

February 12, 2024

Council President Mr. Martin called the February 12, 2024 Belpre City Council meeting to order at 7:38pm. 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 22, 2024 minutes. Ms. Dennis made a motion to accept the January 22, 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:

The Economic Development committee and I attended the Port Authority meeting for an introduction.

The Administrative team will be working on a tabletop exercise for a safety incident to do some prepared readiness. We are asking the department leaders to do the NIMS 100 and 700 courses.

I have held Budget meetings with all departments to determine needs based on priority and current projects underway. The department heads were engaged and very happy to be involved in the process.

We met with Jeff Carr and Kathy Davis related to a few storm water issues in the community and we are looking at opportunities to resolve them.

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.

Then and Now Approvals

Buckeye Aquatics \$7,672.00 from September 2022 (This needs Approval)

EDG – Final 2023 for SWPP Plan and funding application \$2,372.54

USA BlueBook (Sewer) remainder of 2023 Invoices - \$2,186.03

CCMC Occupational health \$588.00 – Drug testing

Doug Lowe Construction Mini Hoe - \$842.40 – 11/30/23

Total: \$13, 660.97

I am requesting a committee meeting of the Parks and Recreation to be held at the pool, so that we all can see the current issues and discuss the estimated cost of repair and timeline.

Grants Applied:

H2Ohio – awarded 10K for water equipment

Critical Issues:

- MOU With AFMSE Union
- Furnace in Digester – needs replaced 46K

Project Updates:

Water Tower:

- Meeting with ADR to discuss project and timeline
- We applied for a Water Waste Water Infrastructure grant
- Received the permit today in my office. I am concerned about their estimated timeline.
- Quotes to remove trees and work will begin in near future and completed by March 15, 2024. We had three bidders come in and look at them. Trees are 4-6" in diameter.

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.

Other Info:

- Depot Park bathroom key deposit increased due to replacement cost.

Projects contracted in 2023 not completed:

Doug Lowe

- Skimmer Tubes \$17,703.46
- Replace 8" street water line \$47,044.50

Lewis Fence

- Blvd Sands Generator Fence \$6,700.00

EDG-

- Rate Analysis \$25,000
- Lead Line revised - \$40,000

Total outstanding contracts - \$136,447.96

Homeowners should be getting a letter from SOPEC regarding our Electric Aggregation. They locked in the rate at \$4.09 per MCF.

We have been having some problems with our Bulk Pickup. If residents have a large item needing disposed of, please follow the following steps and remember as part of your trash service you are allowed one free pick up per quarter. After that there is a \$15 charge. Contact Rumpke if you have the need. Any upholstered furniture must be wrapped in plastic for the safety of those handling. Copy of the instructions are on file in council chambers. Code Enforcement has been quite busy the last couple of weeks. There is property on Main Street that is set for demolition and should take place within the next few weeks. There are also properties that have a clear owner and the properties can be demolished however they have to be vacant for 90 days prior to it going on the list. We are hoping we can get rid of some of the properties we are having issues with. Several permits have been put out there and some have been followed up on and have been resolved.

We have revamped the zoning permit package. Hope this will be helpful for developers that are trying to do business within our city.

There was a complaint about a train being across the road for an extended period of time. We talked to them and they stated that there was an issue. Normally they only block for no longer then fifteen minutes.

Received a call today that the city is collecting cats. Please be advised that this rumor is not true. Save the Kitty may be in town working with the cats.

Safety-Service Director has not yet been appointed.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan announced that the President of Council, Mr. Martin reviewed and signed December 2023 Bank Reconciliation Monday, January 29, 2024.

Every three to four years (last one was Dec. 2017), we receive a Real Estate Assessment Refund from the County. Today, February 5, 2024

we received \$10,178.20 from 2022 collections. These monies will go into the General Fund.

Wednesday, February 7, 2024 we received the \$15,000.00 SOPEC check which was a community grant for our pool pump and motor.

Our Go Live Date with Software Solutions is set for April 8.

City Law Director had no report.

