

# MINUTES

**Friday, January 17, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.**

Regular Meeting of the Board of Alderman of the City of Belle,  
at the **Lonnie Feeler Memorial Building,**  
**104 East Third Street, Belle Mo 65013**

- A. CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor James Mitchell called the meeting to order and the pledge of allegiance was recited. The meeting started promptly at 6:30pm.
- B. ROLL CALL:** Present were Mayor James Mitchell, Alderwoman Jeanette Struempf, Alderwoman Barb Howarth and Alderman Kevin Guffey. Alderman Steve Vogt was present via Zoom. Also present were City Treasurer Charro Reasor, City Clerk Sherree Burkholder, and Public Works Supervisor, Jim Goben.
- C. ADDITIONS TO AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Mayor James Mitchell requested addition be made to the agenda.  
Under Old Business: Ordinance #644 -Added "with prior approval of the mayor" (page 4)  
Under New Business: Added: #651 Landlord Ordinance  
Hiring of a new police officer  
Dispatching Services

Alderman Kevin Guffey motioned to approve the agenda with additions noted. The motion was seconded by Alderwoman Jeanette Struempf and all in favor.

- D. CORRECTIONS TO AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Dec 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024**
- No correction noted to the minutes from regular and closed session held on Dec.10, 2024.
  - A motion was made by Alderman Kevin Guffey to approve the minutes from December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and was seconded by Alderwoman Jeanette Struempf with all in favor.
- E. INVITED GUESTS:** Due to a previous commitment, Jeff Meadows was unable to attend. Therefore, Mayor Mitchell read several project updates provided by Mr. Meadows.
- The Rock Island Trail: The Board of Aldermen confirmed the City's financial commitment to the project at the November 2024 Council Meeting. The goal for construction is set for the summer of 2025.
  - State Infrastructure Program (SIP) Grant: MDNR's manager is currently confirming any match requirements for the city. Archer is also working with the city to compile forms that are needed for the project.
  - MDNR Clean Water Engineering Report Grant (Sewer Collection System): A draft agreement for engineering services was submitted to MDNR for review. Once it is approved, the proposed agreement will be submitted to the city.

## F. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION:

Citizens to speak:

- Mike Elliott introduced himself as the new Emergency Management Director.
- Mark McClane provided an update on the Park Entrance.
- Rebecca Withouse questioned the council as to where the new water meters were purchased. The mayor explained that the meters are currently on back order. She also asked the Aldermen to identify employees that currently hold certification for the City's Water and Sewer Department.
- Tracy Creswell expressed concern that the City's Trash Ordinance was being violated, and nothing was being done.

## G. TREASURER'S REPORT:

Alderman Jeanette Struempf made a motion to approve the Cash Summary and Bills to be paid. The motion was seconded by Alderman Barb Howarth with all in favor.

Alderman Steve Vogt- Aye

Alderman Jeanette Struempf-Aye

Alderman Kevin Guffey-Aye

Alderman Barb Howarth-Aye

## H. OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Ordinance #644** a Revision of Ordinance #632 – To Increase in Spending Limits with the addition of “approval of the mayor” included in Section A on Page 4.

The motion was made by Alderman Jeanette Struempf and seconded by Barb Howarth with the final reading waved.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Alderman Steve Vogt- Aye

Alderman Kevin Guffey-Aye

Alderman Jeanette Struempf- Aye

Alderman Barb Howarth-Aye

2. Council Meeting Dates for REVISED 2025 SCHEDULE -Confirmation of previous discussion and date changes that were needed.

## I. NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Ordinance #649** - An Ordinance adding Section 210.1075 Trespassing on Parking Lot Chapter 200 of the Belle City Code -First Reading Only

Alderman Steve Vogt made the motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 649, and Alderman Jeanette Struempf seconded it with all in favor.

2. **Ordinance #650** An Ordinance revising Section 210.1200 Shoplifting Detention of Suspect by Merchant-Liability Presumption.

Alderman Steve Vogt made the motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 650, and Alderman Jeanette Struempf seconded it with all in favor

3. Purchase of a Pop-up Tent for maintenance crew.

Alderman Steve Vogt made the motion to approve the purchase of a Pop-Up Tent, and Alderman Jeanette Struempf seconded it with all in favor.

4. Purchase of TV for Community Center (requested by judge for court proceedings)

Alderman Kevin Guffey made the motion to approve the purchase of one TV for the community center, and Alderwoman Jeanette Struempf seconded the motion with all in favor.

5. Trading K-9 Tahoe for 2024 Ford Explorer-

The Ford Explorer has 110,000 miles on it. A lightbar and dash camera are among the features that are already installed and would be needed by the police department. The discussion among the council left the decision to pursue a trade with Maries County as tabled until the next council meeting.

