

**CITY OF BEL-RIDGE
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
FOR
TUESDAY, APRIL 10TH, 2018
6:00PM**

The Board meeting was called to order by Mayor White at 6:10pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Mayor White mentioned Roberts Rules of Order. Everyone was asked to silence their phones. The roll was called by Deputy Clerk, Jacqueline Jones.

ATTENDANCE AS FOLLOWS:

Abernathy	-	Present	Brown	-	Present
Mans	-	Present	Nelson	-	Present
Ruff	-	absent	Russell	-	Present
White	-	Present			

Also present was acting City Attorney, Steve Martin

Alderman Ruff present at 6:13pm.

DISCUSSION OF CONTRACT FOR NORTHSIDE STREET PROJECT

The Mayor met with the engineer to get actional definitions on what he feels needs to be done on Loganberry, Severin and Mary Mark. Mayor White suggested that Byrne & Jones receive the contract for Severin for 23,275.00, and Loganberry for 26,000.00. Mayor White suggested that L Keeley receive the contract for Mary Mark for 99,000.00, all concrete.

Mayor White asked if there were any questions.

Alderman Brown asked if the engineer would be there. Mayor White responded yes. He will be there to oversee each project.

Alderman Russell asked if these were the final prices for the work? Mayor White replied yes.

A motion was made by Alderman Russell and seconded by Alderman Nelson to have Byrne & Jones Construction do the work on Severin Drive for 23,275.00, Loganberry for 26,00.00, for L. Keeley for Marymark and Springdale Ave for 99,156.00 (option 1). A voice vote was taken and all were in favor except Alderman Abernathy. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Brown asked if the funds for the project had been set aside already.

Mayor White responded yes. It was discussed and establish during the budget meeting in December 2017. There is \$778 thousand dollars in the Northside Tiff has been set aside.

DISCUSSION OF THE CONTRACT BETWEEN RAYMOND WINSTON AND CITY OF BEL-RIDGE.

A motion was made by Alderman Russell and seconded by Alderman Brown to accept the contract between Raymond Winston and City of Bel-Ridge. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor except Alderman Abernathy. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Abernathy asked Mayor White since she would only be in office for another 4 or 5 days are the contacts validate.

Mayor White replied yes, because until those 4 or 5 days she is still the City's Mayor.

DISCUSSION OF GRANTING PERMITS & LICENSE WHEN TAXES ARE DUE TO MUNICIPALITIES AND ST. LOUIS COUNTY.

This was signed a few months ago and anyone that owed the City of Bel-Ridge or St. Louis County are prohibited from getting any permits or any licenses. The question is if the business has multiple LLC's etc. are they still entitled to be upheld to our ordinance.

Alderman Brown replied that he has to pay his taxes but feel that this is a legal issue.

A motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Ruff to table pending legal advice. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor. **motion passed.**

DISCUSSION OF CONTRACT FOR STEVE MARTIN AS CITY ATTORNEY

Alderman Russell read the information at the bottom of the agenda regarding closed session and would like to go into closed session to speak on this topic.

A motion was made by Alderman Russell and seconded by Alderman Nelson to table this topic till the end of the agenda. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor. **motion passed.**

AMENDED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Mayor White reminded the Board that this was passed on Friday, April 6th, 2018 to protect the City of Bel-Ridge Police Department, we received the incorreced memorandum of understanding, it was for another City. Everything is still the same the name of the City on the 7th, and 4th page of the memorandum is the only thing that was changed.

A motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Russell to accept the amended memorandum of understanding between the City of Bel-Ridge Police Department and Local Union 42. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor. **motion passed.**

DISCUSSION OF THE CONTRACT BETWEEN SCHOWALTER & JABOURI AND CITY OF BEL-RIDGE

Mayor White gave some background on this topic and mentions that Schowalter & Jabouri has kept us on schedule, with audits in the pass. They have been our auditors for a while, would like to keep them. They are doing a fantastic job.

A motion was made by Alderman Russell and seconded by Alderman Brown to accept the contract between Schowalter & Jabouri. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor except for Alderman Abernathy. **Motion passed.**

DISCUSSION OF CONTRACT BETWEEN HOCHSCHILD BLOOM AND CITY OF BEL-RIDGE

Mayor White informed the Board that we do not need to do this yet. The contract is still valid.

RESOLUTION 2018-C

Mayor White informed the Board that due to her leaving office in a few days, once that happens there will be no one to pay the bills or do the accounting function, until the next meeting. Mayor White was the Chief Financial Officer. Ms. Karen Moore, the City's part-time office assistant has been working with Mayor White to take on those duties until a City Clerk is hired. This is why the Mayor wants to pass Resolution 2018-C. To give Ms. Karen permission to sign off on the bank accounts.

