

City of Bel-Ridge
Board Meeting Minutes
March 6th, 2018
5:00pm

Mayor White called the March 6th, 2018 Board meeting to order at 5:25pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The roll was call by Deputy Clerk, Jacqueline Jones

ATTENDENCE AS FOLLOWS:

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

Also present was City Attorney, Ken Heinz

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

DISCUSSION OF BUSINESS LICENSE FOR NEW FACE SALON

Monique Howard is the owner of the salon and has lived on Elmhurst for four years. Ms. Howard is a license beautician. Ms. Howard specializes in all basic cuts, styles and coloring. There will five other besides herself working in the salon. The hours are from 9am to 7pm. The location will be 9855 Natural Bridge.

A motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Mans to accept the business license application for New Face salon. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor. **Motion passed.**

Mayor White informed Ms. Howard that once she has all the required inspections and trash service, she will receive her license.

DISSCUSSION OF DEMOLITION PROJECT

Mayor White informed the Board that in their packets was information in regards to getting the demolition project up and going within the next three (3) weeks but the City needs to allocate \$8,100.00 to cover the removal of the dilapidated homes. Mayor White mentions that the City has it in its Capital Improvement fund.

A motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Nelson to move \$8100.00 from the Capital Improvement funds to the Community Development Block Grant fund to complete the funding for the demolition project. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor.
Motion passed.

DISCUSSION OF COMPUTER UPGRADE INFORMATION

Mayor White turns the attention to Captain Thiemann. Captain Thiemann informed the Board that he had spoken with our IT department and has a quote from Dell for an upgrade of the Police and Prosecuting Attorney Departments computer systems. There is also a need for two (2) new servers. Cost \$2668.22 per quarter. Captain Thiemann informed the Board that \$15000.00 of the Prop P funds was passed in the budget for the system upgrade.

Alderman Brown agrees that the system is old.

Captain Thiemann informed the Board that the new server would be able to hold video footage from the cameras that are to be installed around the City. It will be a 12 terabyte system and we are under contract with REJIS and they will be doing the installations.

Mayor White asked where there any question from the audience and there was no response.

Captain Thiemann assures that this completes the computer spending for the Police Department, Prosecutor office and the City server. The only thing left to mend is the Wi-Fi.

A motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Ruff to accept the bid from Dell for the upgrade of the computers and the servers for the City Hall, PA and Police Department. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor. **Motion Passed.**

BILL 1349 – AN ORDINANCE REAUTHORIZING A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF BEL-RIDGE AND ST. LOUIS COUNTY.

Mayor White informed the Board that this is also a Police matter. Captain Thiemann mentions that St. Louis County is who dispatches for the City of Bel-Ridge and it is also pertaining to our report system. (CARE) Captain Thiemann informs the Board that the price has gone down for this contract.

A motion was made by Alderman Mans and seconded by Alderman Nelson for first reading of Bill 1349 by captions only and voice vote was taken and all were in favor. Motion Passed. Bill 1349 was read a first time by caption only by City Attorney, Ken Heinz.

A motion was made by Alderman Ruff and seconded by Alderman Nelson for the second reading of Bill 1349 by caption only. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor. Motion Passed. Bill 1349 was read a second time by caption only by City Attorney, Ken Heinz.

A motion was made by Alderman Ruff and seconded by Alderman Nelson to adopt Bill 1349. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Abernathy -	aye
Brown -	aye
Mans -	aye

Nelson - aye
Ruff - aye
Russell - absent

5 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent

MOTION PASSED. BILL 1349 BECOMES ORDINANCE 2018-7

DISCUSSION OF SALES QUOTE FOR POLICE CAR PRINTERS

Lieutenant Harris gave some background on the printers and mentions that there is an example outside in one of the new police cars for public viewing. Harris informed the Board that they did not know that the printers were needed until he found out that the printers the police department have, they do not make any more. The printers are for mobile tickets. Police department are getting away from handwritten tickets. There is a year warranty on the printers.

A motion was made by Alderman Mans and seconded by Alderman Nelson to accept the bid from Rugged Store for \$3,825.00 the police department car printers, accessories and twelve (12) month warranty. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor. **Motion passed.**

DISCUSSION OF TRAINING FOR CAPTAIN THIEMANN AND POLICE CLERK

Captain Thiemann –

Captain Thiemann informed the Board that he would like to attend the GLEED Development Seminar at St. Louis University May 15th, 2018 to May 18th, 2018 the cost is \$450.00. It is leadership training.

