

City of Bel-Ridge
Working Session Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 18th, 2018
11:30 a.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor White at 11:44am.
The roll was called by the Deputy Clerk, Jackie Jones

ATTENDANCE OF THE MEETING AS FOLLOWS:

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

Also present was City Attorney, Ken Heinz

DISCUSSION WITH JUDGE EZELL –COURT FOLLOW UP

Mayor White inform the Board that Judge Ezell was coming to give an update on the courts systems and explain the request for the courts department of Bel-Ridge needing to close two (2) hours early on the day of day court which starts in March.

Judge Ezell greeted the Mayor and the Board of Alderman. Judge Ezell informs the Board that the Judges in the 21st circuit have been busy because the presiding Judge has required that a survey be done. She went on to say that the presiding judge is trying to get a uniform operating policy with the courts to make sure that all courts have policies and procedures in place. Judge Ezell is going to leave a copy of all new documents with Mayor White and encouraged her to give her a call if she should have any question.

As far as the courts closing two (2) hours early, Judge Ezell informs the Board that is just to give the ladies time to get the docket ready for court, not have to keep going to the window and time to shut down system. Payments can still be made while court is closed by website, and the drop box in the lobby. That will be 4 hours of closed court per month. Once court is opened clients can still come up stairs and make a face-to-face payment.

Judge Ezell stated we have two (2) court days a month. The first Wednesday of each month will be the 5:30pm docket and the third Wednesday of each month will be the 1:00pm docket. The 1pm docket schedule will start March 21st, 2017. This will replace the 4:30 docket.

Mayor White questioned the time length of court which Judge Ezell replied usually around 2 to 3 hours tops. And trial court is every other month starting February 21st, 2018. Judge Ezell said this would help with the overtime and also gives defends who may work nights an option to come to day court.

Alderman Brown asked would this be in addition to the days that we already have court and the answer was No.

Judge Ezell stated that on the days that court starts at 1pm the window would opened from 8am to 11 am. Trials will be on the 1pm dockets.

Mayor White questioned whether the courts in in compliance with everything that was required to be done at the end of last year. Judge Ezell responded that we are fine. As far as the question regarding the Show-Me-Courts scanners the Judge and Deputy Clerk both agreed that Show-Me-Courts is still working on the PA portal and do not see that being aa issue anytime soon.

Judge Ezell informed the Board that there is still a need for signage outside but Judge Beach's operating monitors mainly wanted to know that we have our operating procedures in place and that we were following the MOS (Minimum Operating Standards) as far as procedures. They are being a little lenient in regards to fixtures and signage, but as far as they are concern we are in compliance.

Judge Ezell left the meeting.

Mayor White asks the Board if everyone is agreeing to close the court window two (2) hours early before court.

A motion was made by Alderman Ruff and seconded by Alderman Nelson to close the court window two (2) hours early before court. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor. **Motion passed**

DISCUSSION OF ADOPTING ITT INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE 2009-IRC 1 TO 2 FAMILY HOUSING CODES – BUILDING CODES.

Mayor White informed the Board that these were the books that Mr. Winston, Code Enforcement Officer, purchased for the city. Basically ever City had adopted this book of codes. It includes: existing building code, plumbing code, residential code, building code and mechanical code. Mr. Winston was unable to attend this meeting but will be at the February 6th, 2018 meeting, if you all would like to discuss it with him. Mayor White went on to say that St. Louis County uses this code method.

Mayor White answered Alderman Browns question by saying the City has been using this code all along we just need to adopt it for the City. We go by the same codes as St. Louis County.

City Attorney, Ken Heinz inform the Board that the state statue stated that in order to adopt technical codes they need to be on file with the City Clerk for 90 days, so that the public can read them. Mayor White informs Mr. Heinz that we have had them for a month. Mr. Heinz suggested that the City wait a couple more months before adopting the books of Code.

A motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Nelson to table the adoption of the books of code. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor. **Motion passed.**

DISCUSSION OF THE CITY TAKING OWNERSHIP OF SEVERIN

Mayor White let the Board know that she had met with the Planning and Zoning Committee for Berkeley and they requested our minutes to show that we discussed the ownership of Severin to the City of Bel-Ridge. For Berkeley to vacate Severin it will cost the City of Bel-Ridge \$350.00

Severin is the street that connects Berkeley to Bel-Ridge with an empty lot that sets to the left. Mayor White went on to stay that some of the residents of the City of Bel-Ridge have to use Severin to leave and enter their street. The City of Bel-Ridge has been doing the maintenance on this street for a while. Berkeley has not been taking care of Severin. There are large potholes in the street and the

area is being used as a bumping site. Mayor White is working on trying to get the land also, but this is the last step for the purchase of the street Severin.