A motion was made by Alderman Russell and seconded by Alderman Mans to accept Resolution no. 2018-C. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor except Alderman Abernathy. **Motion passed.**

APPROVAL OF AMENDED HOMESTEAD PROGRAM

Mayor White informed the Board that this was passed a few months ago. There are 17 homes available. Section 22-25 were added. Section 22 was put in place to add a superintendent to the program. Mr. Polk has agreed to be the superintendent. He would report to the Board, if members are in compliance, on time, the progress, homes that are in the program or have been purchased and all approvals must be voted upon by the Board of Alderman. Mr. Polk will also inform the Board if anyone that has purchased a home is not in compliance with the rules of the program.

A motion was made by Alderman Russell and seconded by Alderman Nelson to accept the replacement Ordinance of 2018-2 regarding the Homestead Program, for the City of Bel-Ridge. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor except Alderman Abernathy. **Motion passed. 2018-2 becomes Ordinance 2018-13**

A motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Mans to accept Melvin Polk as the Superintendent of the Homestead Program for the City of Bel-Ridge. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor except Alderman Abernathy.

RESOLUTION 2018-D

Mayor White explained that this is in regards to the Prop P funds, Public Safety and is due to the moves being made by the Police Department. She would like for

the Board to approve Alderman Brown, Karen Moore, Police Clerk, and two (2) Police Department officials.

A motion was made by Alderman Russell and seconded by Alderman Mans to accept Resolution no. 2018-D. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor except Alderman Abernathy. **Motion passed.**

APPROVAL OF COURT CLERK TRAINING

Mayor White informed the Board that every year there is a training for the court clerk and the prosecuting clerk. It has been placed in the budget and just need approval. The Clerks will be sharing a room for \$540.00, the cost of five (5) days. The cost of the training classes is \$230.00 together. May 21st, 2018 to May 25th, 2018

Alderman Russell asked who would be in the office while they are in training.

Mayor White replied Karen Moore and Deborah Carter.

A motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Russell to table the approval of the court clerk training until the correct paperwork is presented. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor. **motion passed.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMUNITY RELATION – MS. MANS

Nothing to report

HEALTH & SAFETY – MS RUSSELL

Ms. Russell informed the Board that the Easter Event went over very well. There were about 60 children with their parents at the event.

CODE ENFORCEMENT - MR WINSTON

Mr. Winston was absent but gave the Mayor a brief update. He is almost finished with the external parts of the City. Has four (4) more streets to do. He was glad to see residents participating in the Code Compliance weekend. Mayor White requested an extension to the 30th of April, 2018 due to the weather.

A motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Russell to extend the Code Compliance to April 30th, 2018. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor. **motion passed**

POLICE DEPARTMENT – CHIEF HARRIS

Chief Harris mentions the stat are on the back table if anyone has questions please contact the Police Department. The Police Department will start handing out Slurpee's to the kids. We have partner with 7-11. If the kids are wearing their bike helmets and doing homework we will give them coupons to get a free Slurpee.

Chief Harris informed the Board of an email he received from a new resident, Ms. Williams. He read the email to the Board. She was afraid of the "What If's". Ms. Williams is new to the City of Bel-Ridge and St. Louis Missouri. This all changed due to the kind gesture from Sgt. Martin. He goes out of his way to patrol and interact with the kids. Chief Harris congratulated Sgt. Martin for a job well done and introduced the author of the email.

Ms. Williams informed the Board that by what she had heard on the news, she was skeptical. Ms. Williams referred to Sgt. Martin as not just an Officer but family. He is an example of what pulling together is like. Ms. Williams ended by say, "I love you Sgt. Martin"

PUBLIC WORKS – MR. HERNDON

Chief Harris stood in for Mr. Herndon who was unable to attend. The City has received new lawnmowers and a new car lift.

PARKS – MS. ABERNATHY

Nothing to report

RECREATION – BOARD OF ALDERMAN

Nothing to report

ACCOUNTING & AUDITOR REPORT – MS. WHITE

Ms. White spoke to both the auditor and the accountant. They are in the process of getting the audit together for Hochschild Bloom. They are requesting quite a bit of information. Someone may need to step in and assist.

CITY ATTORNEY –

Nothing to report. Attorney Steve Martin introduced himself to the Board and the residents. He also gave some back-ground information on himself. He has been an attorney since the 80's

A motion was made by Alderman Russell and seconded by Alderman Ruff to go into closed session for legal matters. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Abernathy - aye

Brown - aye

Mans - aye

Nelson - aye

Ruff - aye

Russell - aye

6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 absent

Motion passed.

