

January 22, 2024

Council President Mr. Martin called the January 22, 2024 Belpre City Council meeting to order at 7:45pm. The roll was called with the following members present: Mr. Ambrozy, Mrs. Dennis, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Godfrey, Mr. Locke, Ms. Riffle and Mr. Seebaugh present. Also, present were Mayor Abdella, City Auditor Mrs. Nolan, City Law Director Mr. Webster, Treasurer Mrs. Cassady and Clerk of Council Mrs. Meredith. At this time, there has been no Safety-Service Director appointed.

Council President Mr. Martin asked everyone to please rise for the Prayer and remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance. Police Chief Stump gave the invocation and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President of Council Mr. Martin asked all present if you have cellphones or any electronic devices to please turn them off or to vibrate so it won't interfere with the recording.

If you plan to address council this evening, please stand, come to the podium, state your name clearly so the clerk can get your information, and address council.

President of Council Mr. Martin asked for a motion for the January 8, 2024 minutes. Ms. Dennis made a motion to accept the January 8, 2024 minutes as presented and by-pass the reading. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

**Reports of City Officials:**

Mayor Abdella presented her report before council. It is as follows:

**Communications:**

It's been a busy couple of weeks. We have had the pleasure of welcoming a new business to Belpre with a Ribbon Cutting. Integrated Services for Behavioral Health.

Mr. Martin and I attended Mayors Court Training in Columbus and have completed the background check process. We are ready to resume Mayors Court in February.

As a community member you may have received a piece of mail from MyCleanChoice.com. related to switching your aggregation. This is not associated with the City's aggregation programs. Please read the information very carefully prior to making any decisions.

**Grants Applied:**

- Sister of St Joseph - For Park Improvement
- WWIG- Waste Water Infrastructure grant - Shovel Ready Projects  
– Water Tower

**Project Updates:**

**Water Tower:**

- Meeting with ADR to discuss project and timeline
- We applied for a Water Waste Water Infrastructure grant

**Lead Service Lines** – These lines must be identified in the City prior to October 16, 2024. This is a mandate by EPA. The city was notified approximately 8 months ago about the need. We are working on a plan to accomplish this project. We will update you as we have a solid plan to share.

Discussion on “Then and Now” Accounting items. This is why council is required to review many of these invoices. We appreciate your patience as we get the previous years behind us.

I would request an Executive secession at the end of tonight's meeting. The reason is a matter of safety and security and property lease.

Supplemental 1-22-2024

- 1) Morrison's Invoice date 12/27/2023 - Amount greater than \$3000. Total invoice \$4,818.78

- 2) Air Gas - Outstanding invoices from 2022. These total \$4599.35  
The product was purchased and delivered to Fire Dept. The bills went to 133 Stone Rd, which was the association. They had paid this expense prior to the EMS contract termination.
- 3) Sewer plant - Invoice 637583 Date Sept 18, 2023 Light Bars for Sewer truck total \$4,200.00.
- 4) Street Dept Dump Truck Lights and install labor - \$2900.00 .  
Date December 11. 2023
- 5) To be Divided by all depts except police – all city email addresses that end Cityofbelpre .com. Invoice date December 11, 2023  
\$3410.00
- 6) Police Department -
  - a. Switches for Police dept \$ 700.00
  - b. UPS non-rack able and telex work \$1795.00
  - c. Microsoft annual Business apps \$1855.00
- 7) Sewer- Applied Specialties Polymers – Uses at sewer plant  
\$7634.00

Total \$31,912.13

Safety-Service Director has not yet been appointed. There have been resumes received.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan reported that the Revenue Budget was emailed to Council Friday, January 19, 2024 copies on back table. I have 2023 Water and Sewer Actual Expenses left to add to the Expense Budget. Any questions please feel free to contact me.

The December Utility Adjustment Report was emailed to Council Thursday, January 18, 2024, and needs Councils approval. According to our State Auditor we will no longer be providing copies of this report to the public.

President of Council Mr. Martin asked for a motion to approve the December's Treasurers Report. Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the December's Treasurers Report. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

City Law Director had no report.

