

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, August 12, 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 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:

Remove item #5 on New Business

Add item #4 on Mayor Mitchell – Notice of Tax Rate Hearing on 8/28/2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Alderman Steve Vogt made a motion to approve the agenda with the additions of the two named items. Alderwoman Jeanette Struempf seconded the motion with all in favor.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Alderwoman Jeanette Struempf made a motion to approve all minutes listed and seconded by Alderman Seth Klein- with all in favor.

E. INVITED GUESTS:

1. Robert Parker- Was present on behalf of First Baptist Church, to ask the council to consider a replacement to the current culvert at the intersection of Jersey and Second Streets.
2. Edward Gehlert- Was present to ask for the councils support on re-establishing a Missouri Film Commission. He is hoping to gain the attention of Missouri lawmakers to bring the filming industry to Missouri. He explained in detail the loss of revenue to Missouri and explained the benefits this revenue would have on Belle and surrounding areas. Alderman Steve Vogt made a motion to support Mr. Gehlerts endeavors in his attempts of gaining the attention of Governor Kehoe. The motion was questioned by Alderwoman Rebecca Withouse who questioned the validity of voting on an invited guests request. City Attorney James Klahr addressed the concern and clarified the agenda did state Mr. Gehlert was asking for support. He thought it was appropriate for the council to vote on the matter, the motion was then seconded by Alderwoman Jeanette Struempf- with all in favor. The letter of endorsement was then signed by the board in its entirety.

F. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION:

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

1. Tracey Creswell- Spoke on seeing ordinance violations around town and asked if she was able to continue assisting the police department in locating violations.
2. Steven Bedwell- Brought up that a "citizen" was videoed "behind the glass" unsupervised and it was an ordinance violation. The mayor tried to clarify that she is a city volunteer that had been approved to help at the city and explained that she has helped for years and will continue to help.
3. Misty Thomas was present to share concerns on Alvarado Street at the road closure. Asked public works to address a pothole on 6th and Alvarado and weeds at the bridge on Fifth street.

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 Alderman Steve Vogt, seconded by Alderwoman Jeanette Struempf with all in favor.
2. Bank Bids- A motion to supply bank bid requests to the three local banks was made by Alderwoman Rebecca Withouse, seconded by Alderman Seth Klien with all in favor.

H. OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Ordinance #662 Code of Conduct-** an ordinance proposing to create a code of conduct of the Board of Alderman and Mayor. The code describes how the city officials should conduct themselves, treat each other and place the betterment of Belle as the priority. It also outlines that a breach in this ordinance can result in censure or impeachment from office. Alderman Steve Vogt read the ordinance in its entirety. A motion to accept the first reading was made by Alderwoman Jeanette Struempf and seconded by Alderman Steve Vogt. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Alderwoman Rebecca Withouse-nay
Alderman Seth Kline-aye
Alderwoman Jeanette Struempf-aye
Alderman Steve Vogt-aye

A second reading of Ordinance #662 -was done by title only.

A motion to accept the second reading was made by Alderwoman Jeanette Struempf and seconded by Alderman Steve Vogt. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Alderwoman Rebecca Withouse-nay
Alderman Seth Kline-aye
Alderwoman Jeanette Struempf-aye
Alderman Steve Vogt-aye

Ordinance #662 passed and was signed into full force and effect by Mayor James Mitchell.

I. NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Ordinance #663 Business License-** an ordinance outlining the guidelines for late business licenses was read in its entirety. It states that after five days a business will be required to pay a late fee in the amount of said license. After 30 days they will be guilty of a ordinance violation and the business must cease operations until

they are compliant. A motion to accept the first reading was made by Alderman Steve Vogt seconded by Alderwoman Jeanette Struempf with all in favor.

2. Review Propane Quotes for winter 25/26

The city received 3 bids as follows (in no particular order)

- a. Ferrell Gas at \$1.589 per gallon
- b. Capital Energy at \$1.639 per gallon
- c. MFA at \$1.399 per gallon

Bids were read by Mayor Mitchell. A motion to accept MFA's bid was made by Alderwoman Jeanette Struempf, seconded by Alderman Steve Vogt with all in favor.

