

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

Mayor Fair called the Board meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

The pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call was taken by Office clerk, Cindy Shaw.

ATTENDANCE AS FOLLOWS:

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

Also present was Attorney Ben Warren sitting in for City Attorney Steve Martin.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

A motion was made by Alderman Russell to approve the Agenda.

We had a second by Mr. Ruff. Mr. Tope wants to move the "open to public" up to the top of the Agenda.

Vote was taken as follows:

Alderman Russell – yes

Alderman Abernathy-no

Alderman Brown- yes

Alderman Nelson- yes

Alderman Ruff- yes

Alderman Tope- no

Motion passed with a vote of 4-2.

APPROVAL OF NEW BUSINESS LICENSE:

Barbara Thompson would like to open a new business at 8626 Natural Bridge. It will be a re-sell it shop offering both new and used items. She is planning on having the business open 5-6 days per week. The business will be operated by herself and her sister. No additional employees at this time. The Board took a vote on approving the new Business contingent on passing a Commercial building inspection and Fire inspection:

Vote was taken as follows:

Alderman Russell – yes

Alderman Abernathy-yes

Alderman Brown- yes

Alderman Nelson- yes

Alderman Ruff- yes

Alderman Tope- yes

MOTION PASSED

APPROVAL OF POSTING JOB FOR CITY CLERK:

Asking for approval on the job posting for a new City Clerk.

A motion was made by Alderman Russell. A second was made by Alderman Ruff.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Alderman Russell – yes

Alderman Abernathy-no vote

Alderman Brown- yes

Alderman Nelson- yes

Alderman Ruff- yes

Alderman Tope- no

MOTION PASSED

APPROVAL OF BILL 1374 – CONTRACT WITH SCHOWALTER AND JABOURI PC.

Questions were raised about this contract When is current contract up? How much?

How long is contract? Was asked to gather more information and send it to the Alderman and the Mayor. A motion was made by Ms. Russell to table the contract until more information was obtained. There was a second by Ms. Nelson. A voice vote was taken all were in favor.

DISCUSSION 8645 NATURAL BRIDGE

Chief Harris addresses Board, explaining owner is using this address as an Air Bed and Breakfast. There is no Business License on file. Owner is complaining that Officers are sitting behind building. Chief states there have been on going issues at this address and have

instructed his Officers to watch for illegal activity. Chief Harris asked the Attorney Warren if he could get a Cease and Desist letter.

DISCUSSION ON CITY HALL HOURS

Since the City is without a City Clerk it was suggested we could close City Hall on Fridays. There were questions about other municipalities and their hours. Questions then came up about Court Hours and the Police Clerk hours. The Board suggested we do some research with other agencies and talk about this at a later date.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2019-B-MUNICIPAL PARK GRANT COMMISSION PLANNING GRANT APPLICATION

Alderman Abernathy spoke about getting help with the grants. Spoke with Mr. Seely. Also have someone come out and speak directly to the board with any questions.

A motion was made for approval by Alderman Russell. A second was made by Mr. Brown.

A vote was taken as follows:

Alderman Russell – yes

Alderman Abernathy-yes

Alderman Brown- yes

Alderman Nelson- yes

Alderman Ruff- yes

Alderman Tope- no vote

MOTION PASSED

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2019-C PLANNING AND ZONING NOMINEES.

Board wants to know how names got on a list that was not approved by the Mayor.

Nominations must go through the Mayor. Mr. Gaffney from Planning and Zoning stated that was not so. There was discussion back and forth. Mayor wants to see a list a current members and when their terms are up and how long they have each been on the Board of Planning and Zoning.

A motion to table was made by Ms. Russell. A second came from Ms. Nelson.

A vote was taken as follows:

Alderman Russell – yes
Alderman Abernathy-no
Alderman Brown- yes
Alderman Nelson- yes
Alderman Ruff- yes
Alderman Tope- no

MOTION PASSED

DISCUSSION OF MAYOR PERFORMANCE

Mayor asked who put this on the Agenda. Alderman Ruff stated he did. Mr. Ruff has a problem with the Mayors conduct. Mr. Ruff states the Mayor constantly tells him to “shut up”. Mayor using City money to buy personal items. A lot of people shouting out from the audience. Much arguing between Board members, Mayor and the Alderman. Member in audience asked if we can move on to the business topics. Mayor agreed.

APPROVAL OF BILL 1375-AN ORDINANCE ADDING SECTION 355.210 TO CHAPTER 355, PROHIBITING THE OVERNIGHT PARKING OR THE STORING OF WORKING VEHICLES , BACKHOES, TRAILERS , TOW TRUCKS AND COMMERCIAL TRUCKS IN PUBLIC VIEW WITHIN 200 FEET OF RIGHT OF WAY.

Board was given an updated ordinance. On the Agenda it shows section number 355.190. The correction was made to 355.210. Copies were made and handed out to the Board members during the meeting. Motion was made by Ms. Russell. Second was by Mr. Ruff.

A vote was taken as follows:

Alderman Russell – yes
Alderman Abernathy-no
Alderman Brown- yes
Alderman Nelson- yes
Alderman Ruff- yes
Alderman Tope- no

MOTION PASSED

DISCUSSION ON LAST SET OF MINUTES APPROVED BY THE BOARD

The Board questions why they have the minutes from the 21st, and not the 5th. Cindy Shaw speaks to the Board about the minutes that have not been approved. According to what she can find in the office, there have been no minutes approved by the Board since August 2018. She explained she is doing the current minutes and will work her way back on the old minutes.

