

March 25, 2024

Council President Mr. Martin called the March 25, 2024 Belpre City Council meeting to order at 7:34 pm. The roll was called with the following members present: Mr. Ambrozy, Mrs. Dennis, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Godfrey, Mr. Locke, and Mr. Seebaugh present. Also, present were Mayor Abdella, City Auditor Mrs. Nolan, City Law Director Mr. Webster, and Treasurer Mrs. Cassady. Absent from the March 25, 2024 meeting was Council person Ms. Riffle 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.

Council President 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.

Council President Mr. Martin asked for a motion for the March 11, 2024 minutes. Mr. Locke made a motion to accept the March 11, 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:

- Please complete your Ohio Ethics form if you have not at this time.

- Please provide Lisa an email address where you would like your pay stub to go starting in April. We will not be printing stubs any longer.
- We will be taking applications for summer mowing help. This person will work the same hours as the street department.
- RCAP Services MOU for Free services
- Beverly Chamber Dinner Service Awards Selection

Police Department

- The Police Chief and myself have met with the County commissioners and members of the Marietta Police and Fire to discuss Centralized 911. The chief and I are working to determine the effects on the city if we join with the county and the effects of standalone.

Project Updates:

Water Rate Analysis:

- Thursday a team will be out canvassing the city looking at commercial businesses in order to complete an equivalent residential unit study for our utility planning.

WATER TOWER:

- This project has hit a few snags and is moving slower than anticipated after completing the loan documents. The Council will be required to take some action for this project to move forward after bidding.

Lead Service Lines – We are almost ready to go live with the community website for the upload of consumer information. Here is a sample of what they will see as they log in.

Other Info:

- Please assign the Rockland Ave paving project to Council for consideration.

Projects Contracted in 2023 not completed:

Doug Lowe

- Replace 8" street water line \$47,044.50 – in process

Lewis Fence

- Blvd Sands Generator Fence \$6,700.00 – in process

EDG:

Rate Analysis \$25,000

Lead Line revised - \$40,000

Watermain extensions \$100,400

ADR – Water Tank – 5,1 million

The City of Belpre received the Tree City USA designation again for 2023. This makes the City of Belpre receiving the award 27 years in a row. The Awards will be April 18, 2024 at Vinton Furnace Experimental Furnace.

Events:

- Girl Scouts Orchard planting on Boulevard Drive will be held April 6 at 10am. We will be doing the Arbor Day celebration at this time. If any one would like to assist with the tree planting, we would welcome the help. The younger girls will be at Rockland Church doing projects.
- The Mid-Ohio Valley Mayors Dinner will be April 10th at 6pm at the North Bend Lodge if anyone would like to attend with me, I will be happy to have you. Just let me know so I can make the appropriate reservations.

Terry Gulligan, General Manager of Parkersburg Bridge Partner Memorial Bridge appeared before council informing council and the Citizens of Belpre about the transponders and how they work. Individuals crossing the bridge without transponders should contact our office at 681-381-7634 or visit our office at 2311 Ohio Avenue, Suite E, Parkersburg, WV to open an account. Terry cleared up some misinformation about vehicle size and the charges for using the bridge. There are two ways to pay: Pay as you go or pay \$30 a month unlimited. Anyone creating an account will be entered into a \$500 Give Away. There is a lot of information to absorb so if anyone has any

questions, please see me to discuss. Also if anyone has any questions about billing invoices they have received please contact our office.

Roger Wright, County Engineer is also here with us tonight regarding our Rockland Paving Project. Previous administration had attended WWW meeting regarding funding for this project as they informed the County Commissions that Rockland Avenue was in need of paving. Roger provided paving plans for the project. The County will bid the project. Mr. Webster stated that council would have to pass a MOU allowing the mayor to sign for the project.

