

**CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS  
BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 21, 2020 – 7:30PM  
VIA ZOOM**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Tommie Pierson, Sr., Alderwoman Barbara West, Alderwoman Dinah Tatman, Alderwoman Theresa Reed, Alderman Michael Wiese, Alderman James Thomas, Alderman Jim Christian, Alderwoman Alease Dailes, Alderwoman Miranda Avant-Elliott, City Attorney Dorothy White-Coleman, Police Chief Jeremy Ihler, City Clerk Fran Stevens.

**MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY** Mayor Pierson at 7:40 pm. 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.

**ROLL CALL:** City Clerk called the roll and all members were present.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Motion to approve agenda made by Alderwoman Dailes seconded by Alderman Thomas. Alderwoman Avant-Elliott shared that the board mentioned the need to add the collector and treasurer report. Alderwoman Avant-Elliott indicated that the bill no 2573 previously failed and could not be reintroduced and that she had previously advised Alderwoman Dailes to confirm with the attorney on how to address. Alderman Christian indicated that he had no plans to introduce as indicated in the agenda. Alderwoman Dailes stated she would introduce Bill No. 2573 at a later date and under a new bill number.

Discussion ensued regarding the Treasurer and Collector to be placed on the agenda in lieu of 3 minutes of public reporting. Alderwoman West explained that she was making a motion to add these reports because the Mayor indicated that the modified agenda was due to Covid-19 and the meetings being held via Zoom and that the reports from the Collector and Treasurer were important given these reports had not been given since the pandemic.

**Motion to amend the agenda by removing the public comments and replacing with the Treasurer's and Collector's report made by Alderwoman West seconded by Alderwoman Avant-Elliott. Alderwoman Tatman and Alderwoman Dailes opposed. Motion carries.**

Alderwoman Avant-Elliott suggested that the public utilize the "chat" for making comments and/or asking questions.

**PRESENTATION OF THE UNAPPROVED MINUTES:**

Motion to approve Regular Board Meeting Minutes of May 7, 2020 made by Alderwoman Avant-Elliott seconded by Alderman Christian. Motion carries.

Motion to approve Special Meeting Minutes of May 13, 2020 made by Alderman Thomas seconded by Alderman Christian. Motion carries.

**CITY TREASURER** - Patrick Howard read his report and Alderwoman Reed inquired about the monies from the boiler and grant from the park. Alderwoman Reed noted a meeting with North County Mayors and the mention of a 24-hour work week and the other 16 they were laid off to obtain unemployment. She asked the mayor why this approach was not considered. Mayor Pierson reported that all part time workers from the Rec Center and 1 or 2 full time from the Rec Center had been laid off due to the pandemic. Also, the part time worker from the building department had been laid off. Alderwoman Reed asked for clarification about the person from the building department who was laid off and expressed her concerns with the person serving as code enforcer. Alderwoman Avant-Elliott requested the names of all laid off workers and when they were laid off. City Clerk shared she was not given the information about the lay off for the rec center and that one worker from building department was furloughed in May.

Alderwoman West inquired about the Rec Center bus driver and Amy (Rec Center) answered that the part time bus driver is being utilized on an as needed basis. Amy stated that all the part-time pool employees had been laid off and the part time office workers are working sporadically. The Rec Center is still closed but will open for election only on June 2, 2020. Alderwoman Tatman stated that the opening of the Rec Center is being left up to the individual municipal mayors.

**CITY COLLECTOR** – Cathy Broussard read her monthly report.

Alderwoman Reed indicated she noticed interest from Green Acres and requested the city collector to research information regarding interest to Bellefontaine Neighbors from Green Acres Subdivision. Collector will check with Lori about information she has. Alderwoman Reed suggested contacting the previous collector Mark Tranel.

**PLANNING AND ZONING** - Pat Barrett explained the Planning and Zoning recommendations regarding updating series of fees. Reviewed the changes in the fees for commercial and residential property permits. Questions: Alderwoman Avant-Elliott asked if the Public Hearing is next. Pat indicated yes with 15-day notification.

Discussed the signs that reflect poorly on the city that the code does not cover some. P and Z is recommending changes to three sections of the code. Sec. 29.90C related to signs, to establish size limitations on scrolling marquee, general 29.90 additional clauses to the regulations on lightning, public information display, and add conditions to 1948 excessive illumination, sale flag limitations, and amendment displays of bottles in show windows.

Pat suggested that businesses currently operating; the practices that will be amended would be grandfathered in. Non-conforming use is granted by law per the attorney. Alderwoman West asked if she asked a company to comply would it be illegal. The attorney indicated that it would not be illegal to ask for company to volunteer.