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassady stated that each member of council should have received an amended June 2023 Treasurer's Report with explanation along with Year to Date. The Amendment explanation is as follows: A Journal Entry was processed as normal in June per our software to move the police cruiser money to pay IT expenses within fund 301. Found out it had to be done a different way, the change was made effective December 31, 2023. This "only" changed June and YTD Revenue and Expense. The YTD Ending Balance did not change. Mrs. Cassady stated that the changes needed to be approved by council. Discussion followed regarding no change to the Permissive Tax by Mr. Ferguson. If Fund 301 was changed why didn't the Permissive Tax change. Mrs. Nolan stated that there wasn't anything to change. It was Mr. Ferguson's suggestion to wait an approve at the next meeting so everyone had time to review the reports. Council President stated that we would hold until the next meeting.

Communication and Petitions:

President of Council Mr. Martin assigned to Mr. Locke's Streets.

Sidewalks & Storm Sewer Committee **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF BELPRE TO SIGN A CONTRACT FOR THE CITY OF BELPRE TO CONTRACT WITH WASHINGTON SOIL, AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT TO SUPPLY TECHNICAL STORM WATER MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE FOR THE CITY OF BELPRE.**

At this time, Mr. Godfrey addressed a Letter of Support regarding Brownfield Remediation Program on the Belpre Medical Campus. Letter of support of MHS partnership with the Washington County Commissioners and the Southeastern Ohio Port Authority as they pursue funding through the Brownfield Remediation Program to

support the development of a women and children's hospital on the Belpre Medical Campus. MHS has partnered with Akron Children's Hospital to construct and operate a three-story, approximately 54,000 SF facility on its Belpre campus that will house Akron Children's pediatric practices, other pediatric services, and MHS's obstetrics practices.

The Belpre medical campus project will truly be transformative for the region as nothing like it exists within a 2-hour drive. MHS will be demolishing a blighted former manufacturing facility to make room for the new hospital which will contribute to the beautification of the city's primary economic hub. The addition of new jobs and increased tax revenue will have a direct, measurable impact on the economic vitality of Belpre and the surrounding area.

Support from the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) for site remediation efforts will build on the \$30M committed to the project by the State of Ohio, as well as the \$40M committed by Akron Children's. Securing funding from the ODOD will provide an important enhancement to the financial performance of the project. On behalf of the City of Belpre, we urge you to support this application to the greatest degree possible.

President of Council Mr. Martin asked for a voice vote on the Letter of Support. Mr. Godfrey made the motion on the voice vote. The roll was called with all members of council present voting aye.

Reports of Standing Committee

Mr. Ferguson Finance/Audit Committee reported that the Finance/Audit Committee met prior to this evening's meeting at 6:30 pm to discuss Manpower and the 2024 Budget. There will be further discussion by the Finance/Audit Committee on February 19, 2024 at 6:00 pm. Topics to be discussed will be Manpower, 2024 Budget and the amended Treasurer's Report for June 2023 and the YTD 2023.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee reported that she attended the meeting at the fire department where they voted to add a new member to their roster. Once they get the roster updated, I will request a copy to

have approved by council. Also, Erica Campbell is with us this evening to present her EMS report. There were 133 calls of which there were 114 transported, 18 refusals and 1 death in the field. The average response time was 6 minutes 45 seconds. 490 is being taken out of service as it is leaking transmission fluid more than in the beginning. 491 is coming out of the shop. It was blowing side scene lights due to a faulty module behind the seat. Additional work is needed in order to avoid the bulbs from being blown apart literally or fully fixing the module. Agency sent 4 people to be CPR instructor certified. Moving forward they will be offering community classes and group classes. We have purchased 1 set of training manikins that will be used for our class.

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

On January 23, 2024 @ 5:30 p.m. I attended the Utilities Committee meeting called by 4th Ward Councilman John Ambrozy. I am a member of this committee per John's report.

Also, the committee I chair (Streets, Sidewalks, & Storm Sewer) met on January 23, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss a possible MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the City of Marietta, & Washington County Commissioners. We are waiting on further information regarding the sewer line going north out of Belpre (maybe).

On January 30, 2024 John Ambrozy and I met with Street Supervisor Chris Barringer concerning Belpre's May Emergency Storm Water Plans. These plans cover many different departments, such as the Police Department, Fire and EMS Departments and Street, Water & Storm Sewer Departments. Our storm water sewers include 500+ street storm sewers, many needing repaired/replacement. Chris works closely with our Local Storm Water Coordinator in Marietta Kathy Davis in keeping our reporting to the EPA inline with their recommendations. This is just another example of the continuing needs our local infrastructure have.

