

January 9, 2023

Council President Mr. Martin called the January 9, 2023 Belpre City Council meeting to order at 7:30 PM. The roll was called with the following members present: Mrs. Dennis, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. McClead, Mr. Millhone, Mr. Null, Ms. Abdella and Mr. Wallace present. Also present were Mayor Lorentz, Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzell, City Auditor Mrs. Nolan, City Law Director Mr. Webster, Treasurer Mrs. Cassady and Clerk of Council Mrs. Meredith.

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.

President of Council Mr. Martin asked that everyone turn off cellphones or turn them to vibrate so they don't interfere with the recording.

If you address council this evening, please state your name and address clearly so that the clerk can record it.

If council or the administration has a report, please be sure and get a copy of your report to the clerk.

President of Council Mr. Martin asked for a motion to accept the minutes of December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to accept the minutes of December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 as presented and by-pass the reading. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

### **Reports of City Officials:**

Mayor Lorentz reported that with the holidays and a few days away my report is short but, hoping everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year's holiday.

Along with the Belpre Area Veterans I did take part in the Wreaths Across America ceremony at Cedarville Cemetery.

The sign went up today for Wings and the Roseland Coffee shop is near completion. Maka Mia Pizza held a grand opening which I attended. They are now in Vienna in the old Mo's building. Great food.

The Civil Service completed the testing for Police Chief and myself and a corporate H.R. professional conducted interviews with the candidates. On Tuesday January 2<sup>nd</sup> I offered Sergeant Michael Stump the position of Police Chief for the City of Belpre. As Mayor I was very proud of the effort both candidates put into the process and both did very well on the test.

Everyone should have received the notice to file with the Ohio Ethic Commission.

At this time, I would like to swear Michael Stump in Formally as Belpre's new Police Chief.

Chief Stump was sworn in before council, his family, administration present, citizens present and friends. Belpre is very proud to have Chief Stump as our new Chief of Police for the City of Belpre.

Chief Stump spoke briefly before council regarding the support of his family, the police officers which he asked to come forward to be recognized for National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. These officers provide great public safety to our citizens. Continue to keep all of us in your prayers. He recognized the administration and council for their support.

Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzell announced that we got a couple of Vest Grants for the police department. There were two separate grants. We had the kick off meeting with the MOVTA Bus Line for the study of the bus line coming to Belpre. Erin Stevens from SOPEC is here to present the City of Belpre an award. Erin is with SOPEC (Sustainable Ohio Public Electric Counsel). Erin stated that SOPEC is Belpre's Electric Aggregator. We do source 100% sustainable clean free energy. We accumulate the data from here and report it to the EPA. She presented two road signs to the City of Belpre. This award is from the EPA stating that the city has exceeded their guidelines for clean free energy. The signs are to be placed as you enter the city limits. Ms. Abdella asked about how many residents were enrolled in the electric aggregation. According to Erin it is about 34% which is good for our city however we have room to grow. Erin stated that SOPEC's Customer Care Center phone number is 1-877-648-1937 for any questions you may have. There was further discussion regarding electric usage and savings.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan reported that on Wednesday, December 28, 2022 the Mayor and I signed Julian and Grube's 2022 contract. We chose a 1-year option in the amount of \$8,300 to prepare our financial statements.

The 2023 Temporary Appropriations, Ordinance #7, was approved by the Washington County Auditor December 29, 2022.

City Law Director Mr. Webster reported that all council should have received a letter from my office in regards to ODOT Property on Main Street that ODOT wants to transfer to the city. I have driven by there a few times to check if there is any access. Interesting enough there is an old driveway that was used to come in and out of the property however there is no curb cut. At this point, ODOT is asking if we want those two lots and there is no price however we have to determine if we want the two lots. You can look at the letter to determine if we want the property and if so, I can prepare legislation.

Mr. Webster stated that we have another notice regarding another Liquor License. The request is in the shopping center area. It is for Jet Lag LLC who owns the property. I need to determine if this is for Wing's Etc. If there is any action required it must be taken prior to January 23, 2023. Ms. Abdella asked the mayor if he knew how many liquors license, we have left in the City of Belpre? Mayor Lorentz stated that he thought this request was the last one. Ms. Abdella stated that there are no more licenses available.

President of Council Mr. Martin requested a voice vote from council in regards to the Liquor License for JetLag LLC. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting that they did not object.

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassady reported that a copy of the November 22, 2022 Treasurer's Report is before you this evening. There are some on the back table and is ready for approval. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Discussion followed regarding the \$400,000 revenue coming from the Federal Government and the \$200,000 expenses in addition to other funds to pay for the Force Main Project Fund 482 which is the Local Fiscal Recovery Fund. Mrs. Cassady stated that she would defer the question to the auditor. After the discussion Mrs. Nolan requested that she needed to get clarification on that. Mrs. Dennis withdrew her motion.

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

Mr. Martin assigned to Mr. Wallace's Committee the lots that Mr. Webster is referring to on Main Street.

Ms. Abdella gave a presentation on the Marietta/Belpre Health Board. On Wednesday December 21, 2022 she met with the leadership team of the health board for 3 hours and toured the facility. The meeting was very productive and she was able to gain insight into their operations. For a city with the population greater than 5,000 there are 15 services required by the Ohio Revised Code (ORC). At this time, Belpre only has 13 services because there are two that currently are not needed at this time: Campgrounds/Combined Parks and Private Water Systems. Services that we do have at this time is Board Structure, License and Inspections, Nuisance Inspections, Sewage Treatment Programs, Infectious Disease Surveillance, Immunizations, School Inspections, Services of the Nurse Practitioner, Children's Medical Handicap Program, and Mobile Home Park Inspections.