Captain Thiemann mentions that police training was put into the budget that was approved.

A motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Mans for Captain Thiemann to attend the (GLEEDS) training program. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor. **Motion passed.**

Jackie Jones (Police Clerk) –

Ms. Jones informed the Board that the training she is requesting to attend is in Jefferson City and would enhance her knowledge of the Police Department and her responsibilities. The training is May 8th, 2018 to May 11th, 2018

Alderman Mans informed Ms. Jones that she is doing an exceptional job.

A motion was made by Alderman Mans and seconded by Alderman Nelson to approve the training for Ms. Jones May 8th – May 11th, 2018 and the City will pay for lodging, classes, meal and gas per diem. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor. **Motion passed.**

DISCUSSION OF REPAIRING OR REPLACING WITH INSTALLMENT – CAR LIFT

Mayor White turns the floor over to Mr. Herndon, the Public Works Supervisor.

Mr. Herndon informed the Board that the car lift that the City has is over 20 years old and has corrosion on right side and leaks. Mr. Herndon presented the Board with two (2) estimates from Nation & Fletcher, Inc. One was for replacing parts if possible and the other was for a new car lift. Mr. Herndon mentions that he uses the car lift a lot.

A motion was made by Alderman Mans and seconded by Alderman Brown to replace the defected car lift with a new one for \$5,148.37. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor. **Motion passed.**

Lawn Equipment and Safety Kit –

Mr. Herndon mentions the request he submitted to the Mayor and the Board regarding lawn equipment and a safety kit. The quote was from John Deere for the equipment and safety kits for each employee. This was put into the park budget.

Mayor White informed Mr. Herndon that she would check the budget and get back with him by Friday.

A motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Ruff to table the John Deere Bid. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor. **Motion passed (TABLED)**

BILL 1346A – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF BEL-RIDGE AND OLATHE DODGE CHRYSLER JEEP AND SANTANDER LEASING, LLC FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACQUIRING AND FINANCING THE LEASE OF THREE 2018 POLICE CARS

Lieutenant Harris, request permission from the Board, to go pick up the last three (3) cars for the Police Department. Six (6) were order and the last three (3) are ready. Lieutenant Harris response to rumors by stating, the City has purchased six (6) cars. The cars that the City has now are in bad shape and are costing more than what they are worth. Most of the old cars had at least 150,000 miles on them. Harris informed the Board of the new cars and their benefits.

Alderman Brown mentions that he has been pushing for a strong police force for a strong City.

Lieutenant Harris informed the Board that it was \$1.50 per mile \$402.00 per car for a transport company to bring the cars to Bel-Ridge. Or the cost of the offices wages if we pick them up our self. One of the first three (3) was not ready and Olathe Dodge paid for Lieutenant Harris's hotel and to travel back a second time to retrieve the third car.

Alderman Russell apologized for being late due to employment hours. Alderman Russell arrived at 6:00pm.

Mayor White asked the Board did anyone have any questions, if not we need a motion to approve the lease for the second set of police vehicles.

A motion was made by Alderman Russell and seconded by Alderman Mans for the first reading of Bill 1346A by caption only. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor. Motion passed. Bill 1346A was read for a first time by caption only by City Attorney, Ken Heinz.

A motion was made by Alderman Mans and seconded by Alderman Russell for the seconded reading of Bill 1346A by caption only. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor. Motion passed. Bill 1346A was read a second time by caption only by City Attorney, Ken Heinz.

A motion was made by Alderman Russell and seconded by Alderman Ruff to adopt Bill 1346A. 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. BILL 1346A BECOMES ORDINANCE 2018-4A

REVISED ARTICLE OF IMPEACHMENT FOR WILMA ABERNATHY

Mayor White informed the Board that the revise copy of the article of impeachment was in their packets.

Evelyn Sims interrupts Mayor White to inform the Board that she is the Attorney representing Wilma Abernathy and has a motion that relates to the articles but wanted clarification on how the Board was proceeding with the articles.

