

SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMAN
BEL-RIDGE CITY HALL
8920 Natural Bridge
Bel-Ridge, Missouri 63121
Monday, April 22, 2019
4:00 p.m.

A. CALL TO ORDER

At the Special Meeting of the Board of Alderman for the City of Bel-Ridge, held on the third floor of City Hall, on Monday, April 22, 2019, Mayor Willie Fair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

(Recited by all in attendance.)

C. ROLL CALL

In addition to the Mayor, the following Board members were present:

Alderman Wilma Abernathy
Alderman Glenn Tope
Alderman Henry Watts
Alderman Clifford Whitaker
Alderman Jerome Robinson
Alderman Michael Ruff

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Appointment of City Clerk

Alderman Robinson moved to approve the reinstatement of Andrea Jones as City Clerk, seconded by Alderman Abernathy.

Alderman Watts questioned whether a date had been established for Ms. Jones' return to work? Mayor Fair stated he would be able to provide the Board with more information after he confers with the insurance company.

Voice vote on the motion to approve carried unanimously.

BILLS

Introduced by Alderman Robinson

2. BILL 1376 AN ORDINANCE ADVISING AND CONSENTING TO THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF KEVIN M. O'KEEFE AS CITY ATTORNEY FOR THE CITY OF BEL-RIDGE AND APPROVING A CONTRACT RELATING TO SAME. Bill Number 1378 was read for the first time.

Alderman Ruff questioned whether Mr. O'Keefe had represented Alderman Tope in the past and sued the City of Bel-Ridge four times?

Alderman Watts stated in his opinion, a determination should be made regarding whether Alderman Ruff's statements are correct.

Roll Call Vote on whether to proceed with the Bill as previously introduced, Was:

Ayes: Alderman Abernathy, Alderman Watts, Alderman Tope, Alderman Robinson, and Alderman Whittaker.

Nays: Alderman Ruff

Alderman Watts moved to approve the reading of Bill Number 1378 for the second and third time. Seconded by Alderman Whittaker and the motion carried unanimously, with the exception of Alderman Ruff.

Bill Number 1378 was read for the second and third time.

Roll Call Vote Was:

Ayes: Alderman Abernathy, Alderman Watts, Alderman Tope, Alderman Robinson, and Alderman Whittaker.

Nays: Alderman Ruff

Introduced by Alderman Robinson

3. BILL 1377 AN Ordinance ADVISING AND CONSENTING TO THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF KEITH K. CHEUNG AS PROSECUTING ATTORNEY FOR THE CITY OF BEL-RIDGE AND APPROVING A CONTRACT RELATING TO SAME. Bill Number 1377 was read for the first time.

Alderman Robinson moved to approve the reading of Bill Number ¹³⁷⁷~~1378~~ for the second time. Seconded by Alderman Watts and the motion carried unanimously, with the exception of Alderman Ruff.

Alderman Robinson moved to approve the reading of Bill Number ¹³⁷⁷~~1378~~ for the third time. Seconded by Alderman Watts and the motion carried unanimously.

Bill Number 1377 was read for the second and third time.

Roll Call Vote Was:

Ayes: Alderman Abernathy, Alderman Watts, Alderman Tope, Alderman Robinson, Alderman Ruff, and Alderman Whittaker.

Nays: None.

E. BOARD REPORTS/BUSINESS

1. Discussion of Springwood Apartments.

Keven or Steven Webb, Attorney for Springwood Apartments appeared before the Board and requested that the April 24th condemnation of the entire complex be suspended for two months to allow his client time to bring in an outside

construction company and complete all repairs. He stated he would like to come back to the City in two weeks and present the Board with bids related to the repairs.

Alderman Ruff stated based on the length of time the City has been asking for repairs to be made, this sounds like a last ditch effort to prolong the process. He then questioned what steps would be taken to get rid of the mold inside all of the units? Alderman Watts stated that the Company had to follow the City's protocols for making repairs.

Mr. Webb acknowledged that the City's protocol required that the appropriate permits be issued prior to the performance of any work.

Alderman Tope asked why the owners had allowed the conditions to even get to the point of condemnation? Mr. Webb stated although he does not have the paperwork in front of him, his understanding is that the City Inspector, Raymond Winston had stopped some of the repairs from being completed on February 9th of this year. Alderman Tope questioned whether the City Inspector had refused to issue any permits to complete those repairs? Mr. Webb stated that he had; however, he would like to apply for some new permits on April 25th.

Detective Strong noted that some of the apartments had more than 2 feet of mold.

Mayor Fair stated that the City's only goal is to ensure that residents are provided with a safe environment to live in.

City Attorney, Kevin O'Keefe made the following suggestions:

- That Mr. Webb be allowed to provide the City with a list of the units they intend to repair and the type of repairs being made to each unit, and
- That the Board meets in a Closed Session to discuss how they would like to proceed with this matter.

2. Return of City Computers

Mayor Fair requested that the Chief of Police, Mark Harris, send a letter to members of the old administration asking that the City's computers be returned.

Chief Harris informed the Mayor that the City was also missing one of its cameras.

Alderman Ruff stated his recollection is that the City had allowed one of the previous Aldermen to purchase a computer.

3. Planning & Zoning Commission Budget

Alderman Tope stated it was his understanding that the P & Z Commission had purchased a computer and other miscellaneous items. So he is curious

to know why they have a budget and would request that it be frozen until such a determination could be made.

Alderman Watts suggested that this topic be discussed in a Closed Session.

F. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Velma Weidner congratulated all of the new members on their election to the Board and acknowledged her pleasure with having a Board that is willing to work with its residents. She then questioned whether the previous administration had been asked to turn in their IDs, keys, and all City-owned equipment?

Gordon Brock questioned why the house on Trumbell that was involved in a fire had been left as a safety hazard for children and residents instead of being boarded up?

G. Roll-Call vote to go into a Closed Session according to RSMo 610.021 (1): 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 and its attorneys.

Alderman Robinson made a motion to go into a Closed Session, seconded by Alderman Tope.

Roll Call Vote Was:

Ayes: Alderman Abernathy, Alderman Watts, Alderman Tope, Alderman Robinson, Alderman Ruff, and Alderman Whittaker.

Nays: None.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Fair thanked everyone for coming out and closed the special Board of Alderman meeting at 5:00 p.m. to go into a Closed Session. The Closed Session reconvened in an open session at 5:10 p.m. and adjourned at _____

Alderman Wilma Abernathy
Acting City Clerk