Safety-Service Director has not yet been appointed.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan reported that Mayor Abdella, Lisa Rankin, and myself met for multiple Zoom meetings over the past week regarding timelines with our new software. It was decided Friday, March 22, 2024 that we would go live as planned with the accounting portion of the software which is April 8. During the meetings, it was decided we needed additional training on the Utility Billing portion. We needed time to educate the community on the use of the product, as well as obtaining Legislation for the Invoice Cloud contract. It was determined that our GO Live date with Invoice Cloud for the Utility billing will be October 7, 2024. This will need assigned to the Finance Committee so we can have everything in place within the next 60-90 days.

Upon the Final 2024 Budget's third reading and approval, I am requesting a Certified copy for filing to the county.

The February 2024 Utility Adjustment Report was emailed to Council Thursday, March 21, 2024, and needs Councils approval.

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

Mayor Abdella explained why October for Utility Billing. It is going to take us three readings for passing which will take us to May. It will then take 60-90 days for the transfers and getting notification to all customers.

City Law Director Mr. Webster asked that Bob Rauch and Janet Gilbert to please stand and be recognized for their efforts for the Planning Commission in regards to issues on potential zoning change. The third member of the Planning Commission is Dana Fouss who was not present.

I was late coming to the first committee meeting this evening as I was at the Marietta City Council meeting of the whole in regards to their budgetary issues for next year. One of the things being discussed is there is an ongoing discussion on the merger of the Marietta/Belpre Health Department. It may or may not result in the merger. If you read something in the paper in regards to the Marietta/Belpre Health Department and the County this is what it is all about. Mr. Webster stated that he was there because it is a joint effort between Marietta and Belpre. There may be changes in the services.

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassady stated that council and the administration has been emailed copies of the February Treasurers Report with copies on the back wall. The Treasurers Report will need to be approved by council. Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the February Treasurers Report as presented. A vote was taken with all members of Council present voting aye.

Communication and Petitions:

Council President Mr. Martin assigned the following to committee **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING BELPRE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTION 939.08 ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT OF RATES** to Rules Committee. Mr. Martin assigned to Mr. Godfrey.

Council President Mr. Martin assigned the tower to the Utilities Committee, Mr. Ambrozy Chairman.

Reports of Standing Committee

Mr. Ferguson Finance/Audit Committee reported that his committee met prior to this evenings meeting to discuss finances for the city projects. I would like to call a Finance/Audit Committee meeting for April 2nd at 4:30pm for the purpose of reviewing invoice cloud, pricing and educate the community on how to use the website and to also

discuss the Ohio House Bill 33. House Bill is full of all kinds of stuff per Mayor Abdella.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee reported that Police and Fire has been very chilled. We will be getting together to talk about things for the upcoming year. I attended the Ribbon Cutting for the Flower Daddy. A lot of fun and the attendance was great.

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

My committee met tonight at 7:00 PM to discuss street parking and routing of trucks thru the city.

Amendments to Ordinance 351.14 were discussed. This is a 72-hour street parking. New language will be added to the ordinance. Legislation will be drawn up for consideration.

Also, we discussed the routing of heavy trucks. We are attempting to keep them off our new asphalt on Putnam Howe and to alleviate any potential problems in other high traffic areas in Belpre.

Mr. Ambrozy Utilities Committee stated that the mayor talked about canvassing businesses in our community Thursday. This is very important for our water and sewer. I also attended the ribbon cutting of the Flower Daddy.

Mr. Seebaugh Parks and Recreation Committee reported that his committee meeting came to order at 6:00pm in the council chambers on 3/13/24. The purpose of meeting was to discuss pool future. Committee chair reviewed a "facts and recap" from previous meeting held at the pool. After reviewing, the committee chair presented some ideas for remedies and opened floor for discussion.

Aside from obvious leak, city would need the budgeted 91k in funds to operate pool as well as an additional 47k to function pool this season. Finance chair Dave Ferguson had 2024 budget for review and was unable to find a source to pull funds from for the additional 47K.

Several ideas were presented and listed below:

*Penne R. suggested selling “pieces of the pool” to businesses and communities as a fundraiser.

*John A. liked idea of fact finding to see what the community wants.

*Nate G. suggested finding a way to fix attendance. Possibly setting a hardline on low attendance number by a certain time to close for the day.

*Rick S. committee chair asked if ARPA dollars could be used. However, those dollars will most likely be used for infrastructure fixes when new water tower goes online.