Alderwoman Avant-Elliott asked for clarification around grandfathering. The Attorney indicated that the fees can be raised from time to time according to code and difference in changing the law. Alderwoman Tatman mentioned 2995 about lightning and asked about the change in verbiage and the three companies with issues with flashing light issues. Pat mentioned the companies with certain lighting. The company was scheduled to report before the board before the pandemic. Alderman Weise suggested the companies to be flagged when their business licenses are due. Attorney suggested that asking for compliance is a good idea. Alderwoman Reed shared an example of compliance when someone asked the company.

Alderwoman Reed asked the attorney if the ordinances will be prepared and the City Clerk asked for language for paper. The Attorney indicated that both the ordinances and the language for the paper would be completed.

Alderman Wiese made a motion and seconded by Alderwoman Tatman to have a public hearing on June 18, 2020 to approve planning and zoning recommendations on ordinances. Motion carries.

Alderman Wiese made a motion to withdraw the original motion and Alderwoman Tatman withdrew her second.

**Alderman Wiese made a motion and seconded by Alderwoman Tatman to have a public hearing on the board's approval of the recommendations from the planning and zoning committee and we will entertain and hear two sections on June 18, 2020. Motion carries.**

#### **APPROVAL OF INVOICES OVER \$500.00**

**Motion to approve invoices over \$500.00 in the amount of \$62,091.48 made by Alderwoman Reed seconded by Alderwoman Avant-Elliott.** Alderwoman Dailes and Alderwoman West opposed. Motion carries

Discussion: Alderwoman Dailes had concerns regarding the Kwanzaa Event receipts. Alderwoman West stated that everyone is welcome to view her information turned in to the finance clerk and that the check should be held until time the expenses are confirmed. Alderwoman expressed concerns with late fees and indicated that Don Rush invoices were not included. Alderwoman Avant-Elliott inquired about the check due to the youth commission member and city clerk indicating that it was addressed and previously denied at the bank because the amount was incorrect. Alderwoman Avant-Elliott requested a follow-up by the city clerk to confirm receipt of the check. Alderwoman West asked for the check distributed to her to be held for further review and Alderwoman Reed indicated that she was under budget and had been verified. Alderman Christian indicated that the receipts were included in the email to the alderpersons. Alderwoman West asked for the check to be held until further review.

**CHIEF OF POLICE:** Provided report about criminal activity and use of security cameras and continues to send video footage to help cases. Shared concerns about property squatting in vacant homes. Promoting community watch meetings to meet officers. Chief Ihler stated that the focus is on abatement of unfavorable activities. Received concerns about social media posts about officers wearing masks and indicated that supplies are low. Has been complying with protocols that have been provided concerning PPE. The PPE is worn sparingly to have enough PPE, no one in the Police Dept is infected with COVID-19. Discussed the budget was being reviewed and budget reductions were being considered.

Alderwoman Avant-Elliott asked if the board needed to do anything to assist with PPE for the court and police department. Chief stated that the department will accept any donation of PPE. Most of the PPE come from the Office of Emergency Management. Alderwoman Tatman made a recommendation and stated that she will give contact information

for PPE supplies. Chief Ihler stated Alderwoman West is currently working on ordinance regarding basketball and sports related activities. Alderwoman Reed indicated the Greater North County Chamber shared information about granting PPE to the police department. Mentioned the concerns around the use of basketball goals and that Alderwoman West was working on an ordinance.

**CITY ATTORNEY:** Dorothy White-Coleman reported that after reviewing past invoices from prior city attorneys, her firm's billing is standard but she will submit a revised invoice to conform to the billing practices to which Bellefontaine Neighbors is accustomed. Alderwoman Avant-Elliott inquired about the ordinance regarding AT&T vs REJIS and Chief Ihler explained that every year BN enters into a contract with REJIS and this year REJIS utilizes AT&T. She also asked for confirmation that she was directing Alderwoman Dailes correctly concerning the failed bill that was reintroduced and the Attorney indicated that she was correct.

Mayor Pierson indicated that her services were not less than anyone else and that her salary should not be reduced and to be careful with this suggestion.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**A. MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH AFFINIA HEALTHCARE – ALDERWOMAN TATMAN**

Alderwoman Tatman read the Memorandum of Agreement from Affinia Healthcare and explained that the purpose of the MOA is to allow anyone that desires to be tested an opportunity to do so. Alderwoman Avant-Elliott asked the attorney if a motion was needed to approve the MOA agreement given the mayor's signature was required and Attorney White-Coleman said that the board could make a motion, but it was not necessary. After discussion regarding insurance coverage for this project, Chief Ihler stated he would reach out to MIRMA.

