

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 on
Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.**

A. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor James Mitchell called the meeting to order, and the pledge of allegiance was recited. The meeting started at 6:30 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL: Present were Mayor James Mitchell, Alderman Steve Vogt, Alderwoman Rebecca Withouse, Alderman Seth Klein and Alderwoman Jeanette Struempf. Also, present were City Clerk Cindy Barbarick, City Treasurer Charro Reasor, and Public Works Supervisor, Jim Goben.

C. ADDITIONS TO AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor James Mitchell requested additions be made to the agenda.

Proposed additions:

Add item #3 on New Business – Opening of Bank Bids

Add item #4 on New Business -MRPC Housing Inspection Contract

Add item #3 on Treasurers Report- Audit Quotes

Alderwoman Jeanette Struempf made a motion to approve the agenda with the additions of the above items. Alderman Seth Klein seconded the motion with all in favor.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion to accept August 12th minutes from both open and closed session was made by Alderman Steve Vogt, seconded by Alderwoman Jeanette Struempf, with all in favor.

A motion to accept August 28th minutes from both open and closed session was made by Alderman Steve Vogt, seconded by Alderwoman Jeanette Struempf, with all in favor.

E. INVITED GUESTS: NONE

F. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION: NONE

Citizens must sign up to speak before the meeting. Speakers limited to 3 minutes.

G. TREASURER'S REPORT:

1. Approval of Cash Summary and Bills to be Paid- A motion to accept cash summary and pay the bills was made by Alderwoman Jeanette Struempf, seconded by Alderman Seth Klein, with all in favor.
2. Audit – FY2022 Audit was presented to the council. Charro highlighted the audit was received the prior day and that for clarity we should not approve it during meeting as no one had ample time to review.
3. Audit Quotes- Charro received a quote from Kristen Deluca to do a 2-year audit for 2023 and 2024 at the cost of \$7,500 per year, with an anticipated completion date of 04/30/2026. A

motion to move forward with the 2-year audit was made by Alderwoman Jeanette Struempf, seconded by Alderwoman Rebecca Withouse, with all in favor.

H. OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Marshal Salary Proposal**-Discussion was held with the alderman debating on the amount of pay the elected title should hold. Alderman Steve Vogt began by suggesting leaving the salary at the current rate (\$100.00 monthly) and doing away with the street commissioner title. He proposed that the street commissioner should be changed to a more "suitable" title to reflect work that is done by the marshal. Suggesting the new position should be titled "Building Inspector/Code Enforcer". Alderwoman Rebecca Withouse stated she wants to see the marshal salary be a "livable" wage and not have the marshal doing other jobs. Alderwoman Jeanette Struempf also wants the jobs to be separate; however, she believes the amount of pay is far higher than many areas when the tax rates are compared. Marshal Coborn spoke to the council and said they needed to fix his salary, that he wants a wage that is livable and allows him to run his department without council interference. Said he believes the only reason they wouldn't fix his salary was because they wanted control. Alderwoman Jeanette Struempf mentioned that they have a job to run the city budget and felt it would be irresponsible of them to pass an increase in salary when they didn't know if the tax proposal would pass. Alderman Steve Vogt mentioned that the police department was already over \$20,000 in the red and that he couldn't support spending more money. Alderman Steve Vogt motioned to leave the salary at \$100.00 monthly and eliminating the street commissioner title and changing it to "Building Inspector/Code Enforcer". Alderwoman Jeanette Struempf seconded the motion, with Alderman Seth Klein and Alderwoman Rebecca Withouse opposing the motion. With a tied motion, Mayor Mitchell made a proposal to increase the pay from \$100.00 monthly to \$200.00 monthly with that amount increasing annually to \$300.00, \$400.00 and \$500.00 respectively. Mentioning that would be in addition to the hourly position. Alderwoman Rebecca Withouse and Alderman Seth Klein stated that proposal would not change their votes. Mayor Mitchell was left to break the tie of the original motion. Mayor Mitchell voted in favor of the motion. The motion passes with a 3-2 majority.