*Mayor Abdella reported that her 501c-3 from previous pool project is still active and had some remaining dollars in it. This can be used as a fund once a decision is made on pool project.

General consensus from Park and Recs Committee is to leave the pool closed for the 2024 season. We will begin a targeted survey approach to community to gauge their wishes. The Parks and Recs committee will plan and schedule townhalls for citizens in the near future to continue discussion for opening in the 2025 season. Committee meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm.

*Email was sent to Mayor Abdella with the committee recommendation to not open the pool on the day following the meeting.

**Attached is the agenda used at the meeting, attendance numbers from 2023, and quotes for maintenance and repairs.

Facts and Recap-

*Large leak causes constant refilling which results in increased chemicals purchased,

*Also results in consistent cold water that’s unappealing,

*Unknown damage under the hollow spot in slide area,

*Outdated pumps would require replacement rather than repair,

*Health code requirements in concession stand required for opening,

*Attendance for pool is low, lack of upgrades? Newer area pools? Cheap EZ Set Pools?

*Appropriate repairs could reach up too but not limited to 300K

Mr. Godfrey Planning and Zoning /Economic Development committee had no report. Mr. Godfrey made a motion to add to tonight's agenda for first reading **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING BELPRE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTION 939.08 ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT OF RATES**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Ms. Riffle Rules Committee was absent. No report was given in her absence.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL – AGENDA items only:

none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for third reading **AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING CALENDAR YEAR 2024 ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS as amended**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

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

Mr. Locke brought before council for third reading **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**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Locke moved this be **Resolution #2, 2024-2025** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Godfrey brought before council for third reading **AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A SIX-MONTH MORATORIUM ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INPATIENT OR OUTPATIENT ADDICTION FACILITIES, INCLUDING SOBER LIVING HOMES AND RECOVERY HOMES, WITHIN THE CITY OF BELPRE.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Godfrey moved this be **Ordinance #2, 2024-2025** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for third reading **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE LABOR CONTRACT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF BELPRE AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES LOCAL 3507, OHIO COUNCIL 8; AFL-CIO.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson moved this be **Ordinance #3, 2024-2025** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for second reading **AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AUTHORIZED MANPOWER FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2024.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Godfrey brought before council for first reading **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING BELPRE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTION 939.08 ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT OF RATES.** Discussion followed. This legislation changes from Safety-Service Director to Auditor and states that the mayor has the authority to change the Water and Sewer rates by 4% on May 1, 2024. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Godfrey moved to suspend the rule of council on three different days to allow for the second and third readings of **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING BELPRE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTION 939.08 ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT OF RATES**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Godfrey brought before council for the second and third readings **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING BELPRE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTION 939.08 ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT OF RATES**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Godfrey moved this be **Ordinance #4, 2024-2025** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

PERSON APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

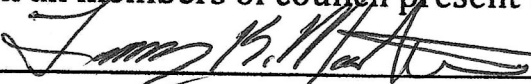
Jesse Wonycott, Main Street, Belpre stated that 147.05 regarding fire chief has not been updated since 2013. Also 901.01, clause stating we have a revitalization in the City of Belpre. I would like to see council research to see how you can obtain grants. I would like to see funding put in legislation so we know what fund the money is coming from to pay for the project.

Chief Stump reminded council, administration and Citizens of Belpre about the emergency preparedness meeting Thursday night in council chambers for the public.

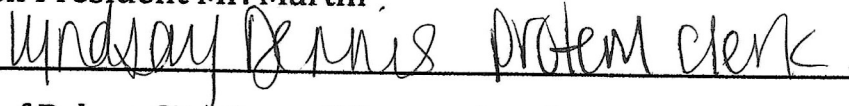
Mayor Abdella stated that the legislation you have regarding water and sewer rates are to increase by 4% May 1, 2024.

ADJOURN:

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to adjourn at 8:39 pm. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.



Council President Mr. Martin



Lyndsay Dennis Protem Clerk

Clerk of Belpre City Council Protem Lyndsay Dennis