Mayor White response that the Board is voting to accept the revised article of impeachment for Alderman Abernathy anything beyond that she would have to speak with the special prosecutor on that.

Attorney Sims mentions March 20th, 2018 as being the date of the hearing on which she will not be available due to prior commitments. Ms. Sims is asking the Board for a different date that gives her time to prepare. Attorney Sims informs the Board that the article is vague and she has copies of her motion for everyone.

Mayor White informed Attorney Sims that the Board is just voting on the revised article and in regards to March 20th, 2018 special Prosecutor Bell informed her of the conflict that was going on regarding dates and time. Mayor White suggests that the Board vote on the revised and postpone the tentative date of March 20th to a day that can be agreed upon by Attorney Sims and Special Prosecutor Bell.

Mayor White mentions that the Board would be meeting on Friday, and maybe she could schedule a time that both Attorneys could be there to hear both sides of the story.

Attorney Sims appreciates that from the Mayor but was still concerned about the date. But she would be there on Friday.

Mayor White assured Attorney Sims that there would be no hearing on Friday.

Attorney Sims wanted to know if Friday would be the hearing on the motion only.

Alderman Brown asked to be excused to take a phone call due to a family emergency. Request was granted.

Attorney Sims decided to file the motion and have it taken up on Friday.

The motions were given to the deputy clerk to pass out to the Board and the Attorney.

Attorney Sims informed the Board that the motion would be filed and taken up on Friday at 2:30pm and the substance at a later date.

Due to Alderman Brown leaving the room Mayor White requested that it be table until his return.

Alderman Brown returned before the motion to table was done.

Mayor White informed Alderman Brown of what had taken place in his absence. Mayor White asked the Board if there were any questions regarding the revised article of impeachment for Wilma Abernathy.

A motion was made by Alderman Russell and seconded by Alderman Mans to accept the Revised Article of Impeachment for Wilma Abernathy. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor except Alderman Abernathy and Alderman Ruff.

Attorney Sims asked for a roll call vote to be done.

Mayor White mentions that Alderman Abernathy does not get a vote.

City Attorney, Ken Heinz asked the deputy clerk what count she got.

With the vote of Alderman Abernathy the deputy clerk responded, two (2) nays and four (4) ayes. Motion passed

Attorney Sims was satisfied with the answer.

COMMUNITY REPORTS

COMMUNITY RELATIONS – MS. MANS

Ms. Mans informed everyone about the upcoming Easter Bash that is to be held at the Bel-Ridge City hall. It will be March 24th, 2018 for kids 12 and under from 1pm to 3pm and following will be the monthly movie put on by the Police Department. Ms. Mans asked for suggestion that would attract the teenagers. April 7th will be the next movie night.

HEALTH & SAFETY – MS. RUSSELL

Ms. Russell informed the Board that residents are excited about the progress throughout the City. Tree trimming, more lighting, camera install coming around the city, road repair and more.

CODE ENFORCEMENT – MR. WINSTON

Nothing to report due to Mr. Winston's absence

POLICE DEPARTMENT – CAPTAIN THIEMANN

Captain Thiemann informed the Board that his reports had been submitted earlier and he want to issue a couple of awards to his officers.

Officer Enloe received an award for assisting with a mental health case that ended with not tragedies.

Sgt. Fisher, Officer Pacheco, Officer Scrivner received an award for apprehending a shooting suspect with no injuries involved and during the arrest officers seized a firearm and narcotics.

PUBLIC WORKS – MR. HERNDON

Mr. Herndon reported that the City received it last 40 tons of salt and he was able to get it all stored safely. The free salt for the residents ended in February.

PARKS – MS. ABERNATHY

Nothing to report

RECREATION – BOARD OF ALDERMAN

Ms. Mans repeated the movie night and Easter Bash information.

ACCOUNTING & AUDITOR REPORT – MS. WHITE

Ms. White informed the Board that the auditors are ready to do the 2017 audit. Everything is on track as far as the budget. Also the Prop P account was opened earlier today and the state will be able to send the money directly to the account.

CITY ATTORNEY – KEN HEINZ

Nothing to report

MAYOR – MS. WHITE

Mayor White gave an update on the tree trimming/removal program. The City removed 82 hazardous trees, 30 trees trimmed and the stumps will be removed soon. 2016 the Board voted to use the CBGF to repave St. Henry. Due to the sudden passing of our engineer there will be a short delay. Once the Board knows what they are going to do the Mayor informed the residents that a meeting would be called for the resident of St. Henry to enlighten them on the repair information for the street.

