

January 24, 2022

Council President Mr. Martin called the January 24, 2022 meeting to order at 7:38 PM. The roll was called with the following members present: Mrs. Dennis, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Millhone, Mr. Null, Mr. Ruth and Mr. Wallace present. Also, present was Mayor Lorentz, City Auditor Mrs. Nolan, City Law Director Mr. Webster, City Treasurer Mrs. Cassady and Clerk of Council Mrs. Meredith. Absent from the January 24, 2022 meeting was Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzell and Councilman Mr. McClead.

Council President Mr. Martin asked that everyone please rise for the Prayer and remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Lorentz gave the invocation and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the minutes of January 12, 2022 as presented and by-pass the reading. A vote was taken with members of council present voting aye.

**Reports of City Officials:**

The Service Director, Police Chief and I met with Chief Deputy Mark Warden, Major Hawkins and Deputy Tornes the dog Warden. Over the past few years, we have many issues with service when we get animal complaints. With the cooperation of the Sheriff's Department and our officers we now have a clearer picture of responsibilities. People should know that response will definitely improve.

We had a pre-bid meeting with Burgess & Niple and a few contractors pertaining to the water line project on Farson. When bids are opened, we will communicate.

With the assistance of our water department employees the street crew and others our streets were cleared better than any in the surrounding area. Thank you to these folks for their hard work.

There has been some question as to the way we decide when to close the Sr. Center. As of this date we use the school weather decisions (if schools are closed the Sr. Center is likewise). Does anyone have a better idea for weather closure?

We turned in a list of houses that may be on the demolition list. The Commissioners will have the final say on what qualifies and how to split the funds throughout the county.

If any one on council wants a guided tour of the projects on our list this year give me a call and I will set it up. A couple of these are time sensitive due to Washington Blvd. being on our street repair list.

The Government Teacher at the high school contacted me about Government Day. As we are trying to decide yes or no, I thought it best to get council's opinion. Do we or do we not and, what date works best for you all?

The Service Director and I spoke with the Sheriff's Department in regards to the dog warden. We now have a plan in place where we will have the ability to use the dog warden.

The Street and Water Crew was out last week-end cleaning up the city. They all did a great job.

We did turn in a list of homes in the city for demolition of properties.

If any of you have any questions about projects, we have for the city please give me a call and we can show you where the projects begin and where they stop.

The Government Teacher at the high school contacted me about Student Government Day in the City of Belpre. The students would like to go ahead with it as long as we can come up with a date.

Mr. Webster asked if this would be sponsored by the Rotary Club this year. Mayor Lorentz stated that he thought it would be. It would be held on Monday. It was suggested by Council President that we would do it on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzell was absent. No report was given in her absence.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan reported that the 2022 Budget was completed for the Finance Committee's review. I attended a virtual RITA webinar Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> as well as an Ohio Office of Budget Management this afternoon. I've been attending the weekly staff meetings with the City Department heads to familiarize myself with their duties.

W2's was printed and distributed last week.

The Software Bids must be received no later than 3PM Wednesday this week January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

The December Utility Adjustment report copies are on the back table and need Council's approval, please.

Mr. Ruth made a motion to accept the December's Utility Adjustment Report as presented. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

City Law Director Mr. Webster stated that there is two pieces of legislation before you this evening that I did not receive until Wednesday prior to the meeting. These two pieces of legislation must be certified by the Clerk of the Belpre City Council to the Board of Elections for Washington County, Ohio, no later than February 2, 2022, and shall request the Board to provide for Notice of said election requested by law. If these two pieces of legislation are not passed tonight on all three readings, we will have to hold special meetings in order to pass and certify within the time frame. Secondly, I know that tonight

was supposed to be my State of the City Report however I received a call from the City of Lowell that their renewal was also due so I had to get that completed so they would also be within their time frame. I will get the Municipal Report to you at the next meeting.

