

**CITY OF BEL-RIDGE**  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR**  
**TUESDAY, September 4, 2018**  
**6:00 PM**

This meeting was called to order by Mayor Fair at 6:08pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Attendance was called by City Clerk, Andrea Jones.

Roll Call:

Alderman Abernathy- Present      Alderman Brown- Present      Alderman Nelson- Present

Alderman Ruff- Present      Alderman Russell- Present      Alderman Tope- Present

Mayor Fair- Present

Attorney Steve Martin also present.

**Public to speak first**

Alderman Tope ask for a motion that the board allows Public to speak first.  
Alderman Abernathy 2<sup>nd</sup> motion.

Roll Call:

Abernathy – Yes      Brown – Yes      Nelson – non-verbal  
Ruff – Yes      Russell – Yes      Tope – Yes

Motion passed for public to speak first.

**Changes to Agenda**

Mayor ask for someone to make a motion to approve agenda with changes  
Alderman Russell motions to approve agenda and Alderman Ruff 2<sup>nd</sup> motion.

Roll Call:

Abernathy- Yes      Brown – Yes      Nelson- non-verbal  
Ruff – Yes      Russell – Yes      Tope -Yes

Motion passed

**Meeting Open to Public**

**Ms. Marilyn Martin-** Announces the Beautification Project is going well and is open for everyone. She also welcomes to nominate someone. Awards dinner is set for November 10, 2018 for all size gardens, lawns and property owners. All winners get an award at the dinner. Last time they had 38 winners. The deadline will be the end of September.

Jacqueline Jones mentioned she had an event line set up on her office phone at the Police Department and people can call and press the # 3.

Mr. Russell- mentions streets are being worked on and not sure why someone would want to fire the public works. He states he see them working all the time.

Mr. Darryl Robinson- Asks for clarification on the voting for the public to speak first. He has several complaints about residents having trash cans left on the streets for weeks at a time. Stated he has called City Hall and City hall asks him for his name and number. Wanted to know why City Hall need personal information for a complaint? He stated that residents would be against each other if names slip out. As long as resident calls in, it should be taken care of.

Alderman Russell mentions the City should be unified. Mr. Robinson suggested that the Aldermen ride around area they cover to see what's going on.

Jerome Robinson- voiced his concerns about Mayor not getting things done when he wants it done. His concerns also were about the City attorney and what reason the Attorney is present here for.

Attorney Steve Martin responded that the City follows the agenda and that as an attorney, he here to make sure its being done right.

Mr. Jerome Robinson ask about votes superseding Mayor. Attorney Martin stated that the Mayor gets no vote unless there is a tie. According to state statue.

Tammy Love was concerned about being asked to sign a petition outside of City Hall for an audit of city records. Ms. Love also asked Mayor about what he would like to accomplish when he was voted in. Six months into term and the same question was asked again.

Mayor Fair replied that there is a major problem with the streets and working towards that goal. Everything is being done to correct some things and get it right.

The problem auditors are having is they can not locate paperwork that is needed to do audit. Now the Mayor is being blamed for things that was already in the works before taking office. Need to move City forward and not backwards.

Julia Anderson announced that she was the one who initiated the petition, and it came from 2016 from not getting the financial report statements, with no budget in place, and there was a concern.

Alderman Tope motions for a vote to have state come in to do an audit. Alderman Abernathy seconds motion.

Voice vote

Abernathy- Yes      Nelson- absent      Brown- No

Ruff- No      Russell- No      Tope- Yes

2 Yes/ 3 No

Motion Failed

Julia has petition in hand and ask would anyone on board want to sign. Tope, Abernathy, and Mayor have already signed. They see need in community to find out where finances are.

Julia states police cars being wrecked and ask Mayor does he feel officers should be more prepared on handling equipment and should they take a defense driving class?

Chief Harris states officers do take defense driving classes. It's a requirement in the Academy and they all have. They follow protocol.

Julia stated she spoke to Chief Harris and he said he was having trouble with his budget.

City Clerk- 3 minutes are up.

Mr. Jerry- Ask Mayor was he responsible to have all paperwork and take care of all business, isn't there a yearly audit, why is it a second audit, where is paperwork from first audit?  
Mayor explained he had no control over what happened in 2016.

Alderman Russell stated there was an audit from 2016.

Alderman Brown stated he hasn't heard nothing from the auditors. If there is a problem, we need to bring auditors in. Brown asked if Mayor was part of putting audit together?

Mayor said no he was not apart of putting audit together.

City Clerk will contact auditors to see what they are needing.

Marcel Agnew stated that Bel-Ridge is getting a bad name from the bickering with each other and no one can get along. The community just wants to know what is going on and if it needs to be an audit, let it be an audit, if everything is order it shouldn't be a problem. Unfair for citizens to listen to board. Whatever was before Mayor should have been handed to him. He shouldn't have to ask.