2. **Safety Sales Tax Ordinance** – Ordinance #666 proposing a general revenue tax on the April 2026 ballot was read in its entirety by Alderman Steve Vogt. Attorney Todd Smith (in attendance) mentioned that his firm had reviewed and approved this version of the ordinance. Alderman Vogt pointed out that the tax would go to "improving public safety" which included supplies, equipment, vehicle replacement, training and personnel expenses for the police department. A motion to approve the first reading was made by Alderwoman Jeanette Struempf, seconded by Alderman Steve Vogt with all in favor.

A second reading was held- by title only. A motion to accept the second reading was made by Alderwoman Jeanette Struempf, seconded by Alderman Seth Klein with all in favor. A roll call vote was taken as follows.

Alderwoman Rebecca Withouse- aye
Alderman Seth Klein- aye
Alderwoman Jeanette Struempf-aye

Alderman- Steve Vogt- aye
The ordinance passes with a 4-0 vote.

I. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Vote to accept the change on the BOE for the Proforma –

Osage county clerk Brooke Dudenhoeffer sent an email stating a change in rates and asked to have the council vote to accept the changes. The rates were handed to the alderman for review. A motion was made by Alderman Steve Vogt, seconded by Alderwoman Jeanette Struempf with all in favor to accept the changes.

2. Owens Towing- asked permission to use community center for annual Trunk or Treat on Halloween October 31st. The consensus of the board was to allow the event.

3. Bank Bids- were opened and read by Mayor Mitchell. The rates were reviewed, with Legends offering 3.68% APR, Mid-America offering 2.38% APR and Maries County Bank offering 0.10% APR. A motion to continue banking services with Legend Bank for the next 3 years was made by Alderwoman Jeanette Struempf seconded by Alderwoman Rebecca Withouse with all in favor.

4. MRPC Housing Contract-A contract was submitted from Chuck Cantrell to help the city with housing inspections and condemnation of dilapidated properties. A motion to accept the contract was made by Alderwoman Jeanette Struempf, seconded by Alderman Seth Klein with all in favor.

J. STAFF REPORTS:

Mayor- James Mitchell:

1. Announced next regular meeting -October 14th, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.
2. FEMA Project Updates – We had our site inspection and waiting to hear if we've been approved.
3. OutKast Update – Water and sewer our connected. They had a few leaks, so the water had to be turned back off. Once the repairs are made the city can turn the water back on.
3. Announce city clerk Cindy Barbarick

Supervisor Jim Goben:

1. Gave public works updates on water leak and sewer main back up.

Marshal Jerry Coborn: ABSENT

1. Officer Kevin Green gave department updates

Steve Vogt:

1. Gave MRPC Updates
2. Announced Rock Island fundraiser on October 5, 2025, in Gerald.
3. MRPC Annual Dinner is October 23rd in Salem. Cost is \$40.00 per person, and the city will pay for council members or employees that wish to attend.

City Attorney Todd Smith:

1. Mentioned to Cindy that there were some new sunshine laws that went into effect on August 28th, and that he would get her that material. Mentioned that one of the new laws now allows for the charging of sunshine request upfront.

K. Motion to adjourn and close the meeting – was made by Alderman Steve Vogt seconded by Alderwoman Jeanette Struempf with all in favor.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Alderwoman Rebecca Withouse- aye

Alderman Seth Klein- aye

Alderwoman Jeanette Struempf-aye

Alderman- Steve Vogt- aye

The City of Belle Board of Aldermen may enter Closed Session before or during this meeting, if such action is approved by a majority vote 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 accommodation) must notify the city as soon as possible, preferably 48 hours in advance. The city will make reasonable accommodation for all disabilities to the extent possible.



Mayor James Mitchell

10-17-25
Date



Charro Reasor, Treasurer

10/17/25
Date