The north side has over 700,000 in the TIF account. The first phase will be used to pave Loganberry, Mary Mark and Severin.

Mayor White mentions that Ameren in regards to Rickey, Russett, Belfore, Belcour and Bel Acres court will be receiving new lighting. Loganberry will receive new lights and cameras.

Mayor White feels that the houses to be demolished should be done within the next three weeks.

Alderman Russell suggested that the Board have an increase in their stipend; due to the direction they have carried the City for the past four (4) years.

A motion was made by Alderman Mans and seconded by Alderman Brown to table the increase in the Board of Alderman stipend until after the election. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Brown informed the Board of places that he feels needs more lighting. Mayor White informed Alderman Brown that the project will be in full effect in the fall of 2018.

Alderman Mans thanked Mayor White for all the work she has done for the City of Bel-Ridge.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PAID FEBRUARY 2018 BILLS

A motion was made by Alderman Russell and seconded by Alderman Nelson to approve the February 2018 paid bills. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor. **Motion passed.**

APPROVAL OF FEB. 6TH, 2018 BOARD MEETING MINUTES AND FEB. 15TH, 2018 WORKING SESSION MINUTES

A motion was made by Alderman Mans and seconded by Alderman Russell to table the February 6th, 2018 Board meeting minutes. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor. **Motion passed. (TABLED)**

A motion was made by Alderman Mans and seconded by Alderman Russell to table the February 15th, 2018 working session minutes. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor, **Motion passed. (TABLED)**

A motion was made by Alderman Mans and seconded by Alderman Russell to take a 5 minute break before starting the Town Hall Session. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor.

Time is 6:48pm

During the break residents wished Alderman Abernathy a Happy Birthday.

TOWN HALL

Mayor White called the Town Hall portion of the evening to order at 7:14pm

Mayor White asked that everyone respect the speaker and sign up if you would like to address the Board. The Robert's Rules of Order were read by Mayor White. And due to the climate of the City anyone who is disruptive or disrespectful will get one warning and after that you will be asked to leave.

Mayor White continue by address the rumors and stories given to and by Elliott Davis. The history of the rumors started when Bel-Ridge was still a Village in 2012 and Mayor White was asked to run for office. Some people wanted her to run and get other people off the committee, such as Chairman Mr. Walker and Patti Armanees. Mayor White spoke on some of the scandals that were going on back then. And pointed out that sex, drugs and scandal sales, Bel-Ridge had all three.

Mayor White describes her daily life as a resident of Bel-Ridge in 2012 as employed, expecting her first child, constant knocks on her door, and interacting with people she did not know asking her to run for the Board. Mayor White went on to mention meetings that she attended at the blue building that was next door to Tope Inc. She was told what to do, what to say, what to run on to get the bad people out of office. Mayor White feels that what they really wanted was for her black face to get them elected in the black community.

A resident from the audience asked the Mayor did she sign up to talk.

Mayor White informed him of his one warning and informed the residents not to deal with smokescreen. They are there to distract your attention.

Mayor White educated the resident that the Board now is working for the betterment of the City. When the Board was divided you did not hear anything. But now that we are reading the Code Book, making ourselves knowledgeable, hearing residents' concerns and acting on them there is a problem. For example a resident brought it to the Boards attention regarding parking for more than 24hrs in certain areas. Citation went out but the Board felt the ordinance was outdated so anyone with a citation was not charged and the ticket was waved. The Board then revamped the ordinance.

Mayor White informed the residents that the Board started getting into the Ordinance book in 2017 and holding residents accountable. But we sent out newsletters tell everyone what was going to happening or going on. Mayor White references that she ran on "THE DISCOVERY OF A NEW DAY" because the old one was not working for us as a city. The city was stuck. No one was looking for grants for the city, all due to calls from you the residents.

Some calls were in regards to landlords and renter issues, so the Board created an ordinance that requires all rental property be inspected yearly and if you property passed you would not have to get another inspection for three years or unless that tenant moves out. But the word on the street was everyone house was being inspected.

Mayor White asked how you can fix a situation if you cannot control the situation.