Darryl Robinson- Last meeting Ms. White had a contractor to do streets and gave them a down payment and city wouldn't lose money. It was in the minutes that they did and want to know what happened?

#### **UNTABLE DISCUSSION OF BIDDERS FOR LAWN SERVICE THAT WAS TABLED FROM LAST MEETING**

Mr. Andrew Barber was the only one that turned in bid. He did work for city 2 years ago. He currently has 3 additional people working for him including himself. He has two trucks, two zero degrees (machinery), two riding mowers, 5 walk behinds that are self-propelled.

Alderman Russell was concerned that last time when Mr. Barber quoted a certain amount, as time went on, bill went up.

Cary from Public Works stated that there were a few issues with a few yards that where really high and a lot of brush, so he did extra on to the job.

Alderman Ruff feel like Public Works should be able to handle the work.



According to Cary, public works is still cutting, but if people complain about the high yards, they will be cut when they can get to them.

Board discuss prices with Mr. Barber that was the only bidder.

Alderman Tope makes a motion to hire Andrew Barber and Alderman Russell 2nds motion.

Voice Vote

Abernathy- Yes      Nelson- Absent      Brown- Yes

Ruff- Yes      Russell- Yes      Tope- Yes

5 yes/ 0 no/ 1 absent

Motion Passed

#### **DISCUSSION TO SET ASIDE A SPECIAL MEETING FOR 2018 TAX RATES AND BILLING SCHEDULE THAT WAS TABLED AND DUE BY OCTOBER 1, 2018 WITH ST. LOUIS COUNTY**

Attorney Steven Martin- Every year the city is to have a public hearing to give the public the opportunity to speak on tax rates. The City adopts tax rates subsequent year. County came out with their numbers, tax rate change based on assessed value of properties. County came out with number on Thursday. They issued a memo on Friday. The City neglected to pass it. Now we have numbers and city need to take time to have public meeting which will require a special meeting this month. Only gave about 30 days, so can't wait until next meeting.

Date discussed among board and set for September 18, 2018 at 6:00 PM

Attorney advised city has to get it advertised. The statute requires notice be put in 3 public places or advertised.

#### **PRESENTATION BY MUNICIPAL JUDGE**

Judge Ezell-Gillespie speaks on a few issues of the court. First issue is about the housing dockets with over 200 violations that was added to September 5<sup>th</sup> docket. It had to be cut off and the remainder of like 300 more are being put on October docket. There is also an available date in November. November 28, 2019 docket will be specifically for those violations for apartment complex. To add another date would require cost to the city to add officers and staff to be here for court proceedings.

Judge mentioned that the Apartment Complex would need to hire representation. If they do not have representation the Judge will have to continue those dates.

Another issue with the court, it is still under staff and still needing a part time clerk to handle day to day operations in office. One part time clerk has been hired that comes to work court to assist to have someone checking in the defendants. Court is still in need of someone in cash office to take payments. There is no one to cover the full-time clerk for her to attend training, take breaks or be off. Judge Ezell suggest that court not go into another year without hiring a part time clerk. Judge Ezell states that for the hiring process someone from courts or the Judge will need to be present for the interviews.

For the annual budget for Courts, the Judge is to submit the budget for the court. Previously, the budget has been passed and judge have not been included. That is the job of the Municipal Judge to do budget for the court. Judge will work on budget for 2019 court and turn in by October 2018.

Judge Ezell discusses a report that she is required to file to the Supreme Court State of Missouri, pursuant Senate Bill 5. This bill requires all municipal divisions to file an annual compliance report due September 1.

The court files will need to be properly stored up in the Court Clerk area. Currently the files are located in the cage in the basement. When she has to access the files, she has to close down for a few minutes and go retrieve files. This is not in compliance. Files along the floor in clerk area, the judge will have to go through. Need to figure out how to store and manage files for court.

The doors are required to have signage that states Municipal Division and also state Council Chambers. This will be identifiable to the public for both locations.

Alderman Brown states that the court clerk area is being worked and Chief Harris states that the cost will be \$9,400 to complete.

There are 11 file cabinets downstairs for the court that need to be moved upstairs. Purging the files are in the works.

#### **DISCUSSION TO HAVE AN ORDINANCE IN REGARDS TO RESIDENTS/APARTMENTS BEING REQUIRED TO HAVE AIR CONDITIONING/ HEAT TO KEEP TEMPERATURE AT A CERTAIN DEGREE LEVEL**

Mr. Winston explains there are a lot of complaints about people with children and older adults not having air conditioning in homes, rental properties and apartments. They have no way in cooling them off. City Hall has nothing on the books to require this. To have the air at a certain degree, this can prevent the growth of mold by pulling the moisture out of the air. Mr. Winston suggested for winter to keep temperature at no less than 68 degrees between October 15<sup>th</sup> to April 15<sup>th</sup> and for summer, the air to be at least 75 degrees between April 15<sup>th</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup>.

