

**CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS
TOWN HALL MEETING
September 19, 2013**

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 7:00 p.m. by Board of Aldermen President, Anthony Smith, who introduced Mayor Robert J. Doerr.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG was led by Mayor Doerr.

PRESENT: Chief Pruett, City Attorney Kevin O'Keefe, Deni Donovan, City Collector Mark Tranel, Alderman Paro, Alderman Migliazzo, Alderman Schultz, Alderman Merz, Alderman Roth, Alderman Smith, and Alderman Hollis.

ABSENT: Alderman John Jordan

MAYOR DOERR: Mayor Doerr welcomed everyone to the annual Town Hall Meeting and sent condolences to the City Attorney's family on the death of his mother. He introduced the Elected and Appointed Officials, Department Heads, the Chairman of the Boards and Commissions, and former Mayor Marty Rudloff. He stated the purpose of the Town Hall Meeting was to meet the City Officials and to report on the state of the City.

STATE OF THE CITY REPORT: Mayor Doerr reported on the Financial Condition of the City. As of June 30, 2013, there was approximately \$1,950,000 in the General Fund; \$76,000 in the Sewer Fund; and \$398,000 in the Capital Improvement Fund. The City is audited annually; the report is due from the auditors in October. The City is currently in good financial condition with approximately a \$5,650,000 million dollars budgeted for 201-2014. He thanked the employees for their help in trimming the budget for this coming year.

Several issues came into play regarding the budget, such as the Coburg Lands/Belgrove Street Project; the cost of gasoline; and (2) tornadoes that hit the City within the last two years. At this time, he gave kudos to Riverview Fire Chief, Joe Bommarito, for his approval regarding the burning of debris versus chipping it all; it saved not only money but time. He thanked Alderman Roth and the City Treasurer, Larry Abeln, for their help with the 2013-2014 budget figures. Adding (2) additional Police Officers for the Traffic Division has reduced traffic accidents. He emphasized the City is open to new ideas. Some of the events the City promoted this past year were: Back to School Fair, chaired by the Youth Commission; the Electronic Recycle Event backed by Alderman Paro; and the Housing Resource Fair backed by Alderman Smith.

CURRENT EVENTS: Mayor Doerr reported on the following:

- The Coburg Lands/Belgrove Street Project will begin on September 23rd;
- The Rec Center parking lot was sealed this past week – the lower lot will be done next week;
- MIRMA, the City's insurance carrier will be doing the City's building appraisals for free;
- The audit, done for the City, is complete and will be presented at the October 17th Board of Aldermen meeting;
- Beautification Day will be September 28th – all are invited;
- National Night Out is on October 1st – the Mayor encouraged all to participate;
- The 63rd City Anniversary Picnic will be held on October 12th from noon-5:00;
- The Wine and Beer Social will be held on October 12th from 5:30-9:30;
- The Halloween Party Dinner will be October 15th; and
- The City of Bellefontaine Neighbors was chosen by Waste Management to represent the state of Missouri in the Recycling Program. Even though we didn't win, the City was recognized by the St. Louis County Municipal League and given the Sustainability Award.

CHIEF PRUETT'S REPORT: Chief Pruett was introduced by Mayor Doerr. He reported that our officers do a great job of protecting our City. Unfortunately, the City has experienced (2) homicides these past few months. He thanked the community for their support and help in solving both murders; "I am very proud of our community". The Major Case Squad was very significant in solving both murders. He credited several programs, such as Neighborhood Watch and Nextdoor, for getting people involved. He recognized Lt. Boston and Lt. Sheehan, who both recently retired after years of dedicated service.

At this time, he introduced the 2nd in command, Lt. Jeremy Ihler, who was the 1st Bellefontaine Neighbors Officer to go through the FBI Academy; he asked that help him with the recognitions for the following officers:

- Officer Mike Riley received a Certificate of Merit
- Sgt. Peggy Vassallo received a Certificate of Merit
- Officer Kim Tihen received a Commendation and Certificate of Merit
- Officer Dan Sanders received a Certificate of Merit
- Sgt. Shawn Applegate received (2) Commendations
- Officer DeWitt Edwards received (2) Commendations
- Officer Justin Spradlin received a Commendation

Chief Pruett thanked the Community for their support of the Police Officers and thanked everyone again for coming. Mayor Doerr stated that he too was very proud of all the Officers in the Police Department and congratulated everyone.