6. Preservation of City Records to digital format: Alderman Steve Vogt suggested that the council investigate this further and pursue a possible grant to help cover the cost. Noted, the grant discussed for up to 20,000 and has no cost to the city.

7. Code Book: The city code book is currently out of date and changes are needed. It was discussed that it may be best to have an outside company make the updates. It was also noted that often the company completing the task will also continue to keep the code book updated in the future. Tabled for further discussion.

8. Open Quotes for Tires on Police Car: Only one quote was received, and it was from Whites Auto Glass. The quote contained three options. The council chose to purchase Four Firestone Destination tires for a total of \$522.00. The tires are speed rated for up to 130 miles per hour and come with a 70,000 mile warranty.

9. **Ordinance #651** An Ordinance Revision of Ordinance #645 - Landlord Provision Added

Alderman Kevin Guffey made the motion to approve the revision as stated of Ordinance #645, and Alderwoman Jeanette Struempf seconded the motion with all in favor.

10. Hiring of Police Officer- A motion was made by Alderwoman Barb Howarth to hire Christopher Taylor as a full time Police Officer. The motion was seconded by Alderwoman Jeanette Struempf with a roll call vote as follows:

Alderman Steve Vogt- Aye

Alderman Kevin Guffey- Aye

Alderwoman Jeanette Struempf- Aye

Alderwoman Barb Howarth- Aye

## **J. STAFF REPORTS:**

1. Mayor Comments: Announce next regular meeting -Feb 11, 2025

Mayor Mitchell discussed the recent water breaks that occurred and the cost of those breaks to the city. He also stated that the city's water is excellent. All samples came back good, and no concerns were noted.

2. Public Works: Jim Gobin also discussed the recent water breaks and the maintenance crews extensive efforts to get the water back on for our citizens.

3. City Marshal: Jerry Coborn- absent

Mark Morgan: Maries County Sherriff discussed dispatching services for \$9,000.00 and the possibility of moving it back to Maries County. Currently dispatching services are with Gasconade County at a cost of \$11,000.00. It was noted that Gasconade County has done an excellent job for the citizens of Belle.

Alderman Kevin Guffey made a motion to move dispatching services to Maries County with a second by Alderwoman Barb Howarth. All in favor.

4. Steve Vogt: Reported on MRPC projects.
5. City Attorney: Nothing currently.

**K. MOTION TO ENTER-CLOSED SESSION: 8:00 PM**

Jeanette Struempf made a motion to enter closed session and Kevin Guffey seconded.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Alderman Steve Vogt- Aye  
Alderman Kevin Guffey-Aye  
Alderwoman Jeanette Struempf- Aye  
Alderwoman Barb Howarth-Aye

**L. PERSONNEL:**

Due to increased duties assigned to the Office Manager, a motion was made by Kevin Guffey to increase the hourly wage of the position. It was seconded by Barb Howarth with a roll call vote as follows:

Alderman Steve Vogt- Aye  
Alderman Kevin Guffey-Aye  
Alderwoman Jeanette Struempf- Aye  
Alderwoman Barb Howarth-Aye

**M. MOTION TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:**

Kevin Guffey made a motion to return to Open Session and Jeanette Struempf seconded the motion.

A roll call vote taken as follows:

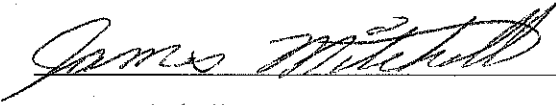
Alderman Steve Vogt- Aye  
Alderman Kevin Guffey-Aye  
Alderwoman Jeanette Struempf- Aye  
Alderwoman Barb Howarth-Aye

**N. MOTION TO ADJOURN: 8:30 pm**

Kevin made a motion to adjourn the council meeting and Barb Howarth seconded it.

A roll call vote taken:

Alderman Steve Vogt- Aye  
Alderman Kevin Guffey-Aye  
Alderwoman Jeanette Struempf- Aye  
Alderwoman Barb Howarth-Aye



James Mitchell, Mayor



Sherree Burkholder, City Clerk

The City of Belle Board of Aldermen may enter Closed Session before or during this meeting, if such action is approved by a majority of the Board of Aldermen present, with a quorum, to discuss litigation matters as authorized by 610.021 (1) RSMo, real estate matters as authorized by 610.021 (2), or personnel matters as authorized by 610.021 (3). RSMo Chapter 610.021 (13) Individually identifiable personal records, Performance rating or records pertaining to employees or applicants for employment.

ADA: Visitors with special needs (such as audio or other physical accommodations) must notify the city as soon as possible, preferably 48 hours in advance. The city will make reasonable accommodations for all disabilities to the extent possible.

APPROVED