

**CITY OF BEL-RIDGE
BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2019**

Mayor Fair called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

Attendance as Follows:

Abernathy - Present
Watts- Present
Tope- Present
Ruff- Absent (Alderman Ruff arrived at 6:09 pm)
Whitaker- Present
Robinson- Present
Mayor- Present

Also, present City Attorney Kevin O'Keefe.

Approval of Agenda:

A motion to amend the agenda to reflect that items 8 and 9 are only to be discussed and not voted upon made by Alderman Robinson, seconded by Alderman Abernathy, and unanimously approved.

A motion to approve the amended agenda made by Alderman Abernathy, seconded by Alderman Watts, and unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2019 Board Workshop and the July 18, 2019 Special Board Meeting, and to table the minutes of the July 31, 2019 Special Board Meeting to next meeting made by Alderman Watts, seconded by Alderman Abernathy, and unanimously approved.

Appointment to Boards and Commission:

A motion to table the nomination of Velma Weidner to the City's Planning and Zoning Commission in order to determine the length of her term made by Alderman Abernathy, seconded by Alderman Watts, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 2019-Q: A resolution approving the payment of additional funds incurred in the demolition of 2828 Athens.

The City's Engineer recommends that the City pay TA Contracting \$1,650.00 for its removal of the water tap in connection with the demolition of 2828 Athens.

A motion to approve Resolution 2019-Q made by Alderman Robinson, seconded by Alderman Abernathy, and approved by a roll call vote as follows:

Abernathy-	Yes
Watts-	Yes
Tope-	No
Ruff-	Yes
Whitaker-	No
Robinson-	Yes

Discussion regarding the rental of the Council Chambers:

City Hall has received several requests from individuals wanting to rent the Council Chambers for personal events. As of now there is no cost for such a rental. When the Council Chambers are used Public Works sets up and breaks down tables and chairs, as well as cleans before the event. Due to the cost being incurred by the City to hold such functions, City staff recommends that the City charge a fee and/or deposit for use of the Council Chambers. Discussion was held.

A motion to discontinue the rental of the Council Chambers by the public was made by Alderman Whitaker, seconded by Alderman Watts, and unanimously approved.

Discussion regarding the 2019 tax rates:

The City's tax rate must be turned into St. Louis County by October 1, 2019. However, St. Louis County has yet to release the necessary tax figures. Once these numbers are released by St. Louis County, the City Attorney will make the required calculations and draft the appropriate ordinance. Prior to the City adopting the tax rate(s), a public hearing must be held.

A motion to hold the public hearing for the 2019 tax rates on September 23, 2019 was made by Alderman Whitaker, seconded by Alderman Abernathy, and unanimously approved.

Bill No. 1390: A bill authorizing the mayor to obtain vacant property from the St. Louis County Recorder of Deeds.

A motion to table Bill No. 1390 for further discussion was made by Alderman Watts, seconded by man Whitaker, and unanimously approved.

Discussion of 8610 Wales:

The house located on 8610 Wales caught on fire. Due to the fire the City received an insurance payout on property which the City needs to either repair the damaged house, sell the house or demolish the house. A discussion was held with input from residents.

Alderman Tope suggested to get a bid from a contractor to see what it would cost to rehab the house. Once the Board has a bid, it can decide on the next steps to take.

A motion to table the discussion to next Board of Aldermen meeting was made by Alderman Watts, seconded by Alderman Robinson, and unanimously approved.

Committee Reports:

Code Enforcement: 24:1 has invited Mayor Fair to a meeting regarding finding a replacement for Mr. and Mrs. Irvin for building inspections and code enforcement. Reyna Spencer is facilitating the conversation in a meeting scheduled for September 4, 2019, where Mrs. Irvin will make her recommendation and assist in negotiation with IBTS.

Police Department: Reminder regarding the Fishing Derby scheduled for September 28. The police department has been working with Alderman Abernathy and Alderman Watts.

Parks: Alderman Abernathy asked for volunteers for fall festival, as well as a bus driver.

City Attorney: City Attorney received a letter from Raymond Winston's attorney regarding payment for services performed in connection with the Springwood Apartments case. Mr. Winston has a valid claim and he will continue to be a witness to the cases that are currently pending in court. The previous Board of Aldermen passed a resolution to pay Mr. Winston.

A motion to authorize payment to Raymond Winston for services provided in connection with Springwood Apartments was made by Alderman Ruff, seconded by Alderman Tope, and unanimously approved.

Public Comments:

Alderman Robinson commented about police presence in his ward. Additionally, he has noticed trash cans being left out and grass clippings in the street.

Kenneth Robinson (8921 Spur Lane): Requested body camera footage from one of the City's police officers because of an incident that took place at his residence.

A resident commented that no bills for the previous month were provided to the residents. Additionally, a resident asked about the status of the Springwood matter.

A motion to adjourn made by Alderman Abernathy, seconded by Alderman Tope, and unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

The September 3rd, 2019 board meeting minutes were approved by the Board this
7th day of January, 2019.

Andrea Jones
City Clerk

