

**CITY OF BEL-RIDGE
MEETING MINUTES**

Date: November 13, 2018

Mayor Fair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ATTENDANCE AS FOLLOWS:

Alderman Abernathy – Present
Alderman Brown – Present
Alderman Nelson – Present
Alderman Ruff - Present

Alderman Russell – Present
Alderman Tope - Present
Mayor Fair – Present

AGENDA APPROVAL:

A Motion to approve the Agenda was duly made and seconded. Alderman Tope wanted to open the floor to the public before addressing the items on the Agenda. The Motion was approved by a 5-1 vote, with Alderman Tope voting NO.

UN-TABLE PURCHASE OF LAND AT 7709 CHORMON AVENUE: A Motion to un-table the purchase of the land at 7709 Chormon Avenue by Mr. Robert Wyatt was duly made, seconded and unanimously approved. Mr. Wyatt appeared in person and a discussion was held as to the value and Mr. Wyatt's offer of \$600.00, which was half the value of the land in order to alleviate the City from ongoing upkeep of the land and any liability regarding the land. A Motion to direct the City Attorney to prepare an Ordinance for the City to enter into a sales contract with Robert Wyatt for the purchase of 7709 Chormon Avenue for the sum of \$600.00 was duly made, seconded and unanimously approved.

A bidder, Korey Russell appeared regarding his bid under the Homestead Program for the property at 7536 Thelma. A discussion was had about the procedures of the Homestead Program under the Ordinance. According to St. Louis County appraisal for land, the property is worth \$8,000.00. Mr. Winston will inspect the property to ensure it is structurally sound. A motion to allow the property at 7536 Thelma to be purchased through the Homestead Program by the bidder pending inspection by Mr. Winston was duly made, seconded and unanimously approved.

BUSINESS LICENSE APPLICANTS:

The application by Antonio Smith for a business license for Honest Repair and Performance was brought to the Board. Mr. Smith did not appear; however, he supplied the requested documents. It was discussed that there were two new applicants that had already leased the same property. Two new applicants appeared and discussed their application for a tire, wheel and auto service business and that they already obtained a lease on the building. It was brought up that their father was previously denied for a dealer license at the same location. Subsequently, the other two partners came and filled out a new application in their name and secured a lease. Antonio Smith

does not have the lease although they already approved his business license. The two new applicants were instructed to bring in a notarized copy of lease from the landlord.

The application of Jesse Washington for a business license for Couple's Bar Restaurant & Reception Hall at 8965 Natural Bridge was discussed. Mr. Washington appeared in person and discussed the details of his business. A background check through the State is required prior to approval for the liquor license. A Motion to approve the business license for Couple's Bar Restaurant & Reception Hall at 8965 Natural Bridge pending the outcome of the liquor license background check and building inspections was duly made, seconded and unanimously approved.

ST. HENRY AND MARY MARK: Wade from Palladian discussed the start of construction on Mary Mark and the issues with the concrete being built on dirt resulting in soft ground. He produced the contractor's proposal for additional concrete and gravel in the sum of \$24,800.00. The details of the proposal and warranties were discussed. A change order will be submitted in the near future for approval.

Glenn Barnd from The Medve Group presented information to the Board on properties that his company owns. The company has ten (10) vacant parcels of land they would like to donate to the City. Eight of the properties are on Higginson and two are on Ramona. A Motion to accept the ten vacant lots from The Medve Group was duly made, seconded and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL TO REPLACE FURNACE IN PUBLIC WORKS GARAGE: A discussion was held regarding the broken furnace in the public works garage. Four bids were received and presented to the Board. The cheapest bid was \$1,678.00. A Motion to approve the replacement of the furnace in the Public Works garage for \$1,678.00 was duly made, seconded and unanimously approved.

HANDICAP SIGN FOR PARKING: The request of Mr. Na Wade for a handicap parking only sign in front of his private residence was discussed. A Motion to establish an Ordinance for the handicap parking only sign in front of Mr. Na Wade's residence was duly made, seconded and unanimously approved.

2019 BUDGET: A discussion was held concerning the 2019 Budget. The police department discussed their 2019 Proposed Budget. A meeting will be held on the 29th to discuss the Budget further. The Proposed Budget of \$970,000.00 will be submitted to the Accountant.

MOPERM AUDIT: A discussion was held regarding the audit; workmen's compensation claims and high-risk category. A discussion was held as to who signed the loss control paperwork and the Mayor stated that no one can authorize anything before it comes before the Board.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW ATTORNEY: The attorney wanted to come to the Board and speak about his credentials; however, he did not appear at the meeting.

HEALTH BENEFITS RENEWAL: A discussion was held regarding the health benefits renewal and the four available plans. The yearly renewal quote went up to \$17,160.00 per year due to the City having more employees. The current plan is not available anymore. A Motion to approve

the purchase of the Silver health insurance plan was duly made, seconded and approved. Roll call vote as follows:

Alderman Abernathy – Aye
Alderman Brown – Aye
Alderman Nelson – Aye

Alderman Russell – Aye
Alderman Tope - Aye
Alderman Ruff - Aye

MUNICIPAL JUDGE FOR 2019: A discussion was held regarding the Municipal Judge for 2019. The two-year term for the current Judge is up. A discussion was held regarding finding a new Judge. A replacement candidate is needed prior to a vote. It was decided that the Mayor would speak with the current Judge regarding her budget, procedures and increasing expenses. A Motion to table the vote on the Municipal Judge for 2019 until November 29, 2018 was duly made, seconded and unanimously approved.

ORDINANCE ON CLERKS REPORTING TO CITY CLERK: A discussion was held that the clerks should report to the City Clerk. A Motion for an Ordinance to be created and adopted regarding instructing the clerks to report to the City Clerk was duly made, seconded and unanimously approved. Bill 1368 becomes Ordinance 2018-26. Roll call vote as follows:

Alderman Abernathy – Aye
Alderman Brown – Aye
Alderman Nelson – Aye

Alderman Russell – Aye
Alderman Tope - Aye
Alderman Ruff - Aye

BUSINESS LICENSE FOR 2019: A discussion was held regarding the old license fees and the increase in license fees and certain businesses being charged different amounts. A Motion was made to table the discussion on business licenses for 2019 was duly made, seconded and unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Police Department: Chief Harris discussed MULES state audit results and the shutdown of the party house at 8826 Natural Bridge, the proposed Orange Envelope Program and the Facebook page. The homicide on Loganberry was discussed; no parties involved were from Bel-Ridge and recent news coverage.

Health & Safety: Alderman Russell discussed baskets and gift cards for the Holidays.

Code Enforcement: Mr. Winston updated the Board on his inspections and condemnation for the apartments, as well as occupancy permits.

Public Works: Mr. Herndon spoke about signing up for the MSD housekeeping class, Arthur's training and potholes.

City Attorney: Steve Martin spoke about letters from Department of Revenue regarding sales tax and revenue from communications/cell towers.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

MOTION TO ADJOURN: A Motion to Adjourn was duly made, seconded and unanimously approved.

Andrea Jones

Andrea Jones
City Clerk

Approved by the Board of Aldermen on 12th day of August 2019