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassady reported that the 2021 Year to Date Treasurer's Report is before you this evening and needs council approval. Mrs. Cassady stated that it was ready at the last meeting. Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the 2021 Year to Date Treasurer's Report as presented. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

**Communication and Petitions –**

President of Council Mr. Martin assigned the following to Mrs. Dennis' Police and Fire Committee:

**A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE RENEWAL OF 1.75 MILL ADDITIONAL TAX LEVY FOR PROVISION OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF BELPRE.**

**A RESOLUTION FINDING IT NECESSARY TO RENEW A LEVY TAX OUTSIDE THE 10-MILL LIMITATION AND REQUESTING THE COUNTY AUDITOR TO CERTIFY THE TAXING AUTHORITY THE TOTAL CURRENT TAX VALUATION OF THE CITY OF BELPRE AND THE DOLLAR AMOUNT OF REVENUE THAT WOULD BE GENERATED BY A 1.75 MILL ADDITIONAL LEVY.**

It will be the decision of Mrs. Dennis as to how she would like to proceed with the legislation.

**Reports of Standing Committee –**

Finance/Audit Committee Mr. Ferguson reported that his committee met prior to this evening's meeting at 6:30PM for the purpose of discussing Fleet Management Enterprise with Aaron Martinez present to answer any questions. There will be additional discussion prior to the next council meeting. Along with discussing the Fleet Management Enterprise we discussed three areas of the 2022 Budget. At this time, I would like to call a Finance/Audit Committee meeting prior to the next meeting of council on February 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm to continue our discussion on the 2022 Budget which includes the Fleet Management Enterprise Agreement to be included or not included. If anyone has any questions you can contact me for Aaron's phone number

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee reported that Police Chief Williams provided her with a Law Trust Report that he gets every year. I have made copies and placed it on the back table. There are some things that he has the auditor and I working on together. I don't have any information on that yet but it has to do with the Impound Lot Funds.

Mrs. Dennis made a motion to add to tonight's agenda for first reading: **A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE RENEWAL OF 1.75 MILL ADDITIONAL TAX**

**LEVY FOR PROVISION OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF BELPRE.**

**A RESOLUTION FINDING IT NECESSARY TO RENEW A LEVY TAX OUTSIDE THE 10-MILL LIMITATION AND REQUESTING THE COUNTY AUDITOR TO CERTIFY THE TAXING AUTHORITY THE TOTAL CURRENT TAX VALUATION OF THE CITY OF BELPRE AND THE DOLLAR AMOUNT OF REVENUE THAT WOULD BE GENERATED BY A 1.75 MILL ADDITIONAL LEVY.**

A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Council President Mr. Martin stated that this will be added to tonight's agenda under New Business.

Mr. Ruth, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer reported the City of Belpre Street Dept is looking into a project for capturing the storm run-off water at the intersection of Washington Blvd and Middle Street. There is no storm piping in that area for a tie end, so they are proposing installing two dry wells to capture the run -off.

The City of Belpre Street Dept is also looking into the traffic light at the intersection of RT 7 and Braun Road due to the delays. The repairs will include timing of the light or replacement if needed. The other problem reported has been the number of tickets issued for turning on the RED light due to delays.

Followed up with Gary Paschen about the flooding in his street area on Florence to see if Dave Shaffer had contacted Him. He did state that someone had painted white lines on street and had a transit set up taking readings.

I did speak with City Service Director about the timing of when the Washington Blvd. repaving project would begin, and the project timeline is the last week of April-1<sup>st</sup> or MAY.

Mr. Null asked the location of the dry wells. Mr. Null was informed that it was Washington Boulevard and Middle Street.

Mr. Millhone had no report for the Utilities Committee. Mr. Millhone stated that he was going on Thursday at 1:30 to look at the Water Tank on Richmiller Lane. There will be a report given on that by me or the mayor if we get to go on Thursday.

Mr. Null ask for the time of the meeting on Thursday. Mr. Millhone informed Mr. Null that it was at 1:30 PM.

Mr. McClead, Parks and Recreation Committee was absent.