Note for the record: Alderwoman Dailes wants it to be noted that she rescinds her "yes" vote and change to "no" regarding the minutes from 4/16/2020. City Attorney stated that this presents a problem because Alderwoman Dailes seconded the motion to approve the minutes of 4/16/2020, however, she could rescind her vote, but the minutes would remain approved.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. RESOLUTION NO. 2020-02 – CARES ACT - INTRODUCED BY ALDERWOMAN WEST**

Alderwoman West read the resolution made the motion to adopt Resolution No 2020.20 seconded by Alderman Christian. Motion passed.

**B. BILL NO. 2573, AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AN EMERGENCY PURCHASING PROCEDURE FOR THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS, MISSOURI DURING A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS OR OTHER STATE OF EMERGENCY. (Billed failed previously and could not be reintroduced as requested by Alderwoman Dailes)**

**C. BILL NO. 2575, AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT WITH AT&T VIA REJIS FOR FIBER CONNECTION SERVICES TO SUPPORT BODY CAMERAS FOR BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR FIBER CONNECTION SERVICES INTRODUCED BY ALDERWOMAN REED.**

Alderwoman Reed made a motion for 1st and 2nd reading of Bill 2575 as amended: an ordinance approving and authorizing execution of a contract with AT&T via Regis for fiber connection services to support body cameras for Bellefontaine Neighbors Police Department seconded by Alderman Christian. Votes are as follows: Alderwoman West-yes, Alderwoman Tatman-yes, Alderwoman Reed-yes, Alderman Wiese-yes, Alderman Thomas-yes, Alderman Christian-yes, Alderwoman Dailes-yes, Alderwoman Avant-Elliott-yes. Motion passed.

**Bill No. 2575 will become Ordinance No. 2569 if and when signed by the Mayor.**

Chief wanted to make sure the three other line items were included. Alderwoman Reed confirmed that the attachment included the items Chief inquired about.

**D. BILL NO. 2576, AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION FOR CITY ADMINISTRATOR INTRODUCED BY ALDERWOMAN AVANT-ELLIOTT.**

Motion made by Alderwoman Avant-Elliott to read Bill No. 2576 as amended by title: An ordinance to establish the compensation schedule for performing the duties of City Administrator of the City of Bellefontaine Neighbors, establishing an effective date and repealing all inconsistent ordinances for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> time seconded by Alderman Christian. The entire bill was read to the public.

Discussion: Alderman Weise asked about an amendment to promote someone from within the organization to use an internal FTE for a hybrid. Alderwoman Dailes asked Weise was he recommending that the bill be tabled. Alderman Weise indicated that he wanted to understand the process. Alderwoman Avant-Elliott indicated that the hiring practices were a separate process for hiring and should be addressed separately but asked the attorney for clarification. The attorney suggested that the bill could be amended or to see the changes in writing first it would be recommended to table. Alderwoman Tatman suggested there be more time to discuss Weise's recommendation and indicated concerns about being in a pandemic and adding to the books pertaining to spending. Alderwoman Dailes suggested hearing from the treasurer. Alderwoman Reed asked for a point of order. Alderwoman Avant-Elliott asked for clarification to attorney about Weise's recommendations and clarification

Mayor Pierson shared that there was a flood after he was elected mayor that was addressed and a year later, we are in a pandemic. He stated that the treasurer indicated the budget would be lower and suggested that the board wanted to break the city by hiring a city manager and that the ordinance was because of the board's hatred toward him and belief that he lacks the capacity to make a decision for the city. If the city goes under it will be because of the board's vote so he asked the board to vote down the ordinance. Alderwoman West asked for a point of order because the mayor cannot ask for members to vote an ordinance down.

**Votes are as follows for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> read. Alderwoman West-yes, Alderwoman Tatman-no, Alderwoman Reed-yes, Alderman Wiese-yes, Alderman Thomas-no Alderman Christian-yes, Alderwoman Dailes-no, Alderwoman Avant-Elliott-yes. Motion passed.**

**Bill No. 2576 will become Ordinance No. 2570 if and when signed by the Mayor.**

**REPORT OF MAYOR:** The mayor restated that he thinks it was a bad idea concerning the ordinance and that if it would come back to hurt the city and the board should blame themselves.

A. **Paying bills online.** This was suggested to table until researched.

Alderwoman Avant-Elliott asked what was being asked at that she was not aware of an ordinance that prohibits online or ACH transactions and the attorney was not aware, so the issue was going to be tabled per the mayor.

