

**CITY OF BEL-RIDGE  
BOARD OF ALDERMAN MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 2021  
6:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER-** The City of Bel-Ridge Board of Aldermen meeting was called to order by Mayor Willie Fair on Tuesday, June 1, 2021, at 6:05 PM.

**Roll Call      Board of Aldermen Present                      Board of Aldermen Absent**

Alderman Watts	Alderwoman Abernathy
Alderman Davis	
Alderwoman Tope	
Alderwoman Whitaker	
Alderman Robinson	
Mayor Fair	

Following roll call, the City Clerk reported a quorum was present.

Monte Griffin, VP of Griffin Engineering LLC, introduces himself to the Board of Alderman. Griffin Engineering is a small civil engineering firm that started in 2017. They do predominately municipal civil work. I was contacted by Alderman Tope and was asked if we'd be interested in helping out with some road work plans.

Motion to approve the agenda for June 1, 2021, made by Alderwoman Davis and seconded by Alderman Robinson, an all-in favor vote received.

Motion to approve May 4, 2021 minutes by Alderman Watts and seconded by Alderman Robinson, an all-in favor voted received.

Motion to approve May 20, 2021 work session minutes by Alderman Watts and seconded by Alderwoman Davis, an all-in favor vote received.

Alderman Watts requests to be heard regarding the May 4, 2021 meeting minutes. Mayor grants request. Alderman Watts says a comment was made and he does not want it lingering out there; the statement made by citizen Ruff needs to be clarified when he stated with the City being financial trouble for years that the Board gave themselves a raise and double each salary. Alderman Watts states citizen Ruff gave a false impression and needs clarification. Alderman Watts then stated he wants his opposition to that statement documented in the corrected minutes.

City Attorney O'Keefe suggests withdrawal of approval of May 4, 2021 meeting minutes and asks the City Clerk to review them and the statements made because there were comments made later in the meeting disputing the accuracy of that and we can include them in the minutes, if we can pass that to the next meeting.

Motion to withdraw approval of May 4, 2021 minutes for additional information to be included by Alderman Watts and seconded by Alderman Robinson, an all-in favor voted received.

Motion to approve May 20, 2021 work session minutes by Alderwoman Davis and seconded by Alderman Robinson, an all-in favor vote received.

### **APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS & COMMISSIONS**

None

### **SWEARING IN TO BOARDS & COMMISSIONS**

None

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

Re-appropriation of 2020 and 2021 CDBG Grant Funds --- No citizen responded to the opportunity to speak. Board discusses plans for use for CDBG Grant funds. The plan is to repair streets, Ramona Avenue, being the first street. City Clerk Jones will be the contact person for the engineer, once the engineer has been identified.

Motion to re-appropriate the CBDG Grant Funds to the Ramona Avenue Street Improvement Project by Alderman Robinson and seconded by Alderwoman Davis, an all-in favor vote received.

### **CITIZENS PARTICIPATION**

**David Regan, Field Representative, Local 42** – Here to ask whether you are going to hold a town hall meeting, as promised, to discuss outsourcing your police and public works units? The topic has been on your agenda and was tabled. You stated there would be a power point presentation also.

**Carolyn Hackworth – 4284 Smithfield Pl** – Here on behalf of the police department and the public works department. I've lived here almost forty (40) years and all the years we've lived here we've had a very active Board. I think if you want to get rid of the police and public works, the only departments we see work, we don't need six aldermen. We never see our aldermen do anything; they only show up when it's time for elections. We're still paying for police protection that we're not going to get and I don't think that's fair. We need the police department and public works worse than we need six aldermen.

**Robert Wyatt – 7707 Chroman** – There's a vacant lot next me, 7709. What's going on with 7715? Is it going to be torn down, demoed – when? They have torn up my yard so I just want to know what's going on with it.

Public Works Director and City Clerk explains the demolition process to the resident. Mayor and City Attorney tells the resident to get in touch with Public Works Director and the City Clerk to resolve his property issues concerning the demolition.

Resident states he's trying to buy the property and then COVID hit. He wants to purchase the property and the lot. Property has been designated to be demolished.

**Mike Ruff – 4313 Rickey Drive** – Mr. Ruff stated there was a Resolution, and that's the resolution he was talking about. He then states the residents would like to know the amount of money that's going to be saved by dismantling the police and they want figures. They want figures on how much would be saved by dismantling the police and getting another City in here and is that worth the change. That's basically what I wanted to say. Is that change worth the change.

**Walter Russell --- Somerset Lane** – I hear they may be trying to get rid of the police department because they're paying them too much. I think somebody on this Board is making more than they are making. Somebody on the Board making too much.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

May 2021 Disbursements – Motion to approve May 2021 disbursements made by Alderman Robinson and seconded by Alderman Watts, all-in favor voted received.

## **CITY ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT**

May 2021 Financial Update – By the month of April, the majority property taxes have been received for the year and any remaining funds received are for delinquent and/or protested taxes that have been released. Business/merchant license should generally all be received by this point in time as well, however, they lag behind the budget which was based on historical collections. Court revenues are also lower than historical figures. Sales tax are the largest source of revenues and continue to remain consistent for each month of the year to date. Salaries and related employee benefit expenses are the largest expenses of the city and are generally paid consistently throughout the year. Occupancy and other operating expenses are generally also paid evenly throughout the year, with the exception of certain expenses which are paid annually or in installments. The City made its 4<sup>th</sup> installment of \$23,039 to MOPERM for insurance this month which should be the bulk of this expense. A semi-annual review of actual compared to budget will be presented with the June financial reporting.