Mr. Wallace, Planning and Zoning Committee reported that there would be a public hearing on February 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. in the City Council Chambers for a zoning change. The property owner(s) of 217 O'Neal Street is requesting a zoning variance on the front setback regulations as per Ordinance 1149. The property owner is

requesting a variance on the maximum height limit of 15 feet for an accessory building. The property owner is wanting to build a garage 44 x 28.

Mr. Null asked what the zoning would be. Mr. Webster stated that it would probably be R-1.

Mr. Wallace, Economic Development Committee had no report.

Mr. Null, Rules Committee called a meeting for February 7, 2022 at 7PM to discuss the Service Director not living in the city limits. Mr. Null stated that it is an important position. The State requires them to live in the city limits. They are given a 6-month grace period. This needs to be resolved.

**Persons Appearing Before Council – Agenda items only.** none

**Unfinished Business:** -

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for second reading **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BELPRE TO ENTER INTO A COMMUNITY HOUSING IMPACT AND PRESERVATION PROGRAM PARTNER AGREEMENT.** Discussion followed regarding the two funds. Mr. Ferguson stated that the two funds were for the CDBG funds and the other was designated for the Home Fund. Mr. Millhone stated that he knew very little about this program and that he may abstain from voting, Mr. Martin stated that he had to have a specific reason for not voting. Mr. Millhone stated that it was lack of knowledge of the program. Mr. Webster stated that we had the first reading at the last meeting and he had two weeks that he could have found out about the program. Mr. Webster gave Mr. Millhone reasons for abstaining. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye except Mr. Millhone who voted nay. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mrs. Dennis brought before council for first reading **A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE RENEWAL OF 1.75 MILL ADDITIONAL TAX LEVY FOR PROVISION OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF BELPRE.** Mr. Ferguson asked if the renewal of 1.75 mill was for both Fire and Emergency Medical Services. Mr. Webster stated that it was for both and it doesn't specify what it can be used for. Mr. Wallace asked when it was first put on the ballot what was it put on for. Mr. Webster stated that it was for Fire and Emergency Medical Services. It is pretty much the same as it is now. It is the taxing language.

Mr. Locke 726 Tuttle Street understood that the levy was passed for the purpose of purchasing a ½ million dollar fire truck. According to Mr. Webster it wasn't in the legislation. There was a general fund and there was a problem with the fire

department and the police department expenses. It was decided that additional money was needed to be raised through a levy. We initially tried to do it for the Fire Department and the Emergency Medical Services however the county would not allow it. Mr. Webster stated that it wasn't dedicated for that particular project. He asked Mr. Webster if he remembered the cost of the one from 5-years ago? Mr. Webster did not remember.

William Cassady 824 Belrock Avenue asked approximately how much money per year does 1.75 mill generate? Mr. Webster stated right around \$200,000. Mr. Webster stated that it can't be any more than the amount collected for the last levy passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Dennis moved to suspend the rule of council on three different days to allow for the second and third readings of **A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE RENEWAL OF 1.75 MILL ADDITIONAL TAX LEVY FOR PROVISION OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF BELPRE.** Mr. Null asked when this legislation had to be turned in. He was informed it had to be completed by February 2, 2022. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Dennis brought before council for second and third readings of **A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE RENEWAL OF 1.75 MILL ADDITIONAL TAX LEVY FOR PROVISION OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF BELPRE.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Dennis moved this be Resolution #2, 2022-2023 and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mayor Lorentz verified that Student Government Day would be March 28, 2022.