Also, I have been consulting with the mayor on our sidewalk needs, many that have been brought to our attention by citizens.

I attended a meeting January 30, 2024 hosted by Buckeye Hills Regional Council for the Ohio Department of Transportation. The title of this seminar was "Connecting Mobility & Growth Listening Session". There were many different Regional Transportation Entities represented.

On February 5, 2024 at 6:00 pm I attended the Finance/Audit Committee meeting.

On February 6, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. I attended our Belpre Fire Department meeting along with Lyndsay.

On February 8, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. I attended John Ambrozy's Utilities Committee meeting.

If you have been out and about town you should have noticed many of our street signs (Stop and others) have been repaired/changed. Thanks to Chris and his crew for their efforts and for continuing street pothole patching which is a never-ending project.

Truck Routing continues to be researched. I have contacted our Local ODOT office in Marietta to see what restrictions the State might have on these plans. Also, I consulted the Street Department Supervisor Chris Barringer and police chief for their input/suggestions. I believe we can produce a plan to keep our streets from unneeded heavy truck traffic as well as making it easier for these trucks to make deliveries.

At this time, I would like to call a Street, Sidewalks & Storm Sewer Committee meeting for February 19, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss heavy truck routing and signage and also the Washington Soil and Water Conservation District to supply technical Storm Water Management Assistance for the City of Belpre.

Mr. Ambrozy Utilities Committee stated that since our last council meeting, we have had two committee meetings. One was held on January 23, 2024 to discuss the Water Tank Projects. Some of the key work will begin very soon. On February 8th, 2024 we discussed the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project with Jeff Carr in attendance giving

a slide presentation. We also discussed the water and sewer rates. Penne Riffle and I met with Jeff to update and better organize the water and sewer regulations.

Mr. Seebaugh Parks and Recreation Committee had no report. Mr. Seebaugh called a Parks and Recreation Committee meeting for February 16, 2024 at noon at the pool. The cover will be off of the pool so we can take a look and see what the needs are of the pool.

Mr. Godfrey Planning and Zoning /Economic Development committee reported that there are a lot of things in motion for him. Tonight, I would like to bring up side by sides. With Parkersburg and the County allowing them to be inside the city limits I would like to see what I need to do to get the ball rolling. President of Council Mr. Martin stated that there will be a future assignment on that once I speak with the mayor.

Ms. Riffle Rules Committee apologized for canceling her last committee meeting as she was ill. Ms. Riffle called another committee meeting for Tuesday, February 20th, 2024 at 6 p.m. to discuss a Plan for City Official Transition and the Moratorium Substance Abuse.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL – AGENDA items only:

none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

PERSON APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Mary Aquino 119 Elm Street, Belpre addressed council regarding cars parked on city streets that have not being moved for quite a while. Marietta has an ordinance in place that cars must be moved 75 feet every three days. Mr. Locke to look at the legislation and address. She would like to see Belpre put an ordinance in place to take care of the issue.

Kathy O'Donnel #3 Bay Pointe Drive, Belpre addressed council regarding hanging baskets on AEP Poles in our park. An upcoming meeting will be held on February 14, 2024 at 10 a.m. to explain some of our issues. Darien Lorentz has been invited to attend. At a later date we will meet with a Hydrologist from the EPA to discuss our issues in our parks and what we can do to fix the issues. The presentation will be public so that we will all be on the same page.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:24 p.m. for the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official, or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual. President of Council Mr. Martin stated that there would be no further action come before this council this evening. Once we resume from Executive Session we will go directly to Adjournment. The roll was called with all members of council present voting aye.

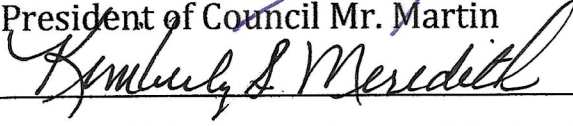
Council resumed from Executive Session at 10:07 p.m.

ADJOURN:

A motion to adjourn at 10:08 pm. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.



President of Council Mr. Martin



Clerk of Belpre City Council Kimberly Meredith