There was a motion from Mr. Ruff and a second from Ms. Russell.

There was no vote taken. Minutes NOT approved.

DISCUSSION ON APPOINTING POLICE TO OVERSEE PUBLIC WORKS

Mark tries to explain that he does payroll. He wants Public Work employees to give them their days off, sick time, vacation time etc. so he can do payroll for everyone. Mr. Tope then questions Chief Harris about overpayment on last checks. Mayor moves on and there was no more discussion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Community Relations- No conversation
- B. Health and Safety- Ms. Russell
- C. Code Enforcement- Mr. Winston-gave a short update on Springwood Apartments. Spoke about a 10-day compliance letter. Will move forward from here.
- D. Police Dept.- Chief Harris- approved for a Livescan machine. Cost of \$16000.00. Arrives in June. Mr. Tope then questions Chief again about pay raises.
- E. Public Works- Cary Herndon – insurance about salt roof was not approved. Need to get 3 bids for replacement.
- F. Parks- Alderman Abernathy- Stated to Mr. Gafney she is over the Park Board if he needs any information. Mr. Gutknecht is the President of the Park Board.
- G. Recreation- Board of Alderman Ms. Russell asked Ms. Abernathy if Easter plans were in the works. Said she would look into it and get this started.
- H. Accounting and Auditor Report - nothing
- I. City Attorney- nothing
- J. Mayor- Willie Fair - nothing

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE SPECIAL MEETING 02-21-2019

Motion to approve minutes from 02-21-2019 by Mr. Brown. Second was made by Ms. Abernathy. Vote as follows:

Alderman Russell – yes
Alderman Abernathy- yes
Alderman Brown- yes
Alderman Nelson- yes
Alderman Ruff- yes
Alderman Tope- no

APPROVAL OF JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2019 BILLS

A voice vote was taken all were in favor except Mr. Tope

DISCUSSION OF SECTION 117.040 PROHIBITED ACTS-BEL-RIDGE CODE

Mr. Tope brings up Mr. Ruff doing work on Mary Mark. Mr. Ruff says it was an emergency situation. Mr. Ruff states it was approved by Mayor before any work was done.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Tammy Gilbert- 4319 Rickey Ln. – Doing day care in her home for the past 11 years. The state of Missouri says she now needs approval from the City of Bel-Ridge. Board says she must have a commercial inspection from Mr. Winston and pass approval from the fire department. Board will approve if she passes all inspections.

Henry and Sandra Citchen- 8610 Natural Bridge-Questioning the ordinance/Bill number 1375- wants to know where to park her vehicles without getting tickets as she has in the past.

Darryl Robinson- 3737 St. Henry- Wants to know when the construction will be finished on St. Henry. Mr. Winston says the bricks on St. Henry will be removed on the 9th. Also wants the minutes from 02-05-2018. Again, wants to see the minutes. Again, Cindy explains she is trying to catch up since AJ's departure. She expects them to be complete by the April meeting. Mr. Robinson then comments on City Hall hours, wants to know why we are hiring a full time person when we are asking to cut down to 4 days a week.

Jerome Robinson- 3422 Maybelle Dr. – Received call from attorney, was very vague on any details. Mr. Tope goes off the subject and starts talking about "everything is a secret". No knowledge of "Closed meeting". Mr. Robinson then speaks about the trash in the neighborhood and what is being done. Chief states every Monday the Officers check addresses. People either get a letter or a summons.

Marcell Agnew-8917 Higginson Dr. – States she likes to come to the meetings, however there is way too much arguing. Not in best interest of City. Too much speaking out of turn. No order.

Julia Anderson 3319 Werder- Wants to speak to attorney. Wants Attorney to ask Mr. Ruff if he ever excepted money (Ward 1). Then ask Chief Harris if he was the one who collected that money. The attorney explains he does not have authority to ask questions during the meeting. Ms. Anderson then directed the questions to the Mayor. The Mayor stated he would like to know. Chief says he has no clue as to what she is talking about. Speaks about how the is a “subcommittee” within the board. Spoke about compensation “some” board members receive, who has access to building, what minutes are not on file. Spoke about how the Chief got in office, was incorrect, should have been thru the new Mayor.

Natalie G. 8974 Torchlamp Ln. – Talks to Board about the Homestead program. Interested in the property at 9156 Loganberry. She has been waiting 3 months for an answer. Did not understand “what houses were on the list”? Mr. Tope says attorney should look into this so the City could get this property sold. Mr. Tope then stated he checked the County web sight and 9156 Loganberry is not owned by the City of Bel-Ridge.

DISCUSSION OF WHISTLEBLOWERS

Mr. Robinson (resident) says the meeting cannot be over until the discussion of whistleblowers is discussed. Mayor says they are not going to talk more about this, that the board already talked about issues.

A motion was made by Mr. Brown to adjourn the meeting, a second was made by Ms. Russell All were in favor.

There will be no closed meeting.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:42pm.

Minutes taken and transcribed by Office Clerk, Cindy Shaw

Minutes approved by the Board XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Cindy Shaw -Office Clerk