Mrs. Dennis brought before council for first reading **A RESOLUTION FINDING IT NECESSARY TO RENEW A LEVY TAX OUTSIDE THE 10-MILL LIMITATION AND REQUESTING THE COUNTY AUDITOR TO CERTIFY THE TAXING AUTHORITY THE TOTAL CURRENT TAX VALUATION OF THE CITY OF BELPRE AND THE DOLLAR AMOUNT OF REVENUE THAT WOULD BE GENERATED BY A 1.75 MILL ADDITIONAL LEVY.** Mr. Null asked why these two pieces of legislation had to be separated. Mr. Webster stated that the first one is for the general proposition. For the first one a certified copy goes only to the Board of Elections and the second one goes to the County Auditor who does the calculation and then his calculation and this resolution goes to the Board of Elections with the first one. Two different agencies are involved. Mr. Wallace verified that it was just one levy. This renewal was for a levy that was passed 5-years ago. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Dennis moved to suspend the rule of council on three different days to allow for the second and third readings of **A RESOLUTION FINDING IT NECESSARY TO RENEW A LEVY TAX OUTSIDE THE 10-MILL LIMITATION AND REQUESTING THE**

**COUNTY AUDITOR TO CERTIFY THE TAXING AUTHORITY THE TOTAL CURRENT TAX VALUATION OF THE CITY OF BELPRE AND THE DOLLAR AMOUNT OF REVENUE THAT WOULD BE GENERATED BY A 1.75 MILL ADDITIONAL LEVY.** Mr. Null stated that we need to get our business in order where we don't have to pass legislation on emergencies. I will go along with it as it has to be done by February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022. Mr. Webster stated that as he mentioned we didn't get the go ahead until last Wednesday. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Dennis brought before council for second and third readings **A RESOLUTION FINDING IT NECESSARY TO RENEW A LEVY TAX OUTSIDE THE 10-MILL LIMITATION AND REQUESTING THE COUNTY AUDITOR TO CERTIFY THE TAXING AUTHORITY THE TOTAL CURRENT TAX VALUATION OF THE CITY OF BELPRE AND THE DOLLAR AMOUNT OF REVENUE THAT WOULD BE GENERATED BY A 1.75 MILL ADDITIONAL LEVY.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Dennis moved this be Resolution #3, 2022-2023 and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

**PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:**

Judith Drake 713 Oak Tree Lane stated that on the January Water Bill the \$6 that council approved in October of last year was not on the January's Water Bill. It cost the city a revenue loss of \$26,000 minimum. I was wondering what we are doing to correct that. This is money that is to go to a new water tank and infrastructure. Mrs. Drake stated that she understood that our previous auditor was going to have Lisa contact the billing company and have it added to our bill. Mrs. Drake stated that evidently it didn't occur as they had 60 days for it to occur. Mrs. Nolan stated that it has been incorporated and has been added. It will appear on the February bill.

The Ohio Check Book was incorporated into City Government for transparency. Prior to me going off of council I contacted them and was informed that there were no entries made from June 2020 forward. Are we going to update? Mrs. Drake stated that they told her that they are willing to work with the city to update. Mr. Martin stated that we will have to check into it.

Mrs. Drake asked who was responsible for posting the Treasurer's Report and the Auditor's Report. Mrs. Cassidy said that she contacted Mrs. Hoblitzell and she is to show Mrs. Cassidy how to add to the website. She has been posting in the past.

Mrs. Drake asked Mr. Null if he had looked at City Ordinance 161.10 about residency for the Safety-Service Director. In 1998 the council eliminates the Safety-Service Director residing in the City of Belpre. The Ordinance was passed March 23, 1998. Mr. Webster stated that this ordinance is a repeal. We may have to pass legislation

waiving the requirement. Mr. Webster to review ORC (Ohio Revised Code) regarding the ordinance.

Mr. Null thanked Mrs. Drake for bringing this to our attention. I don't know who this would have been for in 1998. I feel it had to be for an individual. Mr. Webster will find out and get this resolved. As far as getting a waiver to our Safety-Service Director I have no objection with that however it is councils' decision. These issues need resolved. Mr. Null stated that everyone has been negligent on it.

Mrs. Dennis made a motion to excuse Mr. McClead from this evening's meeting. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

**Adjourn:**

Mrs. Dennis made a motion to adjourn at 8:27 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 Mrs. Meredith