

**CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS, MO**  
**MINUTES OF THE OPEN**  
**BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING**

**Thursday May 1, 2025 7:30 p.m.**

The Board of Aldermen met for an open meeting on Thursday, May 1, 2025.  
Mayor Thomas presided over the meeting.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Conducted by all in attendance.

**Roll Call**

Mayor Thomas requested a roll call.

Alderwoman Dailes conducted the roll call and votes for the city record.

The following Alderpersons were "Present": Alderwoman Harmon-Ward, Alderwoman Smith, Alderman Wiese, Alderman Gillespie, Alderwoman Hester, Alderwoman Dailes, and Alderwoman Warnusz. Seven aldermen were present. There was a quorum.

Also present were City Attorney Sam Alton, City Treasurer Rick Rognan, Interim Chief Timothy Sanders, and other members of the city police department.

**Request to Amend the Agenda**

Motioned by Alderwoman Dailes and seconded by Alderman Wiese to amend the agenda for just cause. To include the court administration changes related to city bank account(s).

The Aldermen voted as follows: Alderwoman Harmon-Ward "Yes", Alderwoman Smith "Yes", Alderman Wiese "Yes", Alderman Gillespie "Yes", Alderwoman Hester "Yes", Alderwoman Dailes "Yes", and Alderwoman Warnusz "Yes". Seven "Yes" votes. Motion passed.

**Warrants/Invoice Payments**

Motioned by Alderwoman Dailes and seconded by Alderwoman Hester to table the warrants for payment until the Ways & Means committee can properly review them.

The Aldermen voted as follows: Alderwoman Harmon-Ward "Yes", Alderwoman Smith "Yes", Alderman Wiese "Yes", Alderman Gillespie "Yes", Alderwoman Hester "Yes", Alderwoman Dailes "Yes", and Alderwoman Warnusz "Yes". Seven "Yes" votes. Motion passed.

### **Approval of the Amended Agenda**

Motioned by Alderwoman Dailes and seconded by Alderman Gillespie to approve the amended agenda including court administration changes.

The Aldermen voted as follows: Alderwoman Harmon-Ward "Yes", Alderwoman Smith "Yes", Alderman Wiese "Yes", Alderman Gillespie "Yes", Alderwoman Hester "Yes", Alderwoman Dailes "Yes", and Alderwoman Warnusz "Yes". Seven "Yes" votes. Motion passed.

### **Public Comments from the Audience**

Mayor Thomas opened the meeting up for public comment (in person and virtually on zoom) and requested speakers limit their discussion to three (3) minutes. Several residents asked questions and commented on various topics related to city business and the community.

### **Approval of the Minutes**

No minutes were presented for approval.

### **Presentation Bellefontaine Neighbors Police Department**

Three (3) new Bellefontaine Neighbors police officers were introduced to the board and residents. Chief Sanders congratulated Officer Lee for his appointment to the position of Lieutenant and Officer Lang for his promotion to the position of Sergeant.

Mayor Thomas presented Letters of Accommodation to Officers Sanders and Wills. He read the accommodation to the audience in recognition of a job well done in the line of duty.

### **Financial Reports Treasurer Rick Rognan and Mayor Thomas**

Treasurer Rogden presented the financial statement/budget for board review. He stated that the budget in review is for 2024-2025; but is actually the approved budget from 2022-2023. Treasurer Rogden stated that the state deadline to approve a new budget for 2025-2026 is July 1, 2025.

He stated that the city will eventually close its Regions Bank accounts. The board, as a committee, reviewed Regions Bank practices and decided to end business with them. It was noted that Regions never paid interest to the city. Regions accounts still hold several of the city's direct deposits but hopefully will be closed after the upcoming audit process. All the older city Citizen Bank accounts are all closed, and those accounts are now at Simmons Bank.

Further discussion and comments from the Board related to the bill payment process for the city.

### **Legislative Business- Ordinances and Resolutions:**

**Bill Number 2713 Elimination of unconstitutional City Fees**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS REPEALING SECTION (f) OF SECTION 29-126 OF ARTICLE XXII OF THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS MUNICIPAL CODE AND AMENDING SECTION (g) OF SECTION 29-126 OF ARTICLE XXII OF THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS MUNICIPAL CODE AND ELIMINATE ANY AND ALL UNCONSTITUTIONAL "FEES" RELATING TO SAME.

