

City of Bel-Ridge
Working Session Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 15th, 2018
5:00PM

Mayor White called the February 15th, 2018 Working Session Meeting to order at 5:15pm.

The roll was taken by Deputy Clerk, Jacqueline Jones.

ATTENDANCE AS FOLLOWS:

Alderman Abernathy	-	Present
Alderman Brown	-	Present
Alderman Mans	-	Absent
Alderman Nelson	-	Present
Alderman Ruff	-	Present
Alderman Russell	-	Absent
Mayor White	-	Present

Also present was City Attorney, Ken Heinz

Mayor White asked members of the audience to please silence their phones.

Mayor White announces that the City Attorney, Ken Heinz needed to speak with her and the Board of Alderman before addressing the items on the agenda.

A motion was made by Alderman Ruff and seconded by Alderman Nelson to close the open session to go into closed session for discussion with legal counsel. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Abernathy	-	aye
Brown	-	aye
Mans	-	absent
Nelson	-	aye
Ruff	-	aye
Russell	-	absent

4 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent

Motion passed.

Alderman Abernathy requested that her attorney attend if the Board was going into closed session in regards to her impeachment.

City Attorney, Ken Heinz informed Alderman Abernathy that it would be regarding the license fees.

Time is 5:18pm

Alderman Russell present at 5:50pm

Mayor White called the open session to order at 5:55pm.

The roll was called by Deputy Clerk, Jacqueline Jones

ATTENDANCE AS FOLLOWS:

Alderman Abernathy	-	Present	Alderman Brown	-	Present
Alderman Mans	-	Present	Alderman Nelson	-	Present
Alderman Ruff	-	Present	Alderman Russell	-	Present
Mayor White	-	Present			

Also present was City Attorney, Ken Heinz

DISCUSSION OF CHANGE TO ORDINANCE 2017-02 BUSINESS LICENSE INCREASE

Mayor White informed the residents that the Board had a lengthy discussion regarding the business license increase with City Attorney, Ken Heinz and requested that an Alderman table the issue.

A motion was made by Alderman Ruff and seconded by Alderman Nelson to table ordinance 2017-02 regarding the increase of the business license fee. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor. **Motion passed. (TABLED)**

Mayor White addressed the business members in the audience. Mayor White informed them that Ordinance 2017-02 was tabled for several reasons. Mayor White also felt that now Bel-Ridge is a City the Board needs to sit down with the business owners in a working session and address what we are looking for from the business in the area. Mayor White wants to inquire with other Cities on how they handle their business license also. For the meantime the business license will stay the same as what was paid in 2017.

PERMIT VIOLATION CHARGE –SECTION R108.6 WORK COMMENCING BEFORE PERMIT ISSUANCE

Mayor White gave some background on the matter. It has come to the Mayor that people are being caught repeatedly working on houses and commercial buildings without a permit. But we have no fees assessed for these repeat offenders.

A motion was made by Alderman Mans and seconded by Alderman Ruff that the permit violation charge be tabled till another day. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor. **Motion passed (TABLED)**

AFFIDAVIT OF IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS FOR WILMA ABERNATHY

A motion was made by Alderman Mans and seconded by Alderman Russell to un-table the affidavit of impeachment proceedings for Wilma Abernathy. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor. **Motion passed.**

Mayor White asked the Board if anyone had any questions or discussions.

Alderman Brown stated this action right now is just to give our fellow Board member the opportunity to clear the air regarding any charges.

Mayor White responded that is correct. This is just the start of impeachment proceedings of giving her a hearing.

Alderman Abernathy asked if this passes is she allowed only three (3) days to get her case together.

Mayor White informed Alderman Abernathy that she has ten (10) days and that her attorney is welcome to speak with the special Prosecutor and ask for an extension.

Alderman Abernathy's Attorney mentions that the hearing is to be on the 20th.

Mayor White requested that she not speak out during the meeting and that date was already set in case it would have passed at the last meeting. Mayor White also informed the Attorney that that was her second time doing that and she knows better.

City Attorney, Ken Heinz informed the Board that the article of impeachment does not require that a date be put on it. He believes that special counsel Mr. Bell would be communicating with the Alderman Abernathy, her attorney and the Mayor to select a date that is satisfying to everyone.

A motion was made by Alderman Mans and seconded by Alderman Russell to accept the articles of impeachment for Wilma Abernathy. A roll call vote was as follows:

Abernathy	-	nay
Brown	-	aye
Mans	-	aye
Nelson	-	aye
Ruff	-	nay
Russell	-	aye

4 ayes, 2 nays, 0 absent

Motion passed.

Note: Alderman Abernathy wanted to go on record as saying the charges are bogus before giving her vote.

DISCUSSION OF PAVING CONTRACT FOR SEVERIN, LOGANBERRY AND CLER

Mayor White informed the Board and the resident that the City did not get the entire bid contract back so this is going to be tabled until then.

