

March 13, 2023

Council President Mr. Martin called the March 13, 2023 Belpre City Council meeting to order at 7:39 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, and Clerk of Council Mrs. Meredith. Absent from the March 13, 2023 meeting was Mrs. Cassady.

Council President Mr. Martin asked that everyone please rise for the Prayer and remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance. President of Council Mr. Martin 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 for the minutes.

President of Council Mr. Martin asked for a motion to accept the minutes of February 27, 2023 as presented. Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the minutes of February 27, 2023 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 announced that since our last meeting the Safety-Service Director and I met with the Solid Waste Authority and approved the policies for our region until 2025. Mr. Webster has the resolution for council approval coming soon.

Wings ETC. opened on Monday the 6th with a soft opening by invitation. On Tuesday the grand opening with much success by the looks of the parking lot.

As of today, I have no news on the short sale of the property on Hill Street. We are way off on the appraisal and our offer.

Ms. Hoblitzell and I met with the Port Authority and Commissioners to discuss the sewer line going north to Blue Knob Road. The Congressional Funding Project documents need to be in by March 15th at 5PM.

At this time, Mayor Lorentz informed council that Jesse Rauch was with us this evening from the Southeastern Ohio Port Authority to address council.

Jesse Rauch Executive Director of the Southeastern Ohio Port Authority stated as the mayor alluded to, we