

the Open Meetings Law in 2023. The City has failed to (1) post notices of Board of Aldermen public meetings in accordance with the Open Meetings Law's requirements; (2) properly identify sections of the Open Meetings Law that authorize a closed meeting; (3) include reasonable specificity of topics on meetings agendas and (4) discuss items of business limited to the posted agenda items; and (5) keep meeting minutes as required by the Open Meetings Law.

5. As a result of the City's failure to comply with the law's most basic requirements, Belle residents have been deprived of the opportunity to attend public meetings and be apprised in advance of items the Board discusses.

6. The Attorney General brings this action on behalf of the State of Missouri to enforce the Open Meetings Law and to ensure that the public has access to the meetings, records and votes of the City as required by law.

Parties

7. Andrew Bailey is the duly elected Attorney General of Missouri.

8. Section 27.060 grants the Missouri Attorney General authority to:

institute, in the name and on the behalf of the state, all civil suits and other proceedings at law or in equity requisite or necessary to protect the rights and interests of the state, and enforce any and all rights, interests or claims against any and all persons, firms or corporations in whatever court or jurisdiction such action may be necessary; and he may also appear and interplead, answer or defend, in any proceeding or tribunal in which the state's interests are involved.

9. Additionally, under § 610.027.1, the Attorney General has authority to seek judicial enforcement of Sections 610.010 through 610.026.