City Attorney, Ken Heinz mentioned that after the purchase the City of Bel-Ridge will have to change the border line on the map to include the street of Severin. Mr. Heinz will draft an ordinance that will restate the border in our codes.

A motion was made by Alderman Ruff and seconded by Alderman Nelson that the City of Bel-Ridge will give the City of Berkeley \$350.00 for the purchase of Severin and by taking ownership of the street Severin from the City of Berkeley, the City of Bel-Ridge will do all maintenance in regards to Severin, from this point on. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor. **Motion passed.**

Captain Thiemann had a question regarding Severin. Captain would like to know if the Bel-Ridge Police Department would be responsible for patrolling Severin, since it is not within the City limits. Mayor White responded that the \$350.00 is for the transfer of Severin to Bel-Ridge which will extend our border line. Mr. Heinz suggested that until the ordinance changes the city limits Bel-Ridge can maintain the street but does not suggest patrolling. There are not too many zoning issues because we only have the street right now, but Mr. Heinz's believes there is an ordinance that says when you extend a border line it will automatically take the zoning label adjacent to it. But he will look into it as part of expanding the City limits.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSITION FOR THE APRIL BALLOT – EXTENTION OF TERM LIMITS FROM 2 YEARS TO 4 YEARS.

City Attorney, Ken Heinz informed the Board that the Mayor suggested that Alderman be three (3) years but by reading the statue, Mr. Heinz said that it needs to be four (4) years for both the Mayor and the Alderman. Mr. Heinz stated the Board of Alderman use to be able to vote the Mayor in by ordinance, but now you have to go to a vote of the people. The vote is only for a four (4) year term. Mr. Heinz would like to speak to the Board and the Mayor in close session before voting on the matter.

Alderman Brown informed the Board that in section one (1) April 3rd, 2018 needed to be added to the first sentence.

Mayor White gave some background on how this matter came about. It cost the City over \$3000.00 for every election which is straining the budget. Also once in office you only have one year to try and set any vision you may have.

Attorney Ken Heinz suggested that the Board finish what was on the agenda before going into close session.

DISCUSSION OF THE FINALIZATION ON ORDINANCE 2017-20

Mayor White informed the Board that Mr. Heinz would like to discuss the legal ratification of this matter in close session as well.

Mayor White suggested that the Board make a motion to go into close session to discuss these matters then return to the open session.

A motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Ruff to close the open session and go into close session for legal consultation, subject to reopening. 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**

Time is now 12:10 pm.

Upon returning to the open session, no motion was made only a roll call as follows:

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

Time is 1:00pm

Mayor White continued the open session with item D, and inform the Board with the suggestion of legal counsel taken we can go ahead and vote on the matter.

BILL 1345 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEL-RIDGE, MISSOURI, CALLING FOR AN ELECTION TO BE HELD ON APRIL 3, 2018, ON THE QUESTION OF PROVIDING A FOUR (4) YEAR TERM FOR THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN AND AMENDING CHAPTER 115, SECTION 115.010 OF THE BEL-RIDGE CODE TO PROVIDE A FOUR (4) YEAR TERM FOR THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

A motion was made by Alderman Ruff and seconded by Alderman Brown for the first reading of Bill 1345 by caption only. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor. Motion passed. Bill 1345 was read by City Attorney, Ken Heinz for a first time by caption only.

A motion was made by Alderman Ruff and seconded by Alderman Nelson for the second reading of Bill 1345 by caption only. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor. Motion passed. Bill 1345 was read by City Attorney, Ken Heinz for a second time by caption only.

A motion was made by Alderman Ruff and seconded by Alderman Nelson to adopt Bill 1345. 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. Bill 1345 becomes Ordinance 2018-3

Mayor White informs the Board that going over item E, DISCUSSION OF THE FINALIZATION ON ORDINGANCE 2017-20, given the instructions of the City Attorney, Ken Heinz we are going to have a new draft ready by the February 6th, 2018 Board meeting. But until then Ordinance 2017-20 does stand and is in full effect until the amendment.

ADJOURN

Before Mayor White could continue with the adjourning of the meeting, Mr. Tope, resident of Bel-Ridge wanted to know if the extension of terms will take effect this election or the next and if Ordinance 2017-20 was in effect while it was going to be amended.

Mr. Heinz responded that the City has turned all election processes over to the election board last year and we are working on getting information from them.

Mayor White responded yes we are enforcing Ordinance 2017-20 and the only thing being amended on that ordinance is the weight limit.

A motion was made by Alderman Abernathy and seconded by Alderman Ruff to close and adjourn the open session. A voice vote was made and all were in favor.
Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned 1:06pm.

Meeting minutes taken and transcribed by Deputy Clerk, Jacqueline Jones

Approved by the Board of Alderman on February 6th, 2018


Deputy Clerk