Mayor Thomas requested a motion to conduct the first reading.

Motioned by Alderwoman Hester and seconded by Alderwoman Dailes to conduct the first reading of bill number 2713 with the necessary corrections.

Mayor Thomas asked for any discussion—none.

Mayor Thomas called for the vote. "Ayes"—all and "Nays"—none. Motion passed.

Attorney Alton conducted the first reading of bill number 2713.

Mayor Thomas requested a motion to conduct the second reading.

Motioned by Alderman Wiese and seconded by Alderman Gillespie to conduct the second reading of bill number 2713.

Mayor Thomas asked for any discussion—none.

Mayor Thomas called for the vote. "Ayes"—all and "Nays"—none. Motion passed.

Attorney Alton conducted the second reading of bill number 2713.

Mayor Thomas requested approval for bill number 2713 to become ordinance number 2683 when, and if, he signs it.

Motioned by Alderman Gillespie and seconded by Alderman Wiese to approve bill number 2713 becoming ordinance number 2683 with the necessary corrects, when and if, he signs it.

Mayor Thomas asked for any further discussion--none. Mayor Thomas called for the vote.

The Aldermen voted as follows: Alderwoman Harmon-Ward "Yes", Alderwoman Smith "Yes", Alderman Wiese "Yes", Alderman Gillespie "Yes", Alderwoman Hester "Yes", Alderwoman Dailes "Yes", and Alderwoman Warnusz "Yes". Seven "Yes" votes. Motion passed.

Bill number 2713 becomes Ordinance number 2683

**Bill Number 2714 Hiring of City Clerk Denise Johnson**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS, MISSOURI, HIRING DENISE JOHNSON AS THE CITY CLERK FOR THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS AT THE HOURLY RATE OF \$30.00.

Mayor Thomas requested a motion to conduct the first reading.

Motioned by Alderman Gillespie and seconded by Alderman Wiese to conduct the first reading of bill number 2714 with the necessary corrections.

Mayor Thomas asked for any discussion—none.

Mayor Thomas called for the vote. “Ayes”-all except one and “Nays” – one being Alderwoman Smith. Motion passed.

Attorney Alton conducted the first reading of bill number 2714.

Mayor Thomas requested a motion to conduct the second reading.

Motioned by Alderman Gillespie and seconded by Alderman Wiese to conduct the first reading of bill number 2714 with the necessary corrections.

Mayor Thomas asked for any discussion—none.

Mayor Thomas called for the vote. “Ayes”-all except one and “Nays” – one being Alderwoman Smith. Motion passed.

Attorney Alton conducted the second reading of bill number 2714.

Mayor Thomas requested approval for bill number 2714 to become ordinance number 2684 with the necessary changes when, and if, he signs it.

Motioned by Alderman Gillespie and seconded by Alderman Wiese to approve bill number 2714 becoming ordinance number 2684 with the necessary corrections when, and if, he signs it.

Mayor Thomas asked for any further discussion--none. Mayor Thomas called for the vote.

The Aldermen voted as follows: Alderwoman Harmon-Ward “Yes”, Alderwoman Smith “No”, Alderman Wiese “Yes”, Alderman Gillespie “Yes”, Alderwoman Hester “Yes”, Alderwoman Dailes “Yes”, and Alderwoman Warnusz “Yes”. Six “Yes” votes and one “No” vote. Motion passed.

Bill number 2714 becomes Ordinance number 2684

**Bill Number 2715 Hiring of City Court Clerk Jalessa King**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS, MISSOURI, HIRING JALEESA KING AS THE COURT CLERK / ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS AT THE HOURLY RATE OF \$25.00.

Mayor Thomas requested a motion to conduct the first reading.

Motioned by Alderwoman Hester and seconded by Alderwoman Dailes to conduct the first reading of bill number 2715 with the necessary corrections.

Mayor Thomas asked for any discussion—none.

Mayor Thomas called for the vote. “Ayes”-all and “Nays” –none. Motion passed.

