

**CITY OF BEL-RIDGE  
MEETING MINUTES FOR  
THURSDAY, JUNE 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2018  
6:00 PM**

This meeting was requested by Alderman President Russell, Alderman Brown, Alderman Nelson.

The meeting was called to order by Alderman President, Robin Russell, at 6:12pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The roll was called by Deputy Clerk, Jacqueline Jones.

**ATTENDANCE AS FOLLOWS:**

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

Ben Warren who was sitting in for City Attorney, Steven Martin, was also present. All roll calls from this point on were executed by Mr. Warren.

NOTE: The City Clerk was unable to attend the meeting.

Alderman Russell informed the Board that the meeting was called to do some resolutions in regards to the City and to hire special counsel to represent the City.

**MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD PRESIDENT TO RETAIN PAUL MARTIN AS SPECIAL COUNSEL**

Alderman Russell asked the Board for a motion to hire Attorney Paul Martin but request that Mr. Martin come forward and give some background on himself.

Mr. Martin thanked the Board and informed the Board that he has been representing local government for almost 30 years. He is a past partner of the Heinz Law Firm. The engagement between him and the City is strictly for the case involving the City, Chief of Police, City Clerk. He understands that they are the

majority of the Board but he is representing the City not them or the Mayor. Mr. Paul Martin mentions that he had a prior relationship with Glen Tope and Wilma Abernathy. But this has no conflict of interest.

Alderman Brown informed Mr. Martin that he had no question but wanted to make it known that he comes with a good recommendation.

Mr. Paul Martin informed the Board that if he is hired, he will start immediately, has a meeting schedule with the Chief of Police. If the Judge will not dismiss the case he will ask for a continuous to gather all needed information.

A motion was made by Alderman Ruff and seconded by Alderman Nelson to acquire Attorney Paul Martin as the City representative and approve the contact direct the President Pro tem to execute the contact with Paul Martin for legal services. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

4 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent

**Motion Passed. The Resolution No. is 2018-N**

#### **RESOLUTION 2018-O – REGARDING ACCESS TO CITY MUNICIPAL COMPLEX**

Alderman Russell gave some background regard access. There has been an issue with the Mayor wanting access to areas with important Police documents and documents being removed from the building. The police department has the right to secure the building during business hours. No one should be allowed without a visitor badge.

Alderman Brown agreed. The Mayor has put the employees and the police department in danger by allowing citizens into the building to serve a suspension. There was no protocol or security followed.

A motion was made by Alderman Ruff and seconded by Alderman Brown to approve Resolution 2018-O. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

4 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent

**Motion passed.**

#### **RESOLUTION 2018-P – REGARDING CITY DOCUMENTS**

Alderman Russell gave some background on City documents being removed from the City Hall. The City has been breached a couple of time due to document being removed. No person, including the Mayor or Alderman shall remove original City documents or records from the City of Bel-Ridge. This should be illegal.

Alderman Russell mentions that the City has a complete staff working and there is no reason for information to be coming in from the outside. It has been said that the City of Bel-Ridge is not reliable because information has leaked out over various years. The system is being broke down

A motion was made by Alderman Ruff and seconded by Alderman Nelson to approve the Resolution regarding City documents. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

4 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent

**Motion passed**

#### **A DISCUSSION OF MOVING FORWARD WITH THE HOMESTEAD PROJECT**

Alderman Russell mentioned that the project was already been voted on and is not sure of the hesitation. People have paid their money and an Ordinance has been put in place.



Alderman Russell asked that the information be made available to the public.

Alderman Brown mentions that his only concern is that he has not been able to get in touch with Mr. Melvin Polk, the Superintendent of the Homestead Program. Alderman Brown is under the impression that Mr. Polk is to deal with the homes and the financing.

A motion was made by Alderman Ruff and seconded by Alderman Russell to move ahead with the Homestead Project. They were all in favor. **Motion passed.**

### **DISCUSSION OF ORDINANCE REGARDING VOTING WITH INTENT FOR FINANCIAL GAIN**

Alderman Russell informed the Board that there are a couple of Alderman's that are on the Board and in the "Fourth Class City pamphlet", they are bias. How can you be on the Board, have a business and making decision on the finances and the budget? That is a conflict of interest and we have an Ordinance in regards to this.

Alderman Russell feels that this needs to be looked into and given to the one who must not know the difference between being a Village and a City. How can we make the citizen follow the Ordinances if the Board is not following the Ordinances? Alderman Russell is going to have the legal team look into this.

Alderman Brown suggest that we get this looked into.

Alderman Russell informed the Board that a discussion regarding the acceptance of the Byrne & Jones increase, due to material and not starting on time.

Alderman Brown mention that the increase is \$1620.00 and this is the reason that the project is on hold. He spoke to Byrne & Jones who sent the request to the engineer and the engineer sent it to Brown who in return sent it to the Mayor and the Board.

Alderman Russell mentions that the project was to start in March and this is the reason that the residents are asking about the project.

Alderman Ruff move to accept the increase from Byrne & Jones of \$1620.00 and Alderman Nelson seconded it, but the motion was withdrawn and table, due to not bring on the agenda.

### **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

William Walker, resident 3414 Ranch Lane, was concern with the information that was posted outside regarding Alderman Robinson requesting a meeting. Mr. Walker wanted to know when Mr. Robinson was elected to the Board.

Alderman Nelson informed Mr. Walker that it was a typo.

The Deputy Clerk informed the Board and the resident that it was a typo. The new City Clerk received it from the City Attorney's office like that. We re-posted the agenda with the right name but she forgot to make copy changes elsewhere. And we apologize for the error.

Mr. Walker read the notice again and it was found to be typed by someone not of the office.

Alderman Russell mentions that as long as we have four (4) Board members we can have a meeting.

Mr. Walker then asked if the street Elmhurst going to be repaired? It is in desperate need of repair.

Alderman Nelson, Brown and Russell all informed Mr. Walker that Elmhurst will be repaired. Alderman Brown mentions it will be repaired by Byrne & Jones.

### **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

A motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Ruff to adjourn. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor. **Motion passed**

Alderman Russell thanked everyone for coming out on such short notice.

**TIME 6:43PM**

The June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018 meeting minutes were taken and transcribed by Deputy Clerk, Jacqueline Jones.

THE BOARD OF ALDERMAN APPROVED THE JUNE 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2018 MEETING MINUTES  
ON THE 14<sup>th</sup> DAY OF August, 2018

Andrea Jones  
City Clerk- Andrea.