A motion was made by Alderman Mans and seconded by Alderman Russell to table the discussion of the paving contract for Severin, Loganberry and Cler. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor. **Motion passed. (TABLED)**

DISCUSSION OF NEW FUELING COMPANY – FOR CITY GAS

Mr. Heinz mentions that it is a standard contract.

Mayor White informed the residents and the Board that the reason she is bringing this to them is because we are currently using Fuel Man and we are being charged for being a tax exempt entity, plus 5% on the gas that we get. QuikTrip is offering no fee for being tax exempt.

Captain Thiemann spoke with the gentlemen of QuikTrip and found that we pay the price at the pump but if we go over a certain amount of gallons we will get a discount and there are no fees incorporated with being tax exempt, \$2.00 for a lost card and we would not be paying an upcharge like we are with Fuel Man now.

Captain Thiemann has researched this and feels it would be a better offer and save the City money. Captain Thiemann informed the Board that due to the fact of an ex-employee being late paying the bills we were put into a high risk category and Fuel Man was charging the City \$.15 extra per gallon for gas.

A motion was made by Alderman Russell and seconded by Alderman Ruff to approve the contract with QuikTrip. A roll call vote was as follows:

Abernathy - aye

Brown - aye

Mans - aye

Nelson - aye

Ruff - aye

Russell - aye

6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 absent

Motion passed.

DISCUSSION TO SET MEETING TIME FOR SPRINGDALE MOTEL VIOLATIONS

Mayor White informed the Board members that they need to set a date and time to speak with the owner of the Springdale Motel and our Code Enforcement Officer, Mr. Winston regarding some things that are going on down at the Motel. We also need clarification on how the owner is operating his business. Mayor White asked did anyone have any dates in mind.

Alderman Ruff suggested the March Working Session day.

Mayor White asked the Board did they want to do a special session with just the Motel owner it would take too long to do after the Board Meeting.

Alderman Russell asked did the entire Board need to be there.

Mayor White responded at least a quorum.

The date was set for March 8th, 2018 at noon.

Mayor White is going to call the owner of the Springdale Motel and Mr. Winston to confirm the date.

CITY WEBSITE PROPOSAL

Mayor White apologized for skipping number five (5). Mayor White informed the Board that in their packets was a proposal from a company called Revize Superior Web Design and Content Management Company. They are a company that works on websites for Municipalities, City etc.

Mayor White spoke with the gentleman. He gave her a tutorial and went over what they cover, what they do and also there is a feature where we don't have to call them all the time we can have access to the site. Mayor White mentions that it is very crisp, clean and professional and automated. It will update automatically.

Alderman Brown asked if the company was local.

Mayor White responded no they are based in Michigan. There was a local company that we inquired about but they are talking about \$10,000.00 down payment and \$2000.00 maintain fee.

Captain Thiemann explained that Revize has a onetime fee of \$2600.00 for the first year which includes building the website to match what the City wants, and how we want it to look. Once we put it out there the cost is \$1200.00 per year after that. Captain Thiemann mentions there were a couple of special features that the City was looking at on the Mega Menu that had a onetime charge to it. Captain Thiemann was also given a number and an email address to a representative that if we could not take care of the problem the representative could remote in.

Captain Thiemann also mentions that if the City wants to get emails of activities from a certain department they can click on the email notification button and receive notification. There is also a citizen request prompt that citizens can use to inform us of things going on in the City. Set up time is about six (6) weeks.

Alderman Russell asked if there was a time period for them to sign.

Mayor White replied no.

Some members of the Board would like to see a demonstration of the website.

A motion was made by Alderman Ruff and seconded by Alderman Nelson to table the Revise proposal until the Board can have a walk-thru webinar. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor. **Motion passed.**

Deputy Clerk, Jackie Jones states that she feels disrespected and requested that the first three (3) rows on the side that she is on be reserved with no seating signs. She wants to be as accurate as possible but there are many conversations going on during the meetings, making it hard to hear.

A motion was made by Alderman Mans and seconded by Alderman Ruff to reserve the first three (3), on the side that the Clerk is taking the minutes. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor. **Motion passed.**

A motion was made by Alderman Mans and seconded by Alderman Ruff to adjourn the open session and go into close session for legal discussion and litigation. A roll call vote was taken as follow:

Abernathy	-	aye
Brown	-	aye
Mans	-	aye
Nelson	-	aye
Ruff	-	aye
Russell	-	aye

6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 absent

Motion passed.

MEETING CLOSED at 6:24pm

ADJOURN THE OPEN MEETING

A motion was made by Alderman Russell and seconded by Alderman Nelson to adjourn the open session. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

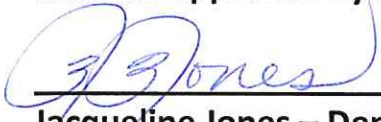
Abernathy	-	aye
Brown	-	aye
Mans	-	aye
Nelson	-	aye

Ruff - aye
Russell - aye
6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 absent
Motion passed.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:47PM

Minutes taken and transcribed by Deputy Clerk, Jacqueline Jones

Minutes approved by the Board of Alderman on March 9th, 2018



Jacqueline Jones – Deputy Clerk