B. **Allocate additional funds for asphalt – Street Department**

Jeff Ross Street Department explained that because the budget for the street department was substantially reduced, there is a need for additional \$6000 in funds for asphaltting.

**Motion made by Alderwoman Reed seconded by Alderwoman Avant-Elliott to allocate \$6,000.00 from the 19-20 budget to the street department. Motion carries.**

For the question: Alderwoman West suggested that Alderwoman Reed suggested a conflict of interest to make the motion. Alderwoman Reed made the clarification that there was an ask for materials for the city.

Alderwoman Dailes asked the mayor to add back public comment and Alderwoman Avant-Elliott indicated that the agenda was already set and that a motion had to be made to change the agenda. At this point there was a motion made by Alderwoman Dailes seconded by Alderman Thomas to eliminate the report from the Board of Alderpersons to allow the public to speak. For the question: Alderwoman Avant-Elliott indicated that she had no concerns with public comments but there was no need to eliminate the board reports. Alderwoman West stated that she had a report and clarified why she made the original motion. The Attorney indicated that it was at the pleasure of the board to make an amendment.

**Votes are as follows: Alderwoman West-no, Alderwoman Tatman-yes, Alderwoman Reed-no, Alderman Wiese-yes, Alderman Thomas-yes, Alderman Christian-no, Alderwoman Dailes-yes, Alderwoman Avant-Elliott-no. Mayor Pierson broke the tie with a yes vote. Motion carries. Mayor Pierson stated that the BOA could speak after the public. Alderwoman Dailes injected and indicated this was voted down.**

Alderwoman Reed requested to exit the meeting based on work-related obligations and she exited at 10:38pm.

**MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** The meeting was opened to the public to speak 3 minutes each.

Felicia Gillespie – 6XX Marshfield – Stated that she is very disheartened in the way the City Attorney was treated and disappointed in the board. Encourage the citizens and board to join she and her husband concerning housing authority concerns and squatting. Spoke with Chief about Ring doorbells to use in their investigations.

Wanda Lane – 99XX Martingale Lane – Thanked the citizen for her comments and suggested that the BOA Meeting sunk to a new low. She will write a letter and stated that the BOA President appears to be directing and leading everything and this action should only be done in the Mayor's absence of the mayor but is not what she sees.

Alicia Smith – 94XX Duenke – Stated that it was a long drawn out meeting and the decorum of the Board of Alderpersons was very poor. Thanked mayor and aldermen for allowing the public to speak.

Alderwoman Dailes exited at 10:45pm.

Alderwoman Tatman exited at 10:46pm.

**Motion made by Alderwoman Avant-Elliott seconded by Alderwoman West for the Board of Alderpersons give reports. Motion carries.**

**REPORT OF ALDERMEN:**

**Alderwoman Avant-Elliott** – Asked the mayor about the Influence event as she was told that the flyer was incorrect and inquired if MOA was needed for Influence Church to utilize the city's parking lots for food distribution to take place tomorrow. The Mayor indicated that he was not that involved that Alderwoman Dailes was handling this partnership. Mentioned that the board did not get a chance to finish the budget and asked if the departments had submitted their budget. The Mayor stated that will get handled. Asked about a meeting to have the proposed budget presented and citizens ask questions. Alderwoman Avant-Elliott indicated she does not engage in city management and has only operated in her lane as an alderwoman. Census 2020 is 60% so she encouraged individuals to complete the Census.

**Alderman Thomas** – Applauded Alderwoman Tatman for COVID-19 testing site with Affinia Healthcare as a lot of people are sick and not aware.

**Alderman Wiese** – Stated that citizens should always have a voice.

**Alderman Christian** – No report.

**Alderwoman West** – She and Chief Ihler will continue to prepare nuisance violation ordinance to limit sports related activities and limitation to the time of the activities and she spoke to someone regarding the limitation of Section 8 homes in Bellefontaine Neighbors. Alderwoman West previously indicated that she shared information with the mayor and reminded the mayor to call the Housing Authority to limit section 8 housing. She explained that the ordinance for a City Administration was started 3 or 4 years ago and everyone is aware of the present financial situation and the city administrator salary ordinance was not an attempt to replace the mayor. Chief Ihler thanked Alderwoman West for her involvement in meals for the PD during this pandemic.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn BOA meeting made by Alderwoman Avant-Elliott seconded by Aldermen Christian. Motion carries.

**Meeting adjourned at 10:59 PM.**

**ATTEST:**

  
Fran Stevens, City Clerk

Approved by the Board of Aldermen on June 18, 2020