

**CITY OF BEL-RIDGE
BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR
TUESDAY, FEBURARY 5, 2019
6:00 PM**

This meeting was called to order by Mayor Fair at 6:03 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and attendance was called by City Clerk, Andrea Jones and Asst. Clerk Cindy Shaw present for training.

Roll Call

Abernathy-	Present
Nelson-	Present
Brown-	Present
Ruff-	Absent
Russell-	Present
Tope-	Present
Mayor Fair-	Present

Attorney Ben Warren also present.

Mayor Fair ask for motion and second to approve the agenda.

Alderman Russell makes a motion to approve agenda to move #11 on the agenda to open to public. Alderman Nelson seconded.

Voice Vote

All in favor 4/ 1 oppose/1 absent

Motion Passed to move # 11 to Open to the Public

Alderman Tope makes a motion to have open to public as # 5 on the agenda so citizens can speak and not have to sit through whole meeting. Alderman Abernathy seconded. Alderman Brown, stated that in previous meeting it was addressed that all had agreed that public speaking would be at the end of the meetings going forward. Alderman Tope disagree that all did not agree.

Voice Vote

All in favor 2/ Oppose 3

Motion failed for public to speak for # 5 on the agenda.

APPROVAL FOR CITY CLERK TO ATTEND SPRING TRAINGIN IN MARCH

The Annual New Clerk Training will be in March in Columbia, Mo. The total cost for training will be \$1,144.00, which includes the classes, travel (IRS per Diem), and the Clerk using own vehicle (total trip 232/miles). Dates are March 10-14, 2019. Clerk is asking for travel advancement by check or use of credit card. Receipts will be turned in on all expenditures. Room rate is \$99/day

totaling \$459.49. Meals according to IRS per Diem is \$55/ day. Alderman Russell request information of what is learned to be shared. Alderman Russell stated to agree to give Clerk half of funds on the meal. Alderman Russell states in the past they always paid for room and board and classes and set a certain amount for meals. Clerk stated in the past according to records in City Hall, City did pay and included rental car. Clerk ask for clarification on spending half and to be reimbursed for what is spent. Alderman Tope suggested to give Credit Card and use IRS standard amount.

Alderman Nelson makes a motion and Alderman Russell seconds.

No voice vote was taken

APPROVAL FOR COURT CLERK TO ATTEND MSLACA 35TH ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

Court clerk to attend the MSLACA 35th annual dinner meeting. She is a member of this organizational for Missouri Court Clerks. This is taking the place of her monthly meeting. Board decided to pass on this and for Court clerk to pay for self if she wishes to attend.

AMEND BILL # 1329 ORDINANCE 2017-26 TO CHANGE FEES FOR INSPECTION

Mr. Winston is asking for the fees to change on 3rd Inspection. The amount for 3rd inspection at \$15 is a low amount to go back after they have been given the opportunity on the second inspection for free to correct the issues that failed. Asking for the amount to be changed to \$75 for 3rd inspection. Fourth inspection \$170.

The attorney advised board to investigate further before voting on decision.

Alderman Brown makes a motion to table to Amend Bill #1329 Ordinance 2017-26 until attorney takes a look at Hancock Amendment and Alderman Nelson seconds.

No voice vote taken.

DISCUSSION FOR SNOW PLOWING FOR BEL-NOR

Mayor received phone call from Bel-Nor to hire City of Bel-Ridge to plow their snow. Mayor asked Cary from Public Works, if we had the manpower to help out Bel-Nor. Cary stated we do not.

APPROVAL OF 401K ORGINAZATION RESOLUTION

This is to remove the past Mayor (White) and to add the New Mayor (Fair) in order to add on employees. Alderman Tope asked if it was an ordinance that established this already. City of Bel-Ridge has a 401k plan offered to Bel-Ridge employees that is set up through Paychex. Previous Mayor set this up. Only a hand full of employees have this and now there are others that would like to enter in on 401k.

Alderman Tope states that a 401k is for profit business and this plan is not set up properly. Alderman Russell mentions that this was set up for the policeman. Alderman Tope states that the IRS does not allow 401k for municipalities. Chief Mark Harris commented that this started in 2017 and Malcom Briggs oversee the account. This is an addition to Lagers. Alderman Tope recommends to speak with account or someone to see if this is legal. Paychex Rep. will be coming to City Hall Thursday to speak to employees if interested and explain. Alderman Brown ask attorney Warren to take a look at for City Hall on this issue. Alderman Nelson will attend meeting to hear Paychex Rep. speak on the 401K.

Mayor ask for motion to table.

Alderman Russell motions to table until more information is received. Alderman Nelson seconds.

Voice Vote

All in favor 5/ Zero oppose

Motion passed to table the approval of the 401K Organization Resolution.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION REGARDING FEES FOR NOTARY SERVICE PROVIDED BY CITY OF BEL-RIDGE

Police clerk asked that fees go up on Notary fees: \$5 residents and for non-residents \$10 and would like an ordinance to state such along with what is collected to go towards Police Fund. Attorney Warren states that according to the law, can not charge no more that \$2/ page.

Alderman Russell motions to approve notary service provided by Police Clerk goes to Police Fund and City Clerk notary services goes to City Hall and Alderman Nelson seconds.

Voice Vote

All in favor/ Zero oppose

Motion passed for Notary services provided by Police Clerk and City Clerk.

Resolution for Notary services is 2019-A

REVOTE OF EMPLOYEE CONTRACT TO ASSIGN BILL # AND ORDINANCE # FOR POLICE CONTRACT

The purpose of the revote is to assign a bill and ordinance number to the contract. Discussion continues about concerns that if county and city merger happen, the City would be liable for paying even though the city may not end up with a police department. Alderman Brown, Alderman Russell and Alderman Nelson states that this has already passed from last monthly meeting and no need to continue discussion.