TIME 6:59PM

THE BOARD AND THE DEPUTY CLERK RETURNED.

Mayor White called the open session to order at 7:13pm

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Abernathy - Present

Brown - Present

Mans - Present

Nelson - Present

Ruff - Present

Russell - Present

Mayor White started with the items that had been tabled earlier.

DISCUSSION OF CONTRACT FOR STEVE MARTIN AS CITY ATTORNEY

Alderman Brown informed the residents that Mr. Martin would be the City Attorney while the City is in transition and then would come back before the Board once the transition is made. No deposit is needed.

A motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Russell to untable the discussion of the contract for Steve Martin as City Attorney. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor. **motion passed.**

Alderman Russell informed the residents of the fees agree upon by the Board and Mr. Steve Martin.

A motion was made by Alderman Russell and seconded by Alderman Ruff to accept the contract for Steve Martin as City Attorney for the City of Bel-Ridge. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor except Alderman Abernathy. **Motion passed.**

APPROVAL OF THE COURT CLERK TRAINING

A motion was made by Alderman Mans and seconded by Alderman Nelson to untable the approval of the court training. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor. **motion passed.**

A motion was made by Alderman Russell and seconded by Alderman Ruff to accept and allow the court and prosecuting clerk to attend training. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor. **motion passed.**

MAYOR -MS. WHITE

Mayor White informed the Board that while going through finances she spoke with the bank and we have some funds in our GO Bond account. It was to help improve street and do capital improvement. Mayor White referred back to the contract with Byrne & Jones regarding Elmhurst Dr. Mayor White requested that the funds from the GO Bond be taken to repair Elmhurst. A company called Spencer also bided on Elmhurst but the cost was \$26,000.00.

Ameren will be putting the light in within two (2) week on Elmhurst.

A motion was made by Alderman Russell and seconded by Alderman Ruff to add the repair of Elmhurst (from Ramona to Elaine Place) for \$20,720.00 to the bid for Byrne & Jones construction. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor. **motion passed.**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PAID MARCH 2018 BILLS

Mayor White informed the Board that next month there would be a charge on the bills from QuikTrip, because the Police Department is using them for the gas for the police cars instead of Fuelman.

A motion was made by Alderman Mans and seconded by Alderman Russell to accept the March 2018 paid bills. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor except Alderman Abernathy. **motion passed.**

APPROVAL OF MARCH 6TH, 2018 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Ruff to table the March 6th, 2018 meeting minutes. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor. **motion passed.**

Since the minutes were tabled the request from Darryl Robinson, a resident of Bel-ridge, to add something he said to the minutes will be granted.

Attorney Ben Warren, associated to City Attorney Steve Martin, informed concerned residents who he was.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Marilyn Martin, resident of Bel-Ridge, welcomed the new officer and said go bye to the old ones. There is still no school zone sign at Marcella

Ian Macfodyen, resides on Marcella, asked the Mayor if she was aware that an officer must have probable cause to issue a summons? In the last six (6) months several fraudulent tickets have been filed. Has she asked any officers to personally issue a ticket to anyone. Mayor White informed him that she does not have a ticket book. Tickets are being issued to people who are concerned Mayor White political enemy. Mr. Macfodyen informed the Board that a lawsuit is on the way. He received a ticket for parking in front of his home.

Darryl Robinson, resident of 3537 St. Henry Lane, wanted to know when St. Henry Lane would be repaired. Mayor White informed Mr. Robinson that the money is there but she is not sure what will happen when she leaves. The Board agreed to do St. Henry Lane before.

Alderman Brown replied that the Board is willing to work with the new Mayor and will work with the new Mayor. His objective is to do the entire City.

Glenn Tope, resident of Bel-Ridge, wanting to know why we are doing a street in Berkeley, also what is the history of Severin. Berkley has maintained their streets since 1948. Did we ask an Attorney about purchasing Severin? Who is the guy sitting on the panel? Never heard about the purchasing of Severin. Severin is not in Bel-Ridge so you cannot use the TIFF funds for that street.

Alderman Ruff responded by saying the only citizens that use Severin is the citizen of Bel-Ridge. That street has been ignored by Berkeley. As to the purchasing and maintenance of Severin, yes, I approve of Severin.

