

**CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS
TOWN HALL MEETING
September 18, 2014**

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 7:00 p.m. by City Attorney, Kevin O’Keefe.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG was led by City Attorney O’Keefe. He then asked for a moment of silence for Hazel Chamberlain, who had died this morning. Kevin O’Keefe then introduced Mayor Robert J. Doerr.

PRESENT: Chief Pruett, City Attorney Kevin O’Keefe, Judy Mantych (sitting in for Deni Donovan, City Clerk), City Collector Mark Tranel, Alderman Paro, Alderman Migliazzo, Alderman Schultz, Alderman Merz, Alderman Roth, Alderman Jordan, Alderman Smith, and Alderman Dillworth.

ABSENT: Deni Donovan

MAYOR DOERR: Mayor Doerr welcomed everyone to the annual Town Hall Meeting. He introduced the Elected and Appointed Officials, Department Heads, the Chairman of the Boards and Commissions. He stated the purpose of the Town Hall Meeting was to meet the City Officials and to report on the state of the City.

DR. SCOTT SPURGEON, RIVERVIEW GARDENS SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT:

Dr. Spurgeon spoke on the accomplishments of the High School Seniors in obtaining over \$1.5 million in scholarship opportunities. He discussed the steps and points toward regaining accreditation and how very close they were this past school year. He was enthusiastic regarding the positive steps, including rises in attendance rate, graduation, enrollment, and GPA. He reported discipline issues had decreased in the past year, as had the number of transfer students. The District is also working with other districts to have them accept the lowest tuition rate for transfer students, helping the District save money. He acknowledged Dr. Mark Tranel and Melanie Powell-Robinson, the District Communication Director.

STATE OF THE CITY REPORT: Mayor Doerr reported on the Financial Condition of the City. As of June 30, 2014, there was approximately \$2,065,000 in the General Fund; \$66,000 in the Sewer Fund; and \$567,000 in the Capital Improvement Fund. We have seen improvement in the bank accounts of the City. The City is currently in good financial condition with approximately \$5,123,000 dollars budgeted for 2014-2015. He thanked the employees for their help in trimming the budget for this coming year and Larry Ablen and Mark Roth for their hard work on the Budget. The Mayor reported the City was in the black by \$160,000 for the first time in six years.

Several issues came into play regarding the budget, such as the Coburg Lands/Belgrove Street Project (which was completed this year), the Shepley Road Bridge Project (to be completed next summer), the increasing cost of gasoline, and the increase of the cost of salt. The bids, taken in the Fall, have shown a 25% increase in the cost of salt, but the City stockpiled salt in the Spring of 2014 at a lower price. The St Cyr Bridge is projected to be replaced next Fall and will be included in next year’s budget.

CURRENT EVENTS: Mayor Doerr reported on the following:

- National Night Out is on October 7th –The Mayor encouraged all to participate;
- The Human Relations Commission is sponsoring a Diversity Meeting on October 9th. It will be held at City Hall at 7:00pm;
- The Wine and Beer Social will be held on October 11th from 5:30-9:30; and
- The Alzheimer Association will be holding an informational meeting at the Rec Center on October 14th at 6:00pm;

BUSINESS AWARD: QuikTrip was presented the Business Beautification Award. To accept on behalf of QuikTrip was Kevin Jacobs, Store Supervisor.

The Mayor, again, 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 27th at 9:00 a.m. Food and beverages will be provided.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:

MARTHA DOUGLAS, 1506 CORINTH: She presented a petition with thirty signatures regarding street safety on Corinth Drive. The petition requested more attention be paid to the improvement of Corinth Drive. She recognized the physical deterioration of the street and requested a speed limit of 15mph be initiated. The Petition was presented to the Mayor and Aldermen Roth & Jordan.

WANDA LANE, 9913 MARTINDALE: She asked the Mayor about an update on the possibility of a new grocery store coming to Bissell Hills Shopping Center. The Mayor stated he had spoken with a group interested in putting a supermarket in the space and that he had, also, spoken with Mr. Ellison, owner of the shopping center. Mr. Ellison had told him there were others interested in the property.

BARBAR POWELL, 1211 LAIRE: Ms. Powell had multiple complaints regarding the property at a home on Laire. She has been working with the Police regarding ordinance violations, but was unhappy with how long the process takes for violations can be addressed. She was concerned about the trimming or removal of trees before they damaged houses. She also complained about water standing in her yard and excess runoff of water. She has complained to MSD, with no response. She was also concerned about mosquitoes and asked about fogging. She was told that is handled through St. Louis County.

BARBARA WEST, 9741 CALUMET: She had a complaint about her next door neighbor. There are tall weeds and overgrowth at the foundation.

SAMUEL WHITESIDE, 1241 ASHFORD: Mr. Whiteside was concerned about speeding in the neighborhood. He requested speed bumps be placed on some streets. Mayor Doerr referred him to Bobby Smith of the Riverview Fire District. Mr. Whiteside, also, requested a permanent stop sign be placed at the intersection of Crete & Chambers Road, stopping traffic on Chambers Road. Mayor Doerr explained that Chambers is a St. Louis County arterial road, but he would contact St. Louis County.

PAMELA CLARK, 1115 AVANT: She wanted to thank the Police Department for a great job in neighborhood patrol, especially on her street. She stated the Officers were very good at diffusing arguments. Ms. Clark was very appreciative of the Police Officers and also of the Board of Aldermen for a good job on the budget. The Mayor stated the Board had just passed the tax rate for the year and it was not raised. He thanked the Board for how well they work together.

MELVIN WILLIAMS, 9912 MARTINGALE: Mr. Williams stated he has been working on a community garden near Doherty Park. He was asking for topsoil and hopes to have the garden open to the public next year.

JULIA COLLINS, 10132 FARRINGTON: Ms. Collins requested the phone number to call to get her street patched.

WAYNE ANDERSON, 1412 CORINTH: He asked if anyone knew of a program to paint the street address numbers on the end of the driveway. There was a discussion as to whether it had been the Boy Scouts or the ROTC group from RGSB who had painted in the past. The question of the High School group was directed to Melanie Powell-Robinson and she said she would check. Mr. Anderson also stated that he really enjoyed the City event at Bissell House and thought the Jazz

Band was awesome. The Mayor said he was pleased with the attendance that day and enjoyed the event.

KATHY MASON, 1113 DONNELL: Regarding the painting of the street address, Ms Mason stated that in the past she had borrowed the numbers from the Street Department and painted them herself.

MELANIE POWELL-ROBINSON (RGSD), 1218 SHEPLEY: She invited the community to the High Schools Homecoming on October 4, 2014; there will be a parade that day.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Mayor Doerr thanked everyone for coming

Meeting closed at 8:45 p.m.

ATTEST:

Deni Donovan, City Clerk