

**CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS
TOWN HALL MEETING
September 17, 2015**

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 those who have recently passed away: Sgt. Peggy Vassallo, Jeannette Bost, and Jean Garaschia. Kevin O'Keefe then introduced Mayor Robert J. Doerr.

PRESENT: Mayor Robert Doerr, Chief of Police Jeremy Ihler, City Attorney Kevin O'Keefe, City Clerk Deni Donovan, City Collector Mark Tranel, Alderman Paro, Alderman Schultz, Alderman Merz, Alderman Roth, Alderman Jordan, Alderman Smith, and Alderman Fields.

ABSENT:

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 recognized State Representative Tommie Pierson. 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, 2015, there was approximately \$1,771,000 in the General Fund; \$105,000 in the Sewer Fund; and \$757,000 in the Capital Improvement Fund. The City spent \$240,000 more than received in the 2014-2015 fiscal year. The City is currently in good financial condition with approximately \$5,394,000 dollars budgeted for 2015-2016. Mayor Doerr discussed the many reasons for the differences in the budget compared to last year.

He thanked the Budget Committee and city employees for their help with the budget for this coming year.

CURRENT EVENTS: Mayor Doerr reported on the following:

- The city is working on putting a Bond Issue, on the April 2016 ballot, to continue with the street improvements. Mayor Doerr encourage all to vote yes;
- The St. Cyr Bridge Project is ongoing;
- The Shepley Bridge Project is complete;
- The Ashbrook Project, which will update the street and sidewalks from Chambers to Cabot, will begin in 2017;
- Kroger is still in the process of buying the Bissell Hills Shopping Center which is putting a Rulers in the Bill's Meat Market old site;
- The 2-week Summer Camp, hosted by BN and organized by Sgt. Peggy Vassallo and Officer Dave Owens, won the 2015 MML Innovation Award. Along with Officer Owens, Mayor Doerr and Chief Ihler will accept the award in Peggy's honor;
- There are several different projects being discussed in ways to honor Peggy: State Senator Gina Walsh is applying to MoDOT to name a stretch of 367, in front of the Veterans Home, in honor of Peggy; a billboard has gone up with a picture of Peggy thanking her for her service, on Dunn Road near Dirt Cheap; and there will be a tree dedicated to her at City Hall;
- Beautification Day is scheduled for September 26th;
- National Night Out is October 6th –The Mayor encouraged all those interested to call the Police Department and volunteer to host a party;
- The Human Relations Commission is sponsoring a Diversity Meeting on October 8th. It will be held at City Hall at 7:00pm;

- The Human Relations Commission members, along with other members of the community, were in attendance for a workshop presented by the Commission on Human Rights held September 9th at City Hall. Mayor Doerr and Chief Ihler commented on how well the Workshop was conducted;
- The Wine and Beer Social will be held on October 10th from 5:30-9:30;
- The Youth Commission is sponsoring a Halloween Party on October 23rd; and
- Invited all to attend the Board of Aldermen Meetings which are held the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month.

Mayor Doerr thanked all City employees and the Police Department for all of their hard work. He will continue to make improvements to the City.

CHIEF IHLER'S REPORT: Chief Ihler was introduced by Mayor Doerr. The Chief commented on the following:

- He has been a member of the Bellefontaine Neighbors Police Department since 1999;
- These are very challenging times;
- He was very moved by those who attended Peggy's wake and the participation of the residents; and
- Chief Ihler explained what law enforcement represents.

At this time, he presented recognitions to the following officers:

- Officer Dennis Lederer
- Detective/Officer Kim Tihen

The Police Department and the community need to work together. The following projects were mentioned:

- The City partnered with the SLU Partnership Program to strengthen the city's operations to improve services;
- The basketball game between the Officers and the kids from the MO Hills Home took place over the summer;
- The 2-week Summer Camp hosted by the Police Department was June 15-26;
- The City and Police Department have partnered with Florissant Valley Community College to help with future recruitment and the growth process of Police Officers and to help promote a model for best practices to develop and groom policing efforts. He is teaching a class on Mondays and Wednesdays;
- Chief Ihler attended a meeting with the POST Commission to address police training.
- He has applied for body cameras through a government grant; and
- The Dispatch phone lines are not running smoothly yet. He's been told the switch from 314-889-2341 to 636-529-8210 has a few more kinks they need to work out.

HOME BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS:

Mayor Doerr thanked the Image & Beautification Board for their hard work through the year. Then he, along with Shelley Davis of the Image & Beautification Board and Alderman Anthony Smith, the Aldermanic Representative, presented the 2015 Home Beautification Awards to the winners and thanked them for taking pride in their home:

HOME AWARDS:

Ward 1:	Dotson Family	Present
	Howard Haynes	Present
Ward 2:	Simril Family	Present
	Davidson Family	Present

Ward 3:	Sandra King Monroe Jones Family	Present Absent
Ward 4:	Owens Family Poe Family	Absent Present

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:

ALEASE DAILES, 1240 ASTORIA: She requested the city make available, on the website, the status of the city; employees' salaries; and contractors agreements. She was told she needed to submit a Sunshine Request. She added later that Alicia Smith, at 9433 Duenke, will be hosting a party on National Night out; all are invited.

TOMMIE PIERSON, 1269 SHEPLEY ROAD: He mentioned several ongoing issues: the School Transfer Bus Bill need to go back to the "drawing board" and Right to Work did not have enough votes to veto. He is not in favor of transferring students out of Riverview, but the question is "how do we fix our schools"? There needs to be more input from Riverview and Normandy. He said Sgt Vassallo represented what policing is all about. He encouraged any citizen to call or email him if they have any concerns or issues.

BARBARA WEST, 9741 CALUMET: Commented on what happened in Ferguson. She has concerns as to which individuals are arrested. She believes Bellefontaine Neighbors has a good Police Department. Questioned why so much money was spent on helping Ferguson during the unrest. She did not agree with the Mutual Aid Policy. She asked if the CERT Training was still being held. Alderman Fields will make a call and find out.

NITA POWERS, 9334 MELANIE: She was concerned as to what streets will be worked on this time. The Bond Issue will be based upon the dollar amount allowed. The figures will be released in December and will determine that amount. The Mayor assured her the residents will be informed. Nita thanked the city for the work already done on the other streets.

KATHY MASON, 1013 DONNELL: She believes diversity is about cultural differences. She shared a story with the audience which confirmed her ideas. Communication is very important.

PETE CARLSON, 1208 BAKEWELL: He asked the Mayor the City's stand on the issue of the consolidation of Police and Courts. Mayor Doerr explained only (15) out of (64) Police Departments, in Missouri, are certified; Bellefontaine is certified. The Mayor will be meeting with area cities to discuss this matter

WANDA LANE, 9915 MARTINGALE: As the Red Cross Coordinator for the City of Bellefontaine Neighbors, she asked if she could address the audience. She talked about the smoke detector give-away which will be happening in late October. She will be working with the Fire Departments and other volunteers to install them in homes. If anyone is interested in the program, please get in touch with her so she can put you on the list.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Mayor Doerr thanked everyone for coming

Meeting closed at 8:30 p.m.

ATTEST:

Deni Donovan
Deni Donovan, City Clerk