



★ CITY OF ★  
**BELLEFONTAINE  
NEIGHBORS**

**MAYOR'S APRIL 2026 REPORT**

★  
**DR. MIRANDA AVANT**

**MAYOR**



★ **STRONG LEADERSHIP. STRONG COMMUNITY. BRIGHT FUTURE.** ★

# Introduction

- Greetings citizens of Bellefontaine Neighbors.
- This report covers activities and findings since and prior to officially becoming Mayor.
- Since taking office, my focus has been on ensuring a smooth transition, assessing city operations, improving communication, restoring compliance, and laying the foundation for long-term progress.



# Transition Efforts

- As part of the transition process, I met with both former mayors as well as a neighboring mayor to gain insight and support regarding city operations, leadership transition, and ongoing city matters.
- In preparation for this meeting and to help address operational concerns resulting from the absence of a City Clerk, I made an emergency appointment for an Acting City Clerk.
- This appointment was necessary to ensure continuity of city operations and to address administrative matters requiring immediate attention.



# Acting City Clerk Support

- The Acting City Clerk is currently supporting efforts to help the city receive missed HOA-related funding associated with Green Acres.
- I discovered that funds were being returned because they were connected to an inactive bank account.
- Efforts are now underway to correct that issue so the city can properly receive those funds moving forward.
- Additionally, the Acting City Clerk has reviewed meeting videos to prepare minutes from the last general meeting and has assisted with preparation for today's meeting.



# Research & Operational Review

- I have reviewed past meeting agendas, ordinances, and city records to better understand the progress and operational needs of the city.
- Through this process, I discovered that our ordinances have not been codified since 2023.
- As a result, ordinances passed after that time have not yet been uploaded into the city's codification system.
- I am currently working with the Acting City Clerk to prepare for this update so our records can be accurate, accessible, and compliant.



# Compliance Review

- During this review, additional concerns were identified regarding ordinances that may be missing or out of compliance, and those matters are being addressed proactively.
- I also researched meeting minutes and records related to city boards and commissions to determine which individuals may have expired terms or require reappointment.
- This work was necessary to help solidify appointments being presented today and to ensure our boards and commissions are operating properly and within their required terms.



# Financial Review

- I communicated with the Missouri State Auditor's Office and learned that the City's 2025 financial statements were not submitted on time.
- I am currently working with the finance team to address this matter so the city can return to compliance and improve our financial reporting processes moving forward.
- I also received confirmation that the city's ARPA funds were returned to the United States Treasury.



# Municipal Court Review

- During my transition, I contacted the court monitor to obtain a status update regarding municipal court compliance.
- Through those discussions, I learned that our Municipal Judge has been making progress toward addressing the court's compliance matters and may request an extension, if necessary, to continue that work.
- I was encouraged to learn that progress was already underway, which allowed me to shift focus to other operational areas within the city while continuing to monitor the court's status.



# Contracts, Staffing & Services

- I have also been reviewing ordinances, contracts, and related records to identify compliance requirements associated with approved services, payments, and contractual obligations.
- This review is part of ensuring that city operations, agreements, and financial processes are aligned with adopted ordinances and proper procedures.
- We are also working through staffing needs and operational concerns with the goal of becoming fully staffed or having contracted services in place to effectively meet the needs of the city and maintain continuity of services for residents.



# Communication & Engagement

- Through the transition process, I gained access to a city Facebook communication platform and started immediately engaging with the community.
- Communication efforts have included updates regarding the passing of Alderwoman Shirley Paro.
- Additional communication included the retirement of Mayor Willis, emergency response communication, community announcements, and updates regarding tragic events impacting residents.



# Transparency Improvements

- I have maintained ongoing communication with the Board of Aldermen by providing resources, operational updates, and information related to city matters to support informed decision-making and collaboration.
- Additionally, I updated the format in which meeting agendas are presented by incorporating hyperlinks.
- These updates improve accessibility, organization, and ease of access to supporting information and documents for both elected officials and the public.



# Future Goals

- My goal moving forward is to improve communication and transparency throughout the city.
- Plans are underway to modernize and update the city website.
- Additional goals include providing monthly digital newsletters to residents, improving access to city information and services, and increasing proactive communication with citizens.



# Closing

- I remain committed to working collaboratively with the Board of Aldermen, city staff, community organizations, and our residents to move Bellefontaine Neighbors forward in a positive direction.
- Thank you for the opportunity to serve.



Scan to Join a Board or Commission









★ CITY OF ★

# BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS

★

# MAYOR'S REPORT

★

DR. MIRANDA AVANT

★

MAYOR



★ STRONG LEADERSHIP. STRONG COMMUNITY. BRIGHT FUTURE. ★

★