Attorney Alton conducted the first reading of bill number 2715.

Mayor Thomas requested a motion to conduct the second reading.

Motioned by Alderwoman Hester and seconded by Alderwoman Dailes to conduct the first reading of bill number 2715 with the necessary corrections.

Mayor Thomas asked for any discussion—none.

Mayor Thomas called for the vote. “Ayes”-all and “Nays” –none. Motion passed.

Attorney Alton conducted the second reading of bill number 2715.

Mayor Thomas requested approval for bill number 2715 to become ordinance number 2685 with the necessary changes when, and if, he signs it.

Motioned by Alderwoman Hester and seconded by Alderwoman Dailes to approve bill number 2715 becoming ordinance number 2685 with the necessary corrections when, and if, he signs it.

Mayor Thomas asked for any further discussion--none. Mayor Thomas called for the vote.

The Aldermen voted as follows: Alderwoman Harmon-Ward “Yes”, Alderwoman Smith “Yes”, Alderman Wiese “Yes”, Alderman Gillespie “Yes”, Alderwoman Hester “Yes”, Alderwoman Dailes “Yes”, and Alderwoman Warnusz “Yes”. Seven “Yes” votes. Motion passed.

Bill number 2715 becomes Ordinance number 2685

**Bill Number 2716 Court Management Consultant Agreement**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE ON BEHALF OF THE CITY A CERTIFIED COURT MANAGER CONSULTANT AGREEMENT FOR THE CITY MUNICIPAL COURT.

Mayor Thomas requested a motion to conduct the first reading.

Motioned by Alderman Wiese and seconded by Alderman Gillespie to conduct the first reading of bill number 2716 with the necessary corrections.

Mayor Thomas asked for any discussion—none.

Mayor Thomas called for the vote. “Ayes”-all and “Nays” –none. Motion passed.

Attorney Alton conducted the first reading of bill number 2716.  
Mayor Thomas requested a motion to conduct the second reading.

Motioned by Alderman Gillespie and seconded by Alderman Wiese to conduct the first reading of bill number 2716 with the necessary corrections.

Mayor Thomas asked for any discussion—none.  
Mayor Thomas called for the vote. “Ayes”-all and “Nays” –none. Motion passed.

Attorney Alton conducted the second reading of bill number 2716.  
Mayor Thomas requested approval for bill number 2716 to become ordinance number 2686 with the necessary changes when, and if, he signs it.

Motioned by Alderman Gillespie and seconded by Alderman Wiese to approve bill number 2716 becoming ordinance number 2686 with the necessary corrections when, and if, he signs it.

Mayor Thomas asked for any further discussion--none. Mayor Thomas called for the vote.

The Aldermen voted as follows: Alderwoman Harmon-Ward “Yes”, Alderwoman Smith “Yes”, Alderman Wiese “Yes”, Alderman Gillespie “Yes”, Alderwoman Hester “Yes”, Alderwoman Dailes “Yes”, and Alderwoman Warnusz “Yes”. Seven “Yes” votes. Motion passed.

Bill number 2716 becomes Ordinance number 2686

**Bill Number 2717 Hiring and Duties of the City Clerk**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS, MISSOURI, ESTABLISHING SECTION 2-102 OF CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE 111- THE HIRING AND DUTIES OF THE CITY CLERK.

Mayor Thomas requested a motion to conduct the first reading.

Motioned by Alderman Gillespie and seconded by Alderman Wiese to conduct the first reading of bill number 2717 with the necessary corrections.

Mayor Thomas asked for any discussion—none.  
Mayor Thomas called for the vote. “Ayes”-all and “Nays” –none. Motion passed.

Attorney Alton conducted the first reading of bill number 2717.  
Mayor Thomas requested a motion to conduct the second reading.

Motioned by Alderman Gillespie and seconded by Alderman Wiese to conduct the first reading of bill number 2717 with the necessary corrections.

Mayor Thomas asked for any discussion—none.

Mayor Thomas called for the vote. “Ayes”-all and “Nays” –none. Motion passed.

Attorney Alton conducted the second reading of bill number 2717.