The City has a license coded inspector now who is finding issues such as home not up to code, too many people in some houses and people living in attics with no windows. All these violations the City would be liable for a lawsuit, if something was to happen and we show a passed occupancy of the house by the City of Bel-Ridge.

Mayor White mentions the cleaning of the Natural Bridge Corridor. She referred to it as downtown Bel-Ridge and by it being ran down no major business want to come here. Questions that come up are what is going on, on Natural Bridge, why are business closed, why are you allowing all the heavy equipment to set out in the open. There are a couple of businesses that are still interested in Bel-Ridge. Mayor White speaks on the rumor of her closing businesses on Natural Bridge. Que City closed due to health issues going on in the owner's family and ownership has split, Popeye's closed because they had health issues and instead of fixing them they decided to rebuild and replace with a Generation X store.

Mayor White turns the attention to the issues in the City Hall office. She says that if you cannot tear a city down by discrediting its Board you plant a mole on the inside to do you dirty work like not paying workers comp insurance, not paying health insurance for the employees, not paying other bills that would make the city look bad. This is what the Board found and back in August of 2017 the Board

asked Mayor White to step in and take on additional duties to get this city back in order. Mayor White states that she accepted and left a good paying job to work for Bel-Ridge. The Board had a meeting and she after the Mayor called the meeting to order she was asked to leave.

The City Attorney gave the Board advice on what needed to be done and as co-chair Alderman Mans chaired the meeting and when done the Board called her back into the meeting and told her what they had decided and asked if she would accept those terms. She left her job of 20 years. Mayor White felt that Bel-Ridge was worth her leaving her job, and taking a pay cut to make sure that the City is on an even playing field. Mayor White came in to City Hall in a chaotic state and had pictures to prove her statement, in addition to meeting with contractors regarding paving of the streets, engineers regarding the park, establishing a budget and a new city code book and website.

In regards to Mr. Willie's Lawnmower Shop, Mayor White comments the City did shut it down because his business license was given to him inappropriately but never stop him from giving out his food. Being a person owning a business in a residential area he did not meet the requirement in the code book. Residents, bus drivers and the school were complaining about the congestion at that corner so the Board tried to fix the problem with a solution by coming up with an ordinance that the business could operate while we research the problem. Then we found that Mr. Willie was operating illegally. Mr. Willie along with his lawyer Mr. Daming who is Mr. Tope lawyer has petition the Board of Adjustments for a variance. The hearing will be March 15th, 2018 at 5pm. Mayor White mentions that the Board was not trying to make it uncomfortable for Mr. Willie, but had to do what was needed to protect the city.

Many residents have received notices of things that need to be corrected at their place of residency. The Board knows no one is made out of money and if time is needed to working on the issues of your home residents can call and ask for an extension up to as much as six (6) months. Mayor White has even spoken with some contractor regarding concrete or asphalt work for driveways and has gotten them to agree to only charge resident up to \$400.00. There are also funds in a protest account available for her to bring before the Board in regards to assisting homeowners in taking down dangerous trees.

Mayor White spoke on the increase of her salary that was passed by the Board. The increase was only for eight months. She has declined the offer of the City paying for her medical insurance. City Attorney, Ken Heinz informed the residents that the Board was justified in increasing the Mayor's salary and there is evidence from the Supreme Court to back it.

Mayor White spoke on previous plans of making the north side a business district by former Board members. Mayor White apologized for allow herself to be used as the front man for issues of the pass. When asked by the Mayor, Alderman Brown confirmed that he received a call from Mr. Tope in regards to this issue. Mayor White thanked the previous Board for opening her eyes and bringing her in on the game.

Julia Anderson, resident of 3319 Werder, mentions that she has the August 24th, 2017 minutes regarding Bill 1327 (The increase of the Mayors Salary for a limited time). The discussion of the Bill was done in close session. The minutes were approved on October 3rd, 2017. December 5th, 2017 Ms. Anderson mentions another set of August 24th, 2017 minutes appeared. Ms. Anderson called the Mayor a liar. In regards to Ms. Abernathy's impeachment, February 15th, 2018 a bill was passed to impeach Ms. Abernathy and on February 16th, 2018 the Mayor attended a fundraiser with the special prosecutor appointed for the case. Ms. Anderson called the impeachment a smokescreen to pull money out of the city, for campaign funds for Mr. Bell's campaign to run as County Prosecutor.

