



CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS
BOARD OF ALDERMEN BOARD
CLOSED MEETING AGENDA

Date: May 21, 2026
City Hall, 9641 Bellefontaine Road, St. Louis, MO 63137

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **ROLL CALL**
3. **CLOSED SESSION-RSMO. STATUTES 621.021(1), (2), (3), (9)**
4. **BOARD OF ALDERMEN DISCUSSION/ACTION ON PRESENTED CLOSED MEETING BUSINESS**
 - a. TREASURER, PAYROLL CONSULTANT, HR, FINANCE CONSULTANT CONTRACTS: ARTICLE VII FINANCES, SEC. 2-258 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, AND [SEC. 2-259](#) AWARD OF CONTRACT OR PURCHASE ORDERS.
 - b. MEC VIOLATION DATED [APRIL 28, 2026](#)
 - i. SPECIAL COUNSEL
5. **ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED TO RETURN TO OPEN**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on the 7th day of May, 2026, subject to a motion duly made and adopted, the Board of Alderpersons may hold a closed meeting for the purpose of discussing issues related to, but not limited to, legal actions pursuant to Section 610.021(1), real estate pursuant to Section 610.021(2), personnel pursuant to Section 610.021(3), contract negotiations pursuant to Section 610.021(9), and bid preparation and opening pursuant to Sections 610.021(11) and (12).

This meeting will be closed in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Missouri Sunshine Law.

This agenda, with public notice of the Board of Alderpersons meeting(s), was posted on the 19th day of May 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at the Bellefontaine Neighbors City Hall entrance and on the City's website at www.cityofbn.com.

Sec. 2-259. Award of contract or purchase orders. [Ord. No. 2066 § 1, 7-5-2007]

It is the responsibility of the director of purchasing to review and investigate all bids and to make a recommendation thereon to the board of aldermen regarding award of a particular contract or purchase order. The following criteria will be utilized in making this evaluation:

- (1) The ability, capacity and skill of the bidder to perform the contract or provide the services required.
- (2) Determine whether the bidder can perform the contract to provide the services promptly or within the required time periods without delay or interference.
- (3) The quality of performance of previous contracts or services.
- (4) The previous and existing compliance by the bidder with laws and ordinances of the city.
- (5) The financial resources and the ability of the bidder to perform the contract or provide the services.
- (6) The quality, availability and adaptability of the supplies or services.



Missouri Ethics Commission

Stacey Heislen
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 28, 2026

Mr. Sam J. Alton
Dowd & Dowd, PC
211 North Broadway Suite 4050
St. Louis, MO 63102

RE: 25-0023-I, 25-0025-I, and 25-0026-I City of Bellefontaine Neighbors Board of Aldermen

Dear Mr. Alton:

Enclosed please find a copy of the Legal Complaint filed by the Missouri Ethics Commission on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, seeking relief from your clients, the City of Bellefontaine Neighbors Board of Aldermen. The filing of the Legal Complaint begins the administrative hearing process before the Commission.

You may, but are not required to, file a written Answer to the Commission's Complaint. You must appear at a hearing regarding the Complaint or settle the Complaint before the hearing. If a hearing is scheduled you will receive a Notice of Hearing providing you with the date, time and place of the hearing.

The hearing will be conducted pursuant to the administrative procedures provided in Sections 536.063 through 536.080 of the Missouri Revised Statutes (RSMo). The Commission's Rules governing the hearing procedure can be found at Title 1 of the Code of State Regulations, Division 50, Chapter 2.

The Commission has the authority to enter into a settlement agreement in lieu of a hearing. Prior to entering a settlement, the Respondents must file and amend reports and statements. The Commission will not agree to settle the case unless and until filings and amendments are completed. Please contact me in the event you wish to discuss settlement.

Sincerely,

Laura E. Elsbury
Staff Counsel

Enclosures

Filed

APR 28 2026

Missouri Ethics
Commission

BEFORE THE
MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION

MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION,)
)
 P.O. Box 1370)
 Jefferson City, MO 65102)
)
 Petitioner,)
)
 v.)
)
 THERESA HESTER, MICHAEL WIESE, REGINA)
 HARMON-WARD, PEG WARNUSZ, WELSEY)
 GILLIESPIE, ALICIA SMITH, and ALEASE DAILES,)
)
 Respondents.)
)
 Serve: Sam J. Alton)
 Dowd & Dowd, PC)
 211 North Broadway, Suite 4050)
 St. Louis, MO 63102)
 sam@dowdlaw.net)

Case No. 25-0023-I, 25-0025-I and 25-0026-I

COMPLAINT

Petitioner, by and through counsel, states for its cause of action against Respondents:

1. The Missouri Ethics Commission (MEC) is an agency of the State of Missouri established pursuant to § 105.955, RSMo, in part for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of the “constitution or state statute or order, ordinance or resolution of any political subdivision relating to the official conduct of officials or employees of the state and political subdivisions.” Section 105.957.1(6), RSMo.