## **CITY CLERK REPORTS**

City Clerk states she needs to speak with the accountant for the numbers due for budget allocation because she's not familiar on the asbestos and demolition costs. Not sure where to pull those monies from, so I will hold out and talk to the accountant first.

## **CITY'S STAFF REPORTS**

**Municipal Court** – None

**Public Works** – Director of Public Works states the park house was broken into last weekend; within the last month, it's been broken into three or four times. We keep boarding it up. We completed the sewer lateral project on our property on Thelma where Russell stays.

Alderman Watts asks whether the Thelma property is still in the City's name and whether the City had to pay for the expenditures for the sewer lateral repair? Director Herndon states yes to both questions.

**Police Report** – Chief Harris publicly congratulates Sgts. Freeman and Pacheco for assisting with the fugitives from South Carolina who shot the lady on Delmar and the man in Brentwood2. Both officers investigated the car fire on Highway 170 at Natural Bridge, which they provided to and assisted with the Major Case Squad in apprehending said fugitive.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **RESOLUTIONS**

**Resolution 2021 (Q)**, a resolution for new bank account for federal funds.

Motion to introduce Resolution 2021 (Q), a resolution to open a new bank account for federal funds made by Alderman Robinson and seconded by Alderwoman Davis, all in favor voted received. City Attorney O'Keefe reads the proposed resolution. Motion made to approve Resolution 2021 (Q) to open a new bank account for federal funds related to Corona Virus Relief Funds by Alderman Robinson and seconded by Alderwoman Davis, all-in favor voted received.

### **ROLL CALL**

Alderwoman Davis- Yes  
Alderman Watts - Yes  
Alderman Tope- Yes  
Alderman Whitaker- Yes  
Alderman Robinson- Yes  
Alderwoman Abernathy – Absent

**Motion passed.**

### **BILLS**

**Bill 1420** – authorizing the Engagement of Griffin Engineering, LLC for CDBG Ramona Avenue Project.

Motion for 1<sup>st</sup> reading of Bill 1420 by caption only authorizing the Engagement Griffin Engineering, LLC for CDBG Ramona Avenue Project in Bill 1420 made by Alderman Watts and seconded by Alderman Robinson, all in favor vote received. 1<sup>st</sup> reading done by City Attorney.

Motion for 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of Bill 1420 by caption only by Alderman Watts and seconded by Alderwoman Davis, all in favor vote received. 2<sup>nd</sup> reading done by City Attorney.

Motion to adopt by Alderman Robinson and seconded by Alderman Watts for Bill 1420 to become Ordinance.

**ROLL CALL**

Alderwoman Davis- Yes  
Alderman Watts - Yes  
Alderman Tope- Yes  
Alderman Whitaker- Yes  
Alderman Robinson- Yes  
Alderwoman Abernathy – Absent

**Motion passed for Bill 1420, now Ordinance 2021-8.**

**BILLS**

**Bill 1421** – authorizing Contracts for Asbestos Abatement and Demolition of Three-City Owned Properties.

Motion for 1<sup>st</sup> reading of Bill 1421 by caption only authorizing Contracts for Asbestos Abatement and Demolition of Three-City Owned Properties in Bill 1421 made by Alderman Robinson and seconded by Alderman Watts, all in favor vote received. 1<sup>st</sup> reading done by City Attorney.

Motion for 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of Bill 1421 by caption only by Alderwoman Davis and seconded by Alderman Watts, all in favor vote received. 2<sup>nd</sup> reading done by City Attorney.

Motion to adopt by Alderman Robinson and seconded by Alderman Watts for Bill 1421 to become Ordinance.

**ROLL CALL**

Alderwoman Davis- Yes  
Alderman Watts - Yes  
Alderman Tope- Yes  
Alderman Whitaker- Yes  
Alderman Robinson- Yes  
Alderwoman Abernathy – Absent

**Motion passed for Bill 1421, now Ordinance 2021-9.**

**BOARD COMMENTS**

None

**ADJOURN AND HOLD CLOSED MEETING**

Motion to adjourn and go into Closed Session according to Missouri Revised Statutes 610.021(1), (3) and (12) Legal actions, causes of action or litigation involving a public governmental body and any confidential or privileged communications between a public governmental body or its representatives or attorneys made by Alderman Watts and seconded by Alderman Robinson.

**ROLL CALL**

- Alderwoman Davis- Yes
- Alderman Watts - Yes
- Alderman Tope- Yes
- Alderman Whitaker- Yes
- Alderman Robinson- Yes
- Alderwoman Abernathy – Absent

**Motion passed to go into closed session.**

**Motion to adjourn and go into Closed Session made by Alderman Watts and seconded by Alderwoman Davis, all in favor voted received.**

The meeting minutes were taken and transcribed by City Clerk, Andrea Jones.

June 1, 2021, Board Meeting minutes were approved by the Board this 6<sup>th</sup> day of July 2021.

Andrea Jones  
City Clerk