Alderman Russell motions to pass the bill and ordinance for Chief Harris and Assistant Chief Fisher police contract and Alderman Nelson seconds.

Roll Call

Abernathy-	No
Brown-	Yes
Nelson-	Yes
Ruff-	Absent
Russell-	Yes
Tope-	No

3 yes/ 2 no

Motion passed to assign bill number and ordinance to Police Contract.

For Chief Harris Contract bill # 1372 now Ordinance 2019-2 and for Assistant Fisher bill # 1373 and ordinance 2019-3.

Alderman Tope would like for minutes to state that everyone is aware of the votes and this did not pass according to the majority of the board.

DISCUSSION OF SUMMARY ON SPRINGWOOD APARTMENTS

Mr. Winston has completed the inspections of the apartments. Board was provided with the type of violations that were found. Not one apartment passed inspections. Found numerous code violations and several apartments closed down because of safety reasons. About 90% of apartments have no smoke detectors. Written several summonses pertaining to Apartments with upcoming court date. Mr. Winston's recommendation is to shut the whole complex down until such codes have been brought up to code. Seven or eight buildings are already closed down. Alderman Brown has been with Mr. Winston on several inspections and the apartments are in fact in horrible living conditions. Found 30 apartments that people were moved in without occupancy permits, on catwalks large pieces of concrete are falling. Those buildings are closed down. A few people were out there working but no permits were applied for with the City.

Alderman Russell ask about the apartment with the mold and all those had to be closed. All the walls needed to be torn down and redone.

Det. Strong also gives a report on the apartments of what he had followed up from the investigation. The apartments have been cited with 354 violations. A lot of those were for individuals occupying without occupancy permits, and several calls for service. One apartment entered into had bed bugs and maggots while people living in apartments with children; some apartments no electricity and no water. The situation that these people are in are inhumane. Now someone has a key going into residents' apartments and stealing from the people that are trying to pack up and leave. Detective Strong makes a recommendation to notify St. Louis County Health Department to come in and assist with the investigation and also call in the fire department.

The attorney John Singer from the Apartments speaks to board asking for the board to give them an opportunity to make things better. Would like a time to meet with counsel and make a time frame to get things fixed.

Attorney states that he was not aware of any tickets, cost or fines. Mr. Winston stated that the tickets were given to Police Clerk and were mailed out to the address that St. Louis County has on file as the owner.

Open to Public

Bill Vance from Carson Automotive- concerns about the increase of business license fees. Mr. Vance states that he has read the Hancock Amendment. He states that fees can not be raised by the board, that it has to be voted on from the people, meaning the citizens. No ballot was done. Questions why an auto shop fees are \$1000 and a kidney dialysis business is only \$500. Cleaners is \$1000 but an asphalt business is for \$100.

Also Mr. Vance received a visit from the Planning and Zoning Chairman Mr. Gaffney and informed him and made a big deal that Burger King was coming in across the street from Mr. Vance's business. Mr. Gaffney had another company interested in Mr. Vance's place of business and threaten if he did not cooperate things would get a lot tougher for Mr. Vance in Bel-Ridge. Also,

informed Mr. Vance that his association with Glen Tope was causing him (Mr. Vance) a lot of grief and aggravation. A police report was filed.

Mr. Vance states that Mr. Gaffney doesn't seem to think that the Chamber of Commerce exists. Mr. Vance provided the board with the corporate seal to prove it does exist.

Charlie Macy from AFLAC comes before the board to offer Aflac insurance and ask for permission to speak to employees.

Alderman Russell motions for Aflac to be introduced to employees and Alderman Nelson seconds.

Voice Vote

All in favor/ Zero Oppose

Motion passed for Charlie Macy to speak to employees about AFLAC

Darryl Robinson- Concerns of concrete from street project on ground on St. Henry. Mr. Brown spoke to lady about bricks that live in home and she wants bricks to stay right were they are. Also, would like to address the bid that he made for 8610 Wales for the Homestead Program. This house was not on the list. In conversation with the Mayor, Mr. Robinson is finding out that the house can be sold because its part of the park. Alderman Tope explains it was money from the parks and Storm Water funds that was used to purchase.

Robert Hewitt 3505 St. Henry- Concerns about the renter next door that moved in at midnight. They're leaving trash cans all the way out to street or in the yard. Asking to enforce the ordinance to renters.

Gordon Brock speaks about the budget not being open to the citizens and the police contract. Concerns of some of the paper work being out on the table. Asking about salaries also being provided since citizens do pay taxes.

Julia Anderson 3319 Werder- Speaks on two- thirds of vote of majority which would be four board members or resolution or ordinances that are voted on. Also, express concerns on from the comment that Mr. Winston made in minutes 11/2017 about the apartments making progress. Not understanding why all this is falling on Mayor Fair and feel that this should fall on previous Mayor White. Feels like someone wasn't doing their job. The voters that vote for board is being put out.

Board has acknowledged bills paid for January Bills.

Motion to approve the acknowledgment of bills paid for January 2019 made by Alderman Russell and second by Alderman Nelson.

Voice Vote

All in favor/ Zero oppose

Motion passed on acknowledgment of bills being paid for January 2019.

Committee Reports

Public Works- Cary getting bids on the roof that collapsed on the salt ben.
Wade from Palladian said the bonds on St. Henry were going to pay the contractors.
Mary Mark is now open.

Parks- Talking with Beyond Housing

Mayor ask for motion to adjourn meeting.

Alderman Russell motions to adjourn meeting and Alderman Brown seconds.

Meeting adjourned

Time: 7:50 p.m.

The Board of Aldermen approved the February 5th 2019 meeting minutes on the 12th
Day of August 2019.

Andrea Jones
City Clerk