Mayor White responses to Ms. Anderson allegations, due to Ms. Anderson being disruptive during the Mayors response, she was asked to leave, which she did. Mayor White agreed that she was in the audience for the voting of the increase but was not in the room for the discussion of the increase in her salary. Mayor White informs the residents that she did go to Mr. Bell's event, but would never give Bel-Ridge money to support a campaign.

Sam Alton asked Mayor White did she vote on the articles of impeachment. Mayor White responded no, the Board voted on the articles of impeachment. Mr. Alton clarified that the Mayor only votes in cases of a tie right. Mayor White agreed and there was no tie in the vote of the articles of impeachment.

Lenna Gilmore, resident of 7500 Thelma, asked the Board if there are any grants or funds allocated for the residents for home improvement.

Mayor White replies there was money in the tax protest account that will be used for removing trimming or removing hazardous trees. The Board has passed a Homestead Program which will allow individuals to become home owners. The list is at the City Hall and there are a total of 17 houses. The homes will need some home improvement done to them.

Melvin Polk, resident of 3024 Wheaton Ave., states that he has never seen an audience as big as this one. He is a property owner in the City of Bel-Ridge. Mr. Polk called it ridiculous for people to point fingers and call people names when they do not attend these meetings. Mr. Polk has never heard anyone speak on what they plan to do for the community to make things better, address the problem not the individual. Mr. Polk was ashamed of some of the actions of some grown-ups.

Rebecca Cogshell, resident of 3015 Wheaton Ave., informed the Board of her experiences as a resident and at meetings. Ms. Cogshell mentions that there is an election coming up in Bel-Ridge and she would like to attend some type of session where all candidate would come together in front of the residents and tell what their agenda is, what you plan to do for Bel-Ridge. Ms. Cogshell reminds residents that we have had people sitting on the Board in the pass and we fall to hold them accountable.

Mayor White replied that it is possible to have a round table event and asked the Board if they would like to entertain the idea of all the candidates coming together to let the residents know their views and what they plan to do for the City if elected. The Board agreed on March 29th, 2018 at 5:30pm. The residents agreed on the date as well.

Glenn Tope, resident of 8822 Natural Bridge Rd, feels that this meeting was a campaign rally for the Mayor and it is rude of her to attack people in the audience and not allow them to respond and referred to her as a dictator. He informed the residences that an ordinance was pass, if you are impeached you cannot hold another office again. The ordinance was done before the impeachment of Ms. Abernathy who is running for office in four (4) weeks.

Mr. Tope implied that the City is spending thousands of dollars and wanted to know how much Mr. Bell, Special Prosecutor, has been paid so far. Mr. Tope states the Mr. Bell has never been to a Board meeting, hired with no contract, no one has ever met him and the ordinance does not state his fees because he is a friend of the Mayor. Mr. Tope stated the Mr. Bell is basically just a teacher from a community college and did the articles of impeachment wrong the first time, that why they had to be done over. Mr. Tope asked is Mr. Bell going to charge the City for doing the articles over since he did them wrong the first time.

Mr. Tope asked Mayor White why the City was paying for her campaign literature, the one that accuses the ex-Chief of Police of being corrupt and doing illegal activities. Mr. Tope specified the Mayor has the duties of impeaching Ms. Abernathy but did not do that with the Chief of Police and called this deception.

Mr. Tope spoke on the issue of the Mayor increase in salary and the meeting in which it happen.

Mr. Tope informs the Board that Mr. Heinz was the attorney at the time that Mr. Willies Lawnmower service was approved and if anyone is at fault it is him.

Mayor White replies to the question of Attorney Bell by saying he does have a contract regarding the City of Bel-Ridge and out of the five (5) people that the Mayor contacted he was the cheapest at \$110.00 per hour. Mr. Bell has not charged the City of Bel-Ridge a dime yet.

Mayor White states the letter that Mr. Tope was referring to (MEMORANDUM TO RESIDENTS REGARDING ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR THE MAYOR, THE IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDING FOR ALDERMAN ALERNATHY AND FACTS ABOUT MR. WILLIES LAWNMOWER SHOP) was not campaign literature, but a fact of what has happen in the City.