FIRE CHIEF JOE BOMMARITO: Chief Bommarito said it was a pleasure to meet with the residents of Bellefontaine Neighbors along with servicing the Riverview, Glasgow Village, and Moline Acres communities. He thanked everyone for their support regarding the BackStoppers BBQ last Saturday. He is proud of the relationship he has with the Chief Pruett and the Bellefontaine Neighbors Police Department. Calls for service are up compared to last year. Most calls revolve around kitchen fires when people are cooking and watching T.V. at the same time. He asked everyone to please be careful. He feels very fortunate to be working with her current personnel and the Fire Board which consists of Patrick Russell, Norvel Paro and Bobby Smith.

DR. SCOTT SPURGEON, RIVERVIEW GARDENS SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT:

Dr. Spurgeon acknowledged Dr. Mark Tranel for his work with the school district and Melanie Powell-Robinson, the Communications Director. He announced how well the football team was doing and outlined the steps they will be going through to regain accreditation. He announced that even though everyone has read how many students elected to go to another school district, a good number of those students have rescinded the transfer and elected to stay at Riverview. Other topics he discussed were: Costs; goals; accreditation points needed; student attendance; the focus on school programs; and accomplishments by current Riverview students.

Mayor Doerr announced he was very encouraged by Dr. Spurgeon's speech.

HOME BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS:

Mayor Doerr, along with the Image & Beautification Board members presented the 2013 Home Beautification Awards to the winners and thanked them for taking pride in their home:

BUSINESS AWARD:

Aldi was presented the Business Beautification Award. To accept on behalf of Aldi was Ted Harris, District Manager and Louis Ross, Real Estate Director. They were thrilled the City recognized the Aldi location. On behalf of Aldi, Mr. Ross thanked the City and was happy with the great partnership and support Aldi has had with the City of Bellefontaine Neighbors since 1982.

HOME AWARDS:

Ward 1:	The Thomas Family (Mark) Gary & Priscilla Hamm	Present Present
Ward 2:	The Logan Family (Clark) Mr. & Mrs. Richard Burgdorf	Present
Ward 3:	Jerome & Delores Smith Willie and Thelma Roberson	Present Present
Ward 4:	Phyllis Lang-Baker Vickie and Tim Horan	Present Present

The Mayor thanked the Image and Beautification Board for all of their hard work and reminded all to participate in the City’s Beautification Day Clean-Up on Saturday, September 28th at 9:00 a.m. Food and beverages will be provided.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:

TOMMIE PIERSON, 1229 SHEPLEY: He can feel the “excitement in the air” regarding the Riverview Gardens School District. He encouraged everyone to work together. He thanked Mayor Doerr for his hard work and looks forward to work with the City.

VICKIE AMERSON, 1154 ASHFORD: Would like to see her street paved. The Mayor told her there is no more money left from the Bond account, but he will look at Ashbrook and will need to prioritize as to which streets can be updated by the Street Department. She also wanted to know when Waste Management’s contract will be reviewed; the Mayor said in 2014 with a possible (2) year extension.

BETTY KONDRACKI, 1136 HOYT: Wanted to know what was going on at the corner of Ashbrook and Bliss; there has been a hole, with a tarp over it, for about the last (3) months. Deni told her she had already put in a call to Laclede Gas and was waiting for their response. She will call Laclede back and give an update to Mrs. Kondracki.

JOHN KRUSL, 10750 RUNNINGBROOK: When asked, Mayor Doerr verified there is no more money left from the Bond issue funds.

PEG WANUSZ: Peg thanked Mayor Doerr for helping with the Bissell Hills Shopping Center issues and the clean-up that has occurred over the last year. Unfortunately, Mr. Ellison has to be reminded to take care of the property. She also wanted to thank the guys from Parks and Rec for helping keep the area clean.

PHYLLIS LANG-BAKER: Wanted to know the process to get a stop sign put up in her neighborhood. She was advised to meet with Alderman Hollis who is her Alderman along with being on the Public Safety Commission. She was told the City will not put in speed bumps due to emergency vehicles.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Mayor Doerr thanked everyone for coming

Meeting closed at 8:25 p.m.

Robert J. Doerr, Mayor

ATTEST:

Deni Donovan, City Clerk