Mayor White informed the Board that 3 out of 4 meetings have been regarding Severin and her meeting with the Berkeley Board. As Alderman Ruff mentioned Severin has been in a disrepair for a long time. Those that are not on the Board do not received the phone calls regarding driving down Severin. Pot holes are terrible. We did not pay for Severin. We paid \$300.00 for the paper work to be done and Severin is now part of the northside TIFF district fund.

Vicki Lewis, a resident of Bel-Ridge, wanted to thank Mayor White for the wonderful job she has done. She has notice a lot of positive changes around the City and the Police Force that we have now is wonderful and amazing. We are all citizens and we need to come together to make Bel-Ridge a better place. All this confusion does nothing for the citizens of Bel-Ridge. It is our job to come together and work together. I hope the in coming administration continue the work.

Julia Anderson, resident of Bel-Ridge, stated that the election has come and gone and so have you. Bye.

Ms. Little, resident of Bel-Ridge, wanted to say that she was on the Board a couple of years ago and no one complained about any money missing but it was always said that Bel-Ridge was broke. This makes her frighten. She has enjoyed Mayor White and does not know how she was able to function or get anything done with all the disrupted, disrespect that she received. She should try to run for office in a higher capacity. She is young, gifted and black.

Ms. Cogshell, a resident of 3015 Wheaton Ave., stated some call her the peace disturber and some call her the peacemaker. To the Board members and Mayor White, you have done a great job. A lot of things have been done that needed to be done for a long time. If people would be truthful about what they see they would say and feel the same way. She can't say what the new administration is going to do. But she will still peach that we are grown folk not children. If everyone is for Bel-Ridge we should be about to come together and talk. She who and pray that the ones that are leaving won't stop doing what they are doing for the City. You do not have to be on the Board to care for your City. That goes for resident also. Keep showing up like you have tonight.

Jerry Castro Javonte, resident of Kendal, wanted to thank the Mayor and the current Board for an excellent job. he knows the Mayor was up against the wall with a lot of unnecessary behavior. He is not so hopeful with the new people coming in when it comes to doing good things for the City. He stated that Mayor White will be truly missed. It has been a while since someone has tried to put the City back together.

Ms. Williams, a new resident of Bel-Ridge, has only been here in St. Louis for three months. She sent a lot of time and money looking for some place for her and her children to live that was safe. Ms. Williams picked Bel-Ridge and is glad she did. Bel-Ridge has a community feel to her. She is appalled at the disrespect for the administration. She has never seen anything like that before. This is a professional atmosphere and we should handle ourselves in a certain way. And what type of example are you setting for the kids that are here. We complain about the youth but look at us.

She has respect for the new administration, but we have the right to have a difference of opinion. In her opinion, when you have a Mayor that is out cutting wood, branches etc., she has my respect. She gets out there a bust a sweat for us, the least we can do is show some respect. She thanked Mayor White for the great job she has done and feels that if it was not for her she would not be here. Ms. Williams daughter addressed the Board as well. She said that people be making the City dirty but she sees how hard people try to clean the house and it not fair to be messy. She was taught to clean up after herself and others. It not fair for people to disrespect the Board and the Mayor and they respect us.

Mayor White, thanked the Planning & Zoning Board, the Board of Adjustments, the Board of Alderman, we did get some things done she is just a phone call away if her assistance is every needed. Mayor White mentioned that she enjoyed working with the Board. The Police department was revamped and is very diverse. We got rid of people who were taken advantage of our residents, torturing our residents, racial profiling, targeting and intimidating our residents.

Mayor White informed the residents that we have four African American officers, two Hispanic officers, one Korean office, Caucasian officers and a very diverse department. Mayor White asked that they continue to be present. The Mayor and the Board has given the Police Department every tool that they need to make this place a safe and protected place to live. They are the face of Bel-Ridge. She asked that they continue to be respectful at all time and make sure that the residents know who you are until they can say your name. She has received many compliments on the Department. We have cracked down on the drug house and only have two more. Continue to make us proud.

Mayor White informed the Board that she is picking Alderman Brown to carry the torch of the lighting project and fixing St. Henry. She is turning all her contacts over to him.

She will be around holding people accountable. The money is there and she has learned so much. Thank you.

Mayor White also thanked Alderman Mans for all the work she has done as the Community Relative Representative and for all the activities she has provided for the residents.

A motion was made by Alderman Ruff and seconded by Alderman Nelson to adjourn the open session and go into closed session. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor. **motion passed.**

TIME IS 8:00PM

The April 10th, 2018 meeting minutes were taken and transcribe by, Jacqueline Jones, Deputy Clerk.

The Board of Alderman approved the April 10th, 2018 meeting minute on the
14th day of August 2018

Jacqueline Jones
Deputy Clerk