2. At all times relevant to the allegations in this complaint, Respondents were the elected members of the board of alderman for the City of Bellefontaine Neighbors.

3. Pursuant to §§ 105.957 and 105.961, RSMo, the Commission's staff investigated a complaint that was filed with the Commission and reported the findings to the Commission.

4. The Commission determined there were reasonable grounds to believe violations of the law had occurred and authorized a hearing pursuant to § 105.961.3, RSMo.

5. Pursuant to § 79.230, RSMo:

The mayor, with the consent and approval of the majority of the members of the board of aldermen, shall have power to appoint a treasurer, city attorney, city assessor, street commissioner and night watchman, and such other officers as he may be authorized by ordinance to appoint, and if deemed for the best interests of the city, the mayor, and board of alderman may, by ordinance, employ special counsel to represent the city, either in a case of a vacancy in the office of city attorney or to assist the city of attorney, and pay reasonable compensation therefor[.]”

6. The City of Bellefontaine Neighbors has enacted the following related ordinances:

(a) The director of purchasing shall be the mayor who shall be responsible for the procurement and acquisition of all materials, supplies, equipment, contractual services and insurance (acquisition of real estate and certain professional services including, but not limited to, accountants, architects, attorneys, physicians or other services requiring expert or specialized knowledge or skill, planning consultants, insurance advisors and brokers, landscape architects and designers are outside the scope of these regulations). Questions

of interpretation of these regulations or questions on procedures in purchasing not specifically stated herein shall be referred to the mayor.

(c) No purchase or contract for services of any kind or description, payment for which is to be made from funds of the city, shall be made by the director of purchasing or any officer, employee or agent of the city, except in the manner hereinafter set forth.

(1) *Items* estimated to cost ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) or more can be purchased only after obtaining formal written and sealed bids or by special board action on sole source, specialized and non-standard items.

Section 2-249 (Emphasis added).

When *professional services* in addition to those provided by the city's officers and employees are required by the city in an amount greater than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00), investigation shall be made in the manner directed or approved by the board of aldermen concerning persons or companies who perform the required service. On the basis of such investigation, the board shall then designate or approve one (1) or more of such persons or companies for negotiation. The board of aldermen may then, by ordinance, approve a contract for the required professional service.

Section 2-258 (Emphasis added).

7. On or about February 9, 2025, City Attorney Dorothy White-Coleman resigned her position and encouraged the board of alderman to seek outside legal counsel.

8. On or about February 10, 2025, Respondents contacted attorney Sam J. Alton about providing professional services in the form of legal representation to the City of Bellefontaine Neighbors.

9. Attorney Sam J. Alton began providing professional services (legal representation) to the City of Bellefontaine Neighbors on February 10, 2025.

10. On or about February 11, 2025, Respondents met and voted to hire Sam J. Alton as special legal counsel.

11. On or about February 15, 2025, Respondents adopted Ordinance 2688, hiring Sam J. Alton and the Law Firm of Dowd & Dowd, PC.

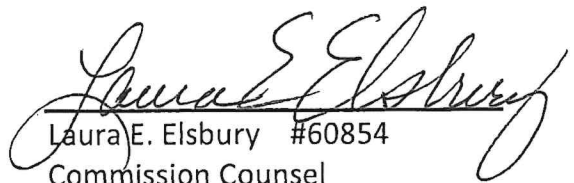
12. On information and belief, the cost of the professional services provided by Sam J. Alton and Dowd & Dowd, PC have or will exceed \$10,000.

13. There is probable cause to believe Respondents violated § 79.230, RSMo, by engaging the professional services of Sam J. Alton and Dowd & Dowd, PC prior to adopting Ordinance 2688.

14. There is probable cause to believe Respondents violated City of Bellefontaine Neighbors Ordinance Section 2-258 by engaging the professional services of Sam J. Alton and Dowd & Dowd PC prior to adopting Ordinance 2688.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner respectfully requests this Commission conduct a hearing pursuant to § 105.961.3, RSMo, issue a determination there is probable cause to find Respondent violated Section 79.230, RSMo, as well as City of Bellefontaine Neighbors Ordinance Section 2-258, and that this Commission then take such action as it deems appropriate as permitted under § 105.961, RSMo.

Respectfully submitted,



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*Attorney for Petitioner Missouri
Ethics Commission*