

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

**Thursday June 5, 2025 6:00 p.m.**

The Board of Aldermen met for a meeting on Thursday, June 5, 2025.

Mayor Thomas presided over the meeting. He called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.  
The following Alderpersons were "Present" virtually or in person:

Alderman Gillespie, Alderwoman Warnusz, and Alderman Wiese virtually via zoom, Alderwoman Harmon-Ward and Alderwoman Dailes in person at the meeting. Alderwoman Hester arrived at 6:10 p.m. and Alderwoman Smith arrived at 6:13 p.m. Seven aldermen were present.  
There was a quorum.

Also present were City Clerk Denise Johnson and City Attorney Sam Alton.

Mayor Thomas called for a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing business related to the City of Bellefontaine Neighbors, MO pursuant to MO Revised Statute 610.021 [1], [2], and [3].

Motioned by Alderwoman Dailes and seconded by Alderwoman Harmon-Ward to go into a closed session for the purpose of discussing legal matters related to the City of Bellefontaine Neighbors, MO as set forth in the MORS Section 610.021 [1], [2], and [3].

Mayor Thomas called for the vote. The Aldermen voted as follows: Alderwoman Hester—not present at the time, Alderman Gillespie "Yes", Alderwoman Warnusz "Yes", Alderman Wiese "Yes", Alderwoman Harmon-Ward "Yes," Alderwoman Dailes "Yes," and Alderwoman Smith—not present at the time. The vote being five "Yes" votes and two not present. Motion carried.

**1st Order of Business – Bill# 2722 P.D. Medical Reimbursement Request**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS, MISSOURI, AUTHORIZING THE REIMBURSEMENT OF \$1,000.00 TO CERTAIN CITY EMPLOYEES THAT SURPASSED THE \$1,500.00 DEDUCTIBLE FOR MEDICAL COSTS PURSUANT TO SECONDARY HEALTHCARE COVERAGE UNDER AFLAC OFFERED BY THE CITY THAT LAPSED FROM MARCH, 2022 THROUGH MARCH, 2025, AS REFERENCED IN EXHIBIT A ATTACHED TO THIS ORDINANCE.

Attorney Alton stated that this matter will be presented for board action in the upcoming open meeting.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Order of Business —457 and 401 Retirement Services Letter of Engagement**

Motioned by Alderwoman Dailes and seconded by Alderman Gillespie to approve the presented agreement between Retirement Plan Advisors and the City of Bellefontaine Neighbors to complete payroll data entry for missing deferrals associated with the City's 457(b) and 401(a) plans.

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

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Order of Business — Linn Building & Loan, v. City of Bellefontaine Neighbors**

Motioned by Alderwoman Dailes and seconded by Alderwoman Smith to pay the approved invoices from Reichardt, Noce & Young LLC in the total amount of \$4,660.50 as final payment.

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

### **4<sup>th</sup> Order of Business — Bill# 2725 P. Lukens Settlement and Release**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN A SETTLEMENT AND RELEASE WITH RESPECT TO ALL CLAIMS OF PHILIP LUKENS ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS, MISSOURI.

Attorney Alton discussed the "Release" on behalf of the City of Bellefontaine Neighbors with respect to all claims of Philip Lukens and Charge Number 560-2024-03579. MIRMA facilitated the settlement and will pay \$40,000. All attorneys' fees and court costs will be paid by The Law Offices of Sarah Swatosh, LLC in the amount of \$14,500.

The City of Bellefontaine Neighbors, with board approval, will pay the gross amount of \$12,500 less any payroll taxes/deductions required to complete the settlement and release.

Attorney Alton requested a roll call vote including a first and second reading of bill number 2725.

Board of Aldermen discussion and comments followed. Mayor Thomas requested approval of a first reading.

Motioned by Alderwoman Dailes and seconded by Alderwoman Hester to conduct the first reading of bill number 2725.

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

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

Attorney Alton conducted the first reading of bill number 2725.

Mayor Thomas requested approval of a second reading.

Motioned by Alderwoman Dailes and seconded by Alderwoman Hester to conduct the second reading of bill number 2725.

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

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

Attorney Alton conducted the second reading of bill number 2725.

Mayor Thomas requested approval of bill number 2725 to become ordinance number 2690.

Motioned by Alderwoman Dailes and seconded by Alderwoman Harmon-Ward to approve of bill number 2725 becoming ordinance number 2690.

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

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

Bill number 2725 is now Ordinance number 2690.

**5<sup>th</sup> Order of Business — Bill# 2720 MOPERM Liability Coverage Contract**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS ACCEPTING THE MOPERM COVERAGE PROPOSAL FOR THE CITY AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE ON BEHALF OF THE CITY ACCEPTANCE OF SAME.

Attorney Alton stated that this matter will be presented for board action in the upcoming open meeting.

**6<sup>th</sup> Order of Business M.E.C., St. Louis County and U.S. Attorney Office Filings**

Attorney Alton stated that he has submitted approximately 150 pages of related the former mayor Dinah Tatman and the fraudulent signing of city checks in conflict with the City of Bellefontaine Neighbors code of ordinances.

**7<sup>th</sup> Order of Business Recommendation(s) from the City Treasurer Rick Rognan**

Mayor Thomas read aloud the letter of recommendation from Treasurer Rognan. He suggested city employee Semmie Ruffin-Hall be reassigned from the finance department to 'special projects' under Mayor Thomas to specifically handle the ARPA reporting, among other tasks and duties.

**8<sup>th</sup> Order of Business Bill 2724 Articles of Impeachment-Alderwoman Peg Warnusz**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS, MISSOURI, AUTHORIZING THE COMMENCEMENT AND DRAFTING OF ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT AGAINST BOARD MEMBER MARGARET WARNUSZ.

Attorney Alton stated that this matter will be presented for board action in the upcoming open meeting.

**Adjournment of the Closed Meeting**

Motioned by Alderwoman Smith and seconded by Alderwoman Harmon-Ward to adjourn.

Mayor Thomas called for the vote.

The Aldermen voted as follows: Alderwoman Hester "Yes", Alderman Gillespie —not present for the vote, Alderwoman Warnusz "Yes", Alderman Wiese "Yes", Alderwoman Harmon-Ward "Yes", Alderwoman Dailes "Yes", and Alderwoman Smith "Yes". The vote being seven "Yes" votes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

ATTEST

James W Thomas  
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 the meeting.