Discussion went into Springwood Apartments and concerns of what need to happen to the property.

#### **DISCUSSION OF ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE USE OF BED SHEETS BEING PLACED UP TO WINDOWS FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME**

Mayor suggested to Alderman Abernathy for someone to see if they can come up with a solution by getting someone to donate curtains to homes or apartments that have sheets up to their windows.

Springwood apartments have people that have plywood and sheets up to windows instead of curtains.

Alderman Brown mentions if Abernathy get donations from anyone it will need to be recorded with City Hall.

Alderman Russell makes a motion to table discussion of bed sheets and Alderman Ruff seconds.

Roll Call

Abernathy-	Yes
Brown-	Yes
Nelson-	Absent
Ruff-	Yes
Russell-	Yes
Tope-	Yes

5 Yes/ 0 No

Motion passed to table discussion on bed sheets up to windows.

Mayor said to skip discussion of amending Chapter 215.020 to include the keeping the fence line clean of vegetation because city has already hired a contractor to monitor those issues.

### **TERMINATION OF REJIS CONTRACT**

Chief Harris states that REJIS is billing about \$2,500 a month for IT services. The old company we had was Bergman charges \$115/ hour and REJIS was \$86/hr. Appears that REJIS underbids and come in and give less service. REJIS bills for same issue every week and is not being resolved. Certain things the IT guy from REJIS doesn't know how to do. Chief Harris placed a call to REJIS about the backup system in switch room going out and REJIS billed us for \$86. The email went down the following week and REJIS guy didn't know how to fix the problem. Had to call old IT company and he fixed the problem in 30 minutes. To terminate REJIS requires a 60-day notice to terminate contract. After that we can go back using Bergman Associates for IT. Bergman Associates do not require a contract. Although they charge \$115/ hour, they do not charge for trips to come out.

Received a lot of complaints about the website, which is a REJIS problem, they can't figure out how to switch the old website information to the new website. The new Website is built and ready to go.

Alderman Tope asked about Jason, and Chief Harris stated he could not speak on that; however, Jason cannot work here. He has a conviction that does not allow him to work here.

Alderman Russell and Alderman Brown was concerned if the new IT was an individual or a company. Chief Harris verified that it is a company and not just one person. The plan after the fiscal year is to get rid of REJIS altogether. Costing \$37,000 a year from REJIS and this new guy specializes in switching Bel-Ridge over to the MULES Highway Patrol System.

Alderman Russell ask if we can do a trial with the new IT guy?

Alderman Ruff makes a motion to replace REJIS with new company Bergman Associates. Alderman Brown seconds.

### **Roll Call**

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

5 Yes/ 0 No



Motion passed to terminate REJIS and hire Bergman Associates for IT

Skip number 11 on the agenda – No discussion

#### Committee Reports

**Health and Safety-** Alderman Russell discuss to replace street lights with LED, Alderman Russell also have donations of cans for Police can good drive.

**Code enforcement-** Mr. Winston spoke about Popeyes building owner, it is in the process of being sold. Not sure of plans to demolish or not.

Alderman Abernathy makes a comment about 8914 Ramona. The house is livable and there is a occupancy permit. Julia Anderson spoke about a generator that's be ran on back porch. Winston will go by and take a look at the home.

**Police Department-** Award given to employees, Officer Freeman, and Arthur Stovall Chief speaks on traffic stops, abandon vehicles- police can not come on property and tow cars. Announced Fishing Debry will be September 29, 2018 from 10am-2pm.

**Public Works-** discuss ordering fish for the lake in time for Fishing Derby and will need Fish food.

**Parks-** Abernathy was told to hold up on planning anything. Alderman Russell mentioned that the Picnic is budgeted for this year. Not to have to worry about the cost.

**City Attorney-** gave board a summary, TIF report is coming due, discussed the schedule day to do tax assessment for setting taxes. Also taking a look at a complaint about a sewer lateral from Attorney General.

#### MOTION TO ADJOURN

Alderman Abernathy motions to adjourn and Alderman Ruff seconds to adjourn meeting.

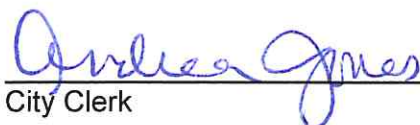
All in favor

Motion passed to adjourn

Time 8:15pm

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

The September 4, 2018 board meeting minutes were approved by the Board this 5th day of June, 2019.

  
City Clerk