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassady reported that each member of council has received a copy of the December's Treasurers Report. Copies are at the back table and council has received copies for review. I will need council's approval on the report. Mr. Ferguson asked how we could have a negative 3.00 on Fund 999 Payroll. He was informed that there was a typo and that it would correct itself next month. Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the December's Treasurers Report as is. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye except for Mr. Ferguson who voted nay.

Mrs. Cassady stated that she also has the Year-To-Date 1/2023 – 12/2023 report that also needs approval by council. Each member of council should have received a copy for review. There are copies available at the back table. Mr. Martin asked for a motion to accept. Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the Year-to-Date Treasurer's Report as presented. Mr. Ferguson once again addressed the negative 3.00. Mrs. Dennis asked for an updated copy at the next meeting of council. Mrs. Nolan stated that you will have the Treasurer's Report for January but it will not change the Year-To-Date. Ms. Riffle asked if this would be caught with the new software. Mrs. Nolan stated that it was just human error. Mrs. Nolan stated that she had already sent the Estimate of Resources to the County. This information is taken from the CASH Report. This is the Year-To-Date. According to Mrs. Nolan this doesn't have to be approved. Mr. Webster stated that the numbers that go to the county are estimated. They take the last calendar year with estimates from the next calendar year to determine if the city is in financial care. The negative 3.00 doesn't mean anything to the county budgeting committee. There is a motion to accept as is. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye except for Mr. Ferguson who voted nay.

#### **Communication and Petitions:**

President of Council Mr. Martin stated that he doesn't have anything at the present moment.

#### **Reports of Standing Committee**

Mr. Ferguson Finance/Audit Committee reported that the Finance/Audit

Committee met prior to this evening's meeting to discuss **A RESOLUTION SUPPLEMENTING YEAR 2024 APPROPRIATION**. If you look at your exhibit you will need to remove \$30,000 from the TOTAL-memorandum only making the total \$31,912.13. This total is the amount of the Permissive Tax in the General Fund. Mr. Ferguson made a motion to add to tonight's agenda for first reading **A RESOLUTION SUPPLEMENTING YEAR 2024 APPROPRIATION**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson stated that everyone on council should have a copy of the projected 2024 Revenue. The bottom line of all funds should be \$8,675,804. I would ask that the administration as we go through the budget process to please put a date on any budget projections or any budget estimates or documents so we are all on the same page.

Mr. Ferguson asked Mrs. Nolan to please send out copies of the most updated 2024 Budget.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee had no report.

Mr. Locke, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer Committee presented the following before council.

On Thursday January 18, 2024 Mayor Abdella and Sewer Department Supervisor Eddie Richardson and I attended a meeting where we were invited along with several Marietta City Councilman, Jeff Carr (Environmental Design Group), Chris Hunt (Hunt Engineering), Roger Wright (Washington County Engineer) and all three Washington County Commissioners (Jamie Booth, Kevin Ritter and Charlie Schilling).

This meeting centered around the possibility of 100% funding to provide sewer north of Belpre as far north as the railroad tracks. This meeting was very interesting as there were 3 different engineers present to describe possible issues and possibilities of solutions of these issues.

All 3 entities will have to work together to secure this funding, Washington County Commissioners, City of Marietta and City of Belpre. This MOU will be required for us to proceed with applications for a grant(s). The County Commissioners have been successful in other sewer projects and getting funding for them as well.

Also, we are investigating the possibility of a stop sign from the “Wings” Restaurant entrance to Tuttle Street. Several close calls have been reported to me.

Also, several STOP and STREET signs have been reported either damaged or bent. As we get better weather, we will repair them.

I am looking for financial help to look at sidewalk repairs. Many of our sidewalks are old and need attention. Repairs will depend on our budget. Also discussed was a sidewalk down Lee Street. There is a possibility of stairs but they would not be handicap accessible.

Also, discussion with the administration concerning posting truck routes have started.

I am calling a Street, Sidewalk & Storm Sewer Committee meeting for Tuesday January 23, 2024 at 6PM to discuss the MOU concerning the proposed sewer line extension north of Belpre.

