Missouri Ethics Commission
Stacey Heislen
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Final Action: MEC No. 26-0074-I James Thomas, Sr., Former Mayor of the City of Bellefontaine Neighbors

Date: October 20, 2026

On October 20, 2026, the Missouri Ethics Commission took final consideration of the complaint filed against James Thomas, Sr., the former Mayor of the City of Bellefontaine Neighbors.

The complaints alleged that then Mayor of Bellefontaine Neighbors, James Thomas, failed to comply with City ordinances when appointing the City Collector.

The investigation determined that, while serving as Mayor, Mr. Thomas engaged Deletra Hudson, LLC to provide financial services for the City of Bellefontaine Neighbors. From approximately May 2025 through September 2026, Deletra Hudson, LLC performed various financial functions for the City.

On July 22, 2025, during a City Council meeting, Mr. Thomas called for a vote to approve a proposal submitted by Deletra Hudson, LLC to perform financial services, including budgeting, recording monthly transactions, reconciling general ledger and bank statements, managing accounts payable, and assisting the City Clerk as needed. The proposal further stated that the firm was capable of fulfilling all financial service needs and assisting the City in identifying revenue to support a fully functioning and credible financial operation. The Board of Aldermen unanimously approved the proposal.

On September 4, 2025, at a subsequent City Council meeting, the Aldermen unanimously voted to adopt Bill 2731, which authorized hiring Deletra Hudson, LLC as a contracted Finance Director. This action became Ordinance 2701. The Ordinance provided that all ordinances, parts of ordinances, or provisions of the municipal code in conflict with the Ordinance were repealed.

Based on these facts, the Commission finds no reasonable grounds to believe that a violation of City of Bellefontaine Neighbors ordinances occurred and has dismissed the complaint.

Stacey Heislen
Executive Director