

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

Thursday September 4, 2025 6:00 p.m.

The Board of Aldermen met for a closed meeting on Thursday September 4, 2025, in person and via zoom. Mayor Thomas presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Roll Call

Mayor Thomas requested a roll call. The following Alderpersons answered "Present": Alderman Gillespie, Alderman Wiese, 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 and City Attorney Sam Alton.

Motion to go into the Closed Meeting

Motioned by Alderman Wiese and seconded by Alderwoman Harmon-Ward to go into closed session for matters related to the City of Bellefontaine Neighbors, MO pursuant to MO Revised Statute Sections 610.021 (1) and (3).

Mayor Thomas called for the vote.

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

1st Order of Business Discussion/Action – Parks and Rec. Full Time Position

Motioned by Alderman Wiese and seconded by Alderwoman Hester to pull funds from a part time position in parks and recreation and the shortened hours of operation to bring employee Grace Shortall back into full time status.

Mayor Thomas called for the vote.

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

2nd Order of Business Discussion/Action – RPA Employee Contributions

Retirement Plan Advisors Reps. discussed the following steps to correct and rectify the current issues related to the non-payment of benefits to employees through payroll deduction(s) and data entry services related to the City's 457(b) and 401(a) retirement plans.

Motion to go into an Open Meeting from the Closed Meeting

Mayor Thomas called for a motion to go back into an open meeting from the closed session.

Motioned by Alderman Wiese and seconded by Alderwoman Harmon-Ward to go back into an open meeting and end the current closed meeting.

Mayor Thomas called for the vote.

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

1st Order of Open Business Discussion/Action – Court Services

Court Administrator and Consultant Angela Chatman-Slay presented information and a draft proposal from the City of Ferguson, Mo. for board consideration. Excerpts include:

Bellefontaine shall pay \$ 30,000-35,000 per year for court and \$6000 per year for the Prosecutor's Assistant administrative services in quarterly sums of \$3417.00 no later than the fifth day of each month. The

Motioned by Alderwoman Dailes and seconded by Alderwoman Smith to support the move to consolidate Bellefontaine Neighbors courts with the City of Ferguson's court system.

Mayor Thomas called for the vote.

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

Motioned by Alderman Wiese and seconded by Alderwoman Harmon-Ward to offer full time employee status to the current court clerk Jelessa King effective immediately.

Mayor Thomas called for the vote.

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

2nd Order of Open Business Discussion/Action – P.D. Union Legal Fees

Attorney Alton commented on the ongoing police department union negotiations. He requested to bill the city separate from his current retainer for the collective bargaining process he is instructed to work on with the mayor, chief of police, and labor union representatives.

Board comments followed.

Motioned by Alderwoman Dailes and seconded by Alderman Wiese to allow the city attorney to bill the city separately for legal expenses related to police department union negotiations.

Mayor Thomas called for the vote.

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

Adjournment

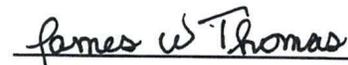
Motioned by Alderwoman Dailes and seconded by Alderman Wiese to adjourn the current meeting.

Mayor Thomas called for the vote.

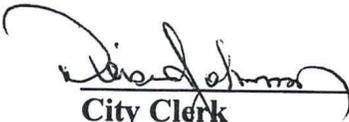
The Aldermen voted as follows: Alderman Gillespie "Yes", Alderman Wiese "Yes", Alderwoman Harmon-Ward "Yes", Alderwoman Dailes "Yes", Alderwoman Smith "Yes", and Alderwoman Hester "Yes". The vote being six "Yes" votes. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

ATTEST



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.