Mr. Ambrozy Utilities Committee stated that since our last council meeting, I attended 2 different meetings that were very helpful. The first meeting was with Mayor Susan, Eddie Richardson Jeff Carr from EDG and myself. We went over Mr. Carr’s entire project list. Lots of good projects underway.

We also met with Nick Mayle from ADR to discuss the water tank.

There are 2 Utility Committee meetings coming up soon. The first one is January 23, 2024 at 5:30 PM to discuss our Water Tank Project and the second one is on Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 6PM to discuss the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Jeff Carr will be present to present a slide presentation.

Ms. Riffle and I plan to meet with Jeff prior to the meeting to discuss Water and Sewer Regulations.

Mr. Seebaugh Parks and Recreation Committee had no report.

Mr. Godfrey Planning and Zoning /Economic Development committee reported that he is researching annexation to the city and the use of city utilities. I’m still working on that and once I have completed my

research I will bring before council. It will probably be late February, early March. I would also like to thank the police and fire departments, the street crew, water and sewer department for their hard. Tonight there was a water leak at Third and O'Neil Street and our crews were still out at 6:30pm fixing the leak. At the last meeting I asked for a city-wide zoning map and also a map of the city. I'm still waiting for the maps at this time.

Ms. Riffle Rules Committee requested that the Moratorium be assigned back into her committee on the establishments. She is asking for all respectful inputs as people have different opinions. Ms. Riffle will be updating the back flow prevention devices. Ms. Riffle called for a Rules Committee meeting for Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6pm for discussing both the Moratorium and the back flow prevention devices.

Mr. Ferguson called a Finance/Audit Committee meeting for February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6PM for the purpose of discussing the 2024 Budget.

**PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL - AGENDA items only:** none

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for first reading **A RESOLUTION SUPPLEMENTING YEAR 2024 APPROPRIATIONS**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson moved to suspend the rule of council on three different days to allow for the second and third readings of **A RESOLUTION SUPPLEMENTING YEAR 2024 APPROPRIATIONS**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for the second and third readings **A RESOLUTION SUPPLEMENTING YEAR 2024 APPROPRIATIONS**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson moved this be **Resolution 1, 2024-2025** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

## **PERSON APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:**

Mayor Susan thanked Mr. Bill Matheny for giving a carbon monoxide presentation. She stated that a lot of calls have been received regarding carbon monoxide.

I would also like to thank Bill, Karen and Keith for coming in and helping clean up at the city building. Keith fixed the lighting and Chief Stump came in and worked on the TV for council chambers. He had it up and running but Mayor Susan wasn't able to get it working this evening.

I also want to mention our FACEBOOK page and the amount of people reviewing what is happening in our city. People are noticing what we are doing and I think it is very helpful.

Judy Drake 713 Oak Tree Lane stated that she tried accessing the cities website. She was wondering when they would be updated. Clerk addressed the situation. President of Council stated that we are working on the website.

Mayor Susan stated that she just got a message from the street and water department crew that the waterline on Third and O'Neil Street has been fixed and the street is back together. There is no need for a water boil advisory.

Mrs. Nolan informed the Council President that she needs a certified copy of the resolution passed this evening.

Ms. Riffle showed appreciation to Mario Coon on the EMS Squad and the professionalism and how quickly they responded a couple of times when she needed assistance for her father. Mr. Coon stated that his term expired December 31, 2023 but he will be glad to pass along the information.

Mr. Ferguson moved to go into Executive Session at 8:33PM to discuss Safety and Security and property lease. Mayor Susan stated that there would be two components to the meeting. One will involve Safety and Security with Chief Stump. Once that component is complete the next will



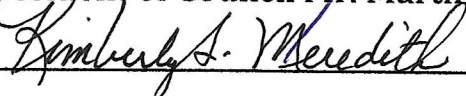
involve Property Lease with Jess Rauch. President of Council Mr. Martin stated that once the Executive Session is over, they will return back to council for adjournment. No further action will be taken at this evening's meeting. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Ms. Riffle made a motion to return from Executive Session at 9:22 PM. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

**ADJOURN:**

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to adjourn at 9:23 pm. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

  
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President of Council Mr. Martin

  
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Clerk of Belpre City Council Kimberly Meredith