Mayor White calls it a good thing that Attorney Bell does not know anyone in the City because he is not privy to all the mess going on. Mr. Bell is not charging the City for the changes to the article of impeachment due to the mind changing of the witnesses.

There was enough damage done in regards to the ex-Chief of Police and the Mayor saw no need to add to it. Plus he has been order to follow her around the City, which could be consider stalking but Mayor White is not going to waste the City time by going to St. Louis County to fill out paper work.

Mayor White informed residents the focus is on her and \$40,000.00 and Mr. Tope paid himself 130,000.00 as City Manager. Mayor White

Ms. Carol Little, resident of 8917 Spur, informed the Board that when she was on the Board they did waste funding but it was never talked about. There were only two (2) blacks then, and now that there are more blacks Ms. Little does not understand all the talk regarding money. Ms. Little would like to know when the Homestead application will be available. Mayor White is working on the applications for the Homestead program.

Ms. Little wanted to know if it was true that Snow Hill Court was donated to the City for \$250,000.00. Mr. Walker agreed that it was. Ms. Little asked what happen to it. Mr. Walker believes it was purchased by Cloud II LLC which consists of several people who were not residents of Bel-Ridge. Mr. Walker responded that the deal was brokered by Mr. Glenn Tope.

Ms. Little cannot understand why we are complaining about \$40,000.00 when the Mayor is doing filling five (5) positions and we paid \$130,000.00 for someone to do one (1) that no one voted on.

Vickie Buchanan, resident of 3313 Werder Dr. declined to speak.

Darryl Robinson, resident of 3537 St. Henry, Mr. Robinson appreciated the Mayor showing the slides of the City clerk work area. Mr. Robinson stated that must be where his occupancy permit is located. Mr. Robinson informed the Board that he does have an occupancy permit. He came to court on Wednesday and spoke to the Prosecutor and the inspector. This girlfriend is not staying in his house. She visits every once and a while.

Mayor White replied that the Board did grant him a free inspection because he does not have an occupancy permit on file and was summons to court for that violation.

Hossein Al-Eidan, resident of 3221 Welsberg dr. spoke in regards to an inspection at his home. Mr. Al-Eidan has limited resources like everyone else. There needs to be better processes regarding inspections. He gave some background on inspections done to his home. He also spoke with the Mayor who agreed to come to his next inspection. Mr. Al-Eidan wants to make sure that inspection findings are reasonable. Mr. Al-Eidan offered to volunteer his time to let the Board know what they can do to make the City better.

Alderman Mans replied that she lives close to 3221 Welsberg and can see code violation from her home and inspections is not her specialty.

Mayor White wants to set up a time other than the Town Hall meeting that Mr. Al-Eidan, the inspector and herself can sit down and discuss the issue further.

Marilyn Martin, resident of 8728 Marcella, informed the Board that she was on the Board for four (4) years and she cares about Bel-Ridge. Ms. Martin has known Mr. Willie and Alderman Abernathy for a while no one not even the Board has done as much as they have for the resident of Bel-Ridge. They have been dedicated to making it a better place. She helps by picking up trash when walking. Ms. Martin asked Ms. Abernathy how long she has been on the Board.

Ms. Abernathy responds 25 years.

Ms. Martin feels that take a lot of patience and goodness which Ms. Abernathy has. Mr. Willie is the same. He helps a lot of people with his food give out and he will make a wonderful Mayor.

David Sosnowski, resident of 8942 Torchlamp Lane, he would like to work on robotic farming and other businesses in the City of Bel-Ridge.

Mr. Heinz replied that is something that we cannot give you a quick answer on. But there are funds depending on where you are.

Rodney Williams, resident of 3449 Elmhurst, stated that he just wanted to say thank you because he has been in Bel-Ridge since 2003. Mr. Williams has had a total of 14 tickets. In the pass when he went to the Board or to Court he was told

to shut-up and sit down. Mr. Williams gave an example of a court experience where he was told he paid the tickets for a Rodney A William instead of his tickets for a Rodney L Williams. He was charged again. He is for change but will not criticize someone method but will criticize the results. Mr. Williams likes the results that are coming from the Board now. Mr. Williams was recently pulled over for not having his headlights on. Mr. Williams said he would have purchased a ticket to the policeman ball due to the niceness of the officer. Mr. Williams mentions that if his alarm goes off the police are there in 3 minutes. He loves Bel-Ridge. Mr. Williams thanked the Board and the Police Officer and he is looking forward to better results.