Their current budget is 1.5 million. They are providing all services to the cities involved and work diligently to find grants to fund the programs for the communities they service. There are more programs from the Public Health Service Programs that I did not cover.

Ms. Abdella asked them to start coming to council on a quarterly basis to provide an update. She did ask that they wait until the budgeting process was completed.

Ms. Abdella stated that she had reviewed some historical contracts from 2016-2017

and found the following resolutions existed:

- Resolution 22, (2016-2017) Authorizing the mayor to contract with a part-time sanitarian.

The agreement was \$30 per hour plus mileage at the federal rate. Ms. Abdella stated that by her calculations minus the mileage.  $1040(\text{part time hours}) \times \$30 = \$32,400.00$ .

- Resolution 25, 2016-2017: Contract with Marietta City Board of Health for Nursing Services

Services are to provide vaccines at City building, answer inquires and, follow up on inquires and make referrals.

Compensation

\$17,500 Nursing

\$1,200 Supervisory time

\$1,000 Mileage

Total \$19,700

Total spent on Health Department for two separate contracts that do not meet the requirements of Ohio Revised Code: \$52,100,00

Last year \$200,000 was received from the City of Marietta. Last year \$75,000 was received from the City of Belpre. To get the comprehensive programs that are required by law we have to consider if we don't want to fund it, we as a city are responsible for all of these items per Ohio Revised Code and how do we fund it. Ms. Abdella stated that if she was going to defund, she had to know first what she was defunding. I feel that for the number of services we are getting \$75,000 is a bargain

Council President Mr. Martin thanked Ms. Abdella for her report. Mr. Martin stated that he doesn't know how you could do those 15 services for less.

**Reports of Standing Committee**

Mr. Ferguson reported that his committee met prior to this evening's meeting at 5:30PM to discuss the final budget for 2023. I would like to call another committee meeting for January 23, 2023 at 6:30 to further our discussion on the 2023 budget.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee had no report. Mrs. Dennis asked that the appropriation for the fire department be removed from the Council Committee Referrals Awaiting Action. Mrs. Dennis stated that this has already been taken care of.

Ms. Abdella, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer Committee had no report.

Mr. Millhone Utilities Committee reported his committee met prior to this evening's meeting at 6:30 for the purpose of discussing plumbing inspection for the City of Belpre. Mr. Millhone stated that he was calling another meeting for January 23, 2023 at 5:30PM to further his discussion on the lack of residential plumbing inspections.

Mr. McClead Parks and Recreation Committee had no report.

Mr. Wallace Planning and Zoning had no report. Mr. Wallace called a committee meeting for January 23, 2023 at 5pm to discuss property on Main Street.

Mr. Wallace, Economic Development Committee had no report.

Mr. Null, Rules Committee had no report. Mr. Null stated that he has received legislation from Mr. Webster regarding our cat problem. I have gone through the legislation and may possibly have it added to the next meeting of council. I would also like to salute our Law Enforcement Officers.

**PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL - AGENDA items only** ((President of items.)) None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** ((President of City Council will recognize that there is or is not any Unfinished Business this evening)). None

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:**

Denise Hornbeck, owner of Belair Bistro came tonight because of the concern with the health department. I have worked with numerous health departments during my 40 years of being in the restaurant business. This health department is fair, they helped me through COVID. This health department genuinely cares. If she comes in and something needs fixed, she gives me time to get it repaired. She helps me to run my business. I'm against Athens Health Department. They kept me two weeks from opening my business because they wouldn't call me back to do my inspection. I truly am supportive of the Marietta/Belpre Health Department.

Mr. Ferguson asked if the tanks at the Star Fire Service Station had been removed. There was some controversy as to whether the tanks had been removed or not. Mariam DuVall stated that she had the property for sale and the tanks are still there. You may want to check with Jesse with the Port Authority regarding this issue. Mr. Webster stated that there is Brownfield money available to take care of the problem. Mayor Lorentz to research.

Bill Locke 726 Tuttle Street asked about 3 homes in Belpre that are to be torn down. What is the status of these homes? There is a home at 1305 Blennerhassett Avenue that is in sad shape that needs to be torn down. Mrs. Hoblitzell stated that it should be tore down soon. Mayor Lorentz wasn't sure of the hold up on one of them and the other one was in litigation and nothing would be done with that home until the litigation was complete.

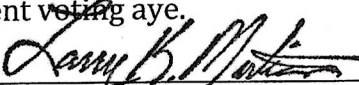
**ADJOURN:**

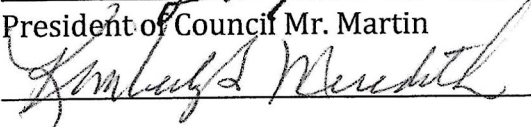
Mr. Null made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Null withdrew his motion.

President of Council Mr. Martin asked for a motion to go into Executive Session. Mr. Martin stated that there would be no further action taken once council returned from Executive Session. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:35PM to discuss real estate purchase and possible litigation. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Council resumed from Executive Session at 9:54PM

Motion was made to adjourn at 9:56pm. 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