Mayor Thomas requested approval for bill number 2717 to become ordinance number 2687 with the necessary changes when, and if, he signs it.

Motioned by Alderman Gillespie and seconded by Alderman Wiese to approve bill number 2717 becoming ordinance number 2687 with the necessary corrections when, and if, he signs it.

Mayor Thomas asked for any further discussion--none. Mayor Thomas called for the vote.

The Aldermen voted as follows: Alderwoman Harmon-Ward “Yes”, Alderwoman Smith “Yes”, Alderman Wiese “Yes”, Alderman Gillespie “Yes”, Alderwoman Hester “Yes”, Alderwoman Dailes “Yes”, and Alderwoman Warnusz “Yes”. Seven “Yes” votes. Motion passed.

Bill number 2717 becomes Ordinance number 2687.

**Bill number 2718 Kelly Day Compensation**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS, MISSOURI, AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF "KELLY DAY" COMPENSATION FOR AMOUNT(S) OWED TO CURRENT OFFICERS OF THE CITY AS REFERENCED IN EXHIBIT A ATTACHED TO THIS ORDINANCE.

Mayor Thomas requested a roll call vote including a first and second reading of bill number 2718.

Motioned by Alderman Gillespie and seconded by Alderman Harmon-Ward to conduct the first reading of bill number 2718.

Mayor Thomas asked for any discussion—none.

Mayor Thomas called for the vote. “Ayes”-all and “Nays” –none. Motion passed.

Attorney Alton conducted the first reading of bill number 2718.

Mayor Thomas requested a motion for a second reading.

Motioned by Alderman Gillespie and seconded by Alderwoman Harmon-Ward to conduct the second reading of bill number 2718.

Mayor Thomas asked for any discussion—none.

Mayor Thomas called for the vote. “Ayes”-all and “Nays” –none. Motion passed.

Attorney Alton conducted the second reading of bill number 2718.

Mayor Thomas requested approval for bill number 2718 to become ordinance number 2688.

Motioned by Alderman Gillespie and seconded by Alderman Alderwoman Harmon-Ward to approve bill number 2718 becoming ordinance number 2688 when, and if, he signs it.

Mayor Thomas asked for any questions or comments—none. Mayor Thomas called for the vote.

The Aldermen voted as follows: Alderwoman Harmon-Ward “Yes”, Alderwoman Smith “Yes”, Alderman Wiese “Yes”, Alderman Gillespie “Yes”, Alderwoman Hester “Yes”, Alderwoman Dailes “Yes”, and Alderwoman Warnusz “Yes”. Seven aldermen were present.

Bill number 2718 will become Ordinance number 2688.

**Resolution 2025-07 Banking Institution Signature Changes**

Mayor Thomas requested a motion to read by title only.

Motioned by Alderwoman Dailes and seconded by Alderwoman Harmon-Ward to approve reading resolution number 2025-06 by title only.

Mayor Thomas asked for any questions or comments--none. Mayor Thomas called for the vote.

The Aldermen voted as follows: Alderwoman Harmon-Ward “Yes”, Alderwoman Smith “Yes”, Alderman Wiese “Yes”, Alderman Gillespie “Yes”, Alderwoman Hester “Yes”, Alderwoman Dailes “Yes”, and Alderwoman Warnusz “Yes”. Seven aldermen were present.

Attorney Alton conducted the title only reading of resolution number 2025-07.

Mayor Thomas called for the vote to approval resolution number 2025-07.

Motioned by Alderman Gillespie and seconded by Alderwoman Hester to approve resolution number 2025-07.

Mayor Thomas asked for any questions or comments--none. Mayor Thomas called for the vote.

The Aldermen voted as follows: Alderwoman Harmon-Ward “Yes”, Alderwoman Smith “Yes”, Alderman Wiese “Yes”, Alderman Gillespie “Yes”, Alderwoman Hester “Yes”, Alderwoman Dailes “Yes”, and Alderwoman Warnusz “Yes”. Seven aldermen were present.

**Approval of Invoices/Warrants to Pay the Bills- \$44,658.94**

Mayor Thomas requested board action to approve invoices.

Members of the Ways & Means committee decided to meet and review the city bills on Friday, May 9, 2025. There will be a special open board meeting on May 10, 2025 to formally approve the open warrants for payment.