Pat Gaffney, resident of 3417 Ranch Lane, Mr. Gaffney moved here in 1956. Mr. Gaffney was asked to be a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission. In the last few months Mr. Gaffney can say the Commission is organized and active. He thanked the other members for volunteering their time. The Commission focus is to come up with a long term comprehensive plan but to do that we need to look at where we are now. In order to do this the Commission has to work with other agency within the City. Mr. Gaffney asks why Bel-Ridge doesn't have a grocery store or a CVS for its residents. Why can't we build new homes? Why don't we have sidewalks for our residents?

Mayor White mentions she is happy that Mr. Gaffney is on the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Commission is working to put together a comprehensive plan. The City of Bel-Ridge has six (6) gas stations because there was no future fore seen. No plan to better Bel-Ridge.

Mayor White informs residents that the Board spoke on the impeachment of Wilma Abernathy last year. It has taken awhile to get to this point. The election has nothing to do with it.

Mayor White states that she treats the City's funds like her funds. She shops for the best deal.

Mayor White apologized to Mr. Walker for all the negativity that was directed towards him while he was trying to do his job and thanked him for being a faithful steward to the City. Being in the same seat he was she understands.

Mayor White acknowledges the heat that Mr. Gaffney, Ms. Pettaway, Ms. Cogshell, Ms. Pam Brown, Ms. Price-Nick and Ms. Mans have endured while trying to do their job for the City. She thanked them all. Mayor White says with growth comes growing pains.

Mayor White states that if you do wrong to the City, violate your position and the oath you will be held accountable.

In closing Mayor White spoke on corruption and apologized for putting Alderman Brown on the spot. Mayor White asked Alderman Brown did Mr. Glen Tope call him and ask him what he could do for to drop the impeachment charges. Alderman Brown replied yes he did. Mayor White called it witness tampering.

Alderman Mans mentions that the Mayor and she were part of the Natural Bridge development project. The project was to go from Lucas and Hunt to 170 highway but the developers did not want to come to Bel-Ridge because it was not ecstatically pleasing due to the imageries they saw in plain sight of Natural Bridge. The person that will not agree to comply with the code was part of the group that wrote the original code regarding heavy equipment on Natural Bridge.

Mayor White thanked all the residents that came out and reminded them that she values their comments and is glad she had the opportunity to inform them of what is going on. Mayor White hates that this is going on because it takes away opportunity to be productive and move forward.

Mayor White thanked the Police Department for the great job it is doing and informed the residents that the department would be more visible. You can't protect a City if you don't know the residents and who you are supposed to be policing.

Mayor White thanked Public Works for the hard work it does.

Mayor White thanked the Board of Alderman, Board of Adjustments, Board of Planning and Zoning for standing and being true to their oath and being accountable in the building of the City.

Mayor White also thanks City Attorney, Ken Heinz and Jackie Jones, for stepping in and filling some tough shoes at the last minute.

Alderman Mans complemented Mayor White for the excellent job she is doing for the City of Bel-Ridge.

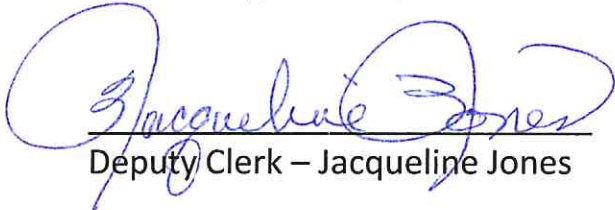
City Attorney, Ken Heinz asked the Board if they feel the Mayor has done a good job according to the ordinance that was passed and do they want her to stay on or do they want to make a motion that an ordinance be drawn up to remove her. No motion was made.

A motion was made by Alderman Mans and seconded by Alderman Abernathy to close and adjourn the open session and the Town Hall meeting. A voice vote was taken and all were in favor. **Motion passed.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:09pm.

Minutes taken and transcribed by Deputy Clerk, Jacqueline Jones.

Minutes approved by the Board of Alderman on the 14th day of August 2018



Deputy Clerk – Jacqueline Jones