworks display, seconded by Alderman Christian. Motion carried unanimously.

**REPORT OF THE ALDERMEN:** Acting Mayor Jordan said that due to the long budget discussion, reports of the Aldermen will be canceled tonight. Alderman Dailes wanted to put a moratorium on daycares in the city until more research could be done. Attorney Starr said the subject would need to be put on the Agenda for the next meeting. A discussion continued.

**CITY COLLECTOR:** Dr. Tranel was excused.

**MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** Alderman Merz moved to open the meeting to the public, as long as the Mayor deems necessary, with a 3-minute time limit, seconded by Alderman Christian. Motion carried unanimously.

**WANDA LANE, 99XX MARTINGALE ROAD:** She asked the City Treasurer various budget questions.

**JAMES CARROLL, 103XX ASHBROOK DRIVE:** He, also, asked the City Treasurer various budget questions.

**REVEREND DINAH TATMAN, 3X GREEN ACRES:** She was concerned about the lack in attendance tonight of those who were part of the budget process. She will ask them why they were not at the meeting tonight.

Acting Mayor Jordan asked if anyone else wished to address the Board. Hearing none, Alderman Merz moved to bring the meeting back to the Board, seconded by Alderman Christian. Motion carried unanimously.

At this time, Acting Mayor Jordan asked for a Special Board of Aldermen Meeting to be held on Monday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the budget.

Alderman Merz made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alderwoman Avant-Elliott. Motion carried unanimously.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** Meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

*Deni Donovan*  
Deni Donovan, City Clerk

Approved by the Board of Aldermen on *June 21, 2018*