3. Marshal Salary Discussion for April Ballot- Marshal Jerry Coborn led a

discussion on changing the marshal salary ahead of the 2026 election. A motion to increase the marshal pay to \$70,000 a year was made by Alderwoman Rebecca Withouse, more discussion was held, it was determined that more information and research was needed before a reasonable offer could be made. Jerry and Charro will research the proposed tax rate and work together to create an ordinance to present to the council at the special meeting on August 28th.

Alderwoman Rebecca Withouse made a motion to withdraw her motion.

A motion was then made to table until the next meeting by Alderman Seth Kline seconded by Alderwoman Jeanette Struempf with all in favor.

4. Discussion of Water Accounts- Alderwoman Rebecca Withouse asked for the discussion to be tabled, stating it was "short notice" and tabling it would allow more people to show up at the next meeting. Mayor Mitchell declined her offer to table the matter. He then led the discussion presenting facts on the multi-user accounts. He discussed how the City of Belle had gone well above to assist and accommodate all the landlords we could. He presented factual account amounts and stated that removing this would take \$72,600 annually from the city budget. Alderman Vogt added that we held a public hearing on the matter and even postponed the increase to give people time to decide. He also stated that the current budget was approved with this increase. Alderwoman Rebecca Withouse then asked Alderwoman Jeanette Struempf if she was now "against grandfathering in these properties?" Alderwoman Jeanette Struempf state that yes, she was. She had stepped back and realized the detriment this would have on the city. It was consensus of the board to leave the accounts as they are and move on, no vote was taken.

5. Approve Annexation of Hinson-Perkins Properties -tabled

6. MFA Gas Tank- Due to Caseys tanks being unavailable, and MFA shutting down to replace pumps, we see a need to have a tank set on a temporary basis. Alderman Steve Vogt made a motion to have the tank set seconded by Alderman Seth Klien with all in favor.

7. Advertise for Shop Roof Replacement- a brief discussion was held on the shop roof that was damaged in the storm. A motion was made to advertise by Alderman Steve Vogt seconded by Alderman Seth Klien with all in favor

J. STAFF REPORTS:

Mayor- James Mitchell:

1. Announced next regular meeting -September 9, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

2. FEMA Project Updates – Stated we now have regular meetings with our FEMA project manager, and we hope to have the onsite inspection completed soon.
3. Special Hearing Notice for Setting Tax Rates will be Thursday August 28th, 2025 at 6:00 pm with a meeting to follow.
4. Updated on the position of city clerk, we have extended the application process because of low interest.

Supervisor Jim Goben:

1. Gave public works update stated that they had been busy cleaning streets and clearing the bus routes, getting ready for school to start next week.

Marshal Jerry Coborn:

2. Gave department updates
3. Reserve Officer Justin Fletcher- a motion was made by Alderman Steve Vogt to give Officer Fletcher commission with the understanding he is to work his required shifts monthly to the city, seconded by Alderwoman Jeanette Struempf, with all in favor.

Steve Vogt:

1. Gave MRPC and grant updates
2. Announced Rock Island fundraiser on October 5, 2025, in Gerald. Gave some updates about the trial and possible fundraising opportunities.

City Attorney James Klahr:

1. Updated the council on a couple new sunshine request laws that will go in effect on August 28, 2025. Regarding juvenile records being protected and cost being upfront for record request.

K. Motion to adjourn and go into closed session was made by Alderman Steve Vogt seconded by Alderman Seth Klien with all in favor at 8:56 pm.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

L. Motion to open regular session was made by Alderman Steve Vogt seconded by Alderman Seth Klien with all in favor at 9:33 pm.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

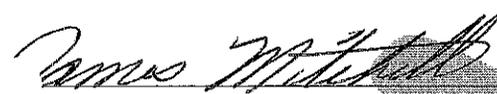
M. Motion to adjourn regular session was made by Alderman Steve Vogt seconded by Alderman Seth Klien with all in favor at 9:35 pm.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

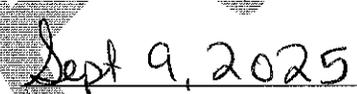
- Alderwoman Rebecca Withouse- aye
- Alderman Seth Klein- aye
- Alderwoman Jeanette Struempf-aye
- Alderman- Steve Vogt- aye

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.



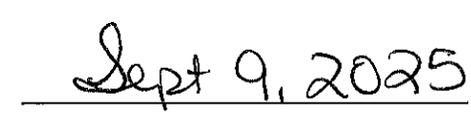
Mayor James Mitchell



Date



Charro Reasor, Treasurer



Date