Motioned by Alderwoman Dailes and seconded by Alderwoman Smith to hold special open board of aldermen meeting on Saturday, May 10, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. to formally approve the open warrants for payment.

Mayor Thomas called for the vote.

The Aldermen voted as follows: Alderwoman Harmon-Ward "Yes", Alderwoman Smith "Yes", Alderman Weise "Yes", Alderman Gillespie "Yes", Alderwoman Hester "Yes", Alderwoman Dailes "Yes", and Alderwoman Warnusz "Yes". Seven aldermen were present.

### **New Business – Aldermanic Appointment**

Mayor Thomas asked the Board to approve the appointment of resident Robert Murphy to Alderman to fill the third ward vacancy. He noted the position would still be open for any possible candidates in the upcoming election.

Motioned by Alderwoman Smith and seconded by Alderwoman Harmon-Ward approve the Mayor's appointment of resident Robert Murphy to the vacant Alderman seat in the third ward.

The Aldermen voted as follows: Alderwoman Harmon-Ward "Yes", Alderwoman Smith "No", Alderman Wiese "No", Alderman Gillespie "Yes", Alderwoman Hester "No", Alderwoman Dailes "Yes", and Alderwoman Warnusz "No". Three "Yes" votes and four "No" votes. Motion failed.

### **Liquor License Request      Gateway Market LLC      9309 Bellefontaine Road**

Attorney Kansler spoke on behalf of the owners of Gateway Market LLC (Waleed Nasser / Fadi Nasser) to help persuade the board to consider approving a liquor license.

There was a question of the adjacent building being a church. It was determined that it is an event center, not a church per the owner (Rosemary Whitehead). Attorney Alton read section 329 of the city code of ordinance prohibiting the sale of liquor in the vicinity of a church.

Motioned by Alderman Wiese and seconded by Alderwoman Hester to approve the liquor license request submitted by Gateway Market LLC located at 9309 Bellefontaine Road upon submission and completion on the corrected paperwork.

Board discussion, concerns, and questions followed. The owners presented casualty insurance as requested by the board. Discussion about the notarization was questioned, cleared, completed and to be corrected before licensing.

Alderman Dailes requested to make a motion to deny the requested liquor license.  
Attorney Alton clarified the rules related to motions on the floor.  
Further board comments from the mayor and board followed.

The Aldermen voted as follows: Alderman Harmon-Ward "Yes", Alderman Smith "No",  
Alderman Wiese "Yes", Alderman Gillespie "Yes", Alderman Hester "Yes", Alderman Dailes  
"No", and Alderman Warnusz "Yes". Five Yes" votes and two "No" votes. Motion passed.

### **Attorney's Report**

Attorney Alton informed the board that MIRMA cancelled the general liability coverage for the city of Bellefontaine Neighbors effective June 30, 2025. He explained the loss ratio versus annual premium for the city over the last 10 years. The city will be presenting quotes for new coverage in an upcoming meeting.

Attorney Alton read a list of issues related to RPA payroll issues, Kelly Day irregularity, bank account errors, and other city issues.

### **Department Head Reports**

Reports were made available orally and in print.

### **Aldermen Reports**

Board members thanked the meeting attendees and commented on various topics discussed during the meeting, including the speeding issues on Bellefontaine Road and other resident issues.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Thomas thanked the meeting attendees and commented on various topics discussed during the meeting.

### **Motion to Adjourn**

Motioned by Alderman Dailes and seconded by Alderman Smith to adjourn.

Mayor Thomas called for the vote.

The Aldermen voted as follows: Alderman Hester "Yes" Alderman Gillespie "Yes" Alderman Warnusz "Yes", Alderman Wiese "Yes", Alderman Harmon-Ward "Yes", Alderman Dailes "Yes", and Alderman Smith "Yes". The vote being seven "Yes" votes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

ATTEST

  
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Mayor  
James W. Thomas

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk  
Denise Johnson

Minutes are compiled of excerpts from the discussion and actions taken by the Board of Aldermen.  
Minutes do not constitute a transcription or verbatim record of what transpired during a meeting.