

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

**Friday      July 11, 2025      6:00 p.m.**

The Board of Aldermen met for a special open meeting on Friday, July 11, 2025, via zoom. Mayor Thomas presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Conducted by those in attendance via zoom.

**Roll Call**

Mayor Thomas requested a roll call. The following Alderpersons answered "Present": Alderman Gillespie, Alderman Weise, Alderwoman Harmon-Ward, Alderwoman Dailes, Alderwoman Smith, and Alderwoman Hester. Six aldermen were present. There was a quorum.

Also present were City Clerk Denise Johnson, City Attorney Sam Alton, and residents/participants in the open zoom meeting.

**Approval of the Agenda**

Mayor Thomas requested approval of the agenda as presented.

Motioned by Alderwoman Dailes and seconded by Alderman Gillespie to approve the agenda as presented.

Mayor Thomas called for board discussion and hearing none, he called for the vote. The vote was "Ayes" – all aldermen present and "Nays" – none. Motion passed.

**Business Discussion/Action –ARPA Funds Reimbursement to the Dept. of Treasury**

Mayor Thomas opened the meeting for discussion and/or board action.

Attorney Alton reiterated the board's request to return the remaining and unused ARPA funds to the U.S. Department of Treasury in the approximate amount of \$697,000.00. He also stated that the City of Bellefontaine Neighbors reached out to the Department of Treasury on July 8, 2025, in an effort to begin the refund process. They advised the city to keep the funds until the federal reporting system denotes it is time to return the remaining funds.

The board discussed the minutes from various meetings (tentatively May through September) related to board approvals for purchases to be paid for with ARPA funds.

Board member discussions, concerns, and comments followed related to this issue.

Attorney Alton stated that he reviewed the minutes and cannot find clear, concise language where the board of aldermen had a consensus on approved ARPA purchases. He said if minutes with clear board action is located, he will bring the matter back to the board for review. He requested the board conduct a symbolic vote giving Mayor Thomas the authorization to return the remaining ARPA funds to the Department of Treasury when they make the request. This business will come back up in an upcoming meeting.

Motioned by Alderman Wiese and seconded by Alderman Gillespie to symbolically vote to give Mayor Thomas the authorization to return the remaining ARPA funds the Department of Treasury when they make the request.

Mayor Thomas called for further discussion and hearing none, he called for the vote.

The Aldermen voted as follows: Alderman Gillespie "Yes", Alderman Weise "Yes", Alderwoman Harmon-Ward "Yes", Alderwoman Dailes "Yes", Alderwoman Smith "Yes", and Alderwoman Hester and Alderwoman Smith "Yes" The vote being six "Yes" votes and one "No" vote. Motion carried.

### **Motion for a Closed Session**

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

Motioned by Alderwoman Dailes and seconded by Alderwoman Hester to go into a closed session for the purpose of discussing matters related to the City of Bellefontaine Neighbors, MO as set forth in the MO Revised Statute Sections 610.021 [1] and [3].

Mayor Thomas called for the vote.

The Aldermen voted as follows: Alderman Gillespie "Yes", Alderman Weise "Yes", Alderwoman Harmon-Ward "Yes", Alderwoman Dailes "Yes", Alderwoman Smith "Yes", and Alderwoman Hester "Yes". The vote being six "Yes" votes. Motion passed.

City Attorney Alton noted that this session should remain closed except for those present and any votes taken by the Board of Aldermen.

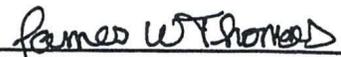
The special open meeting adjourned and zoom meeting recording ended at 6:12 p.m.

Motioned by Alderwoman Dailes and seconded by Alderwoman Hester to adjourn.

Mayor Thomas called for the vote.

The Aldermen voted as follows: Alderman Gillespie "Yes", Alderman Weise "Yes", Alderwoman Harmon-Ward "Yes", Alderwoman Dailes "Yes", Alderwoman Smith "Yes", and Alderwoman Hester "Yes". The vote being six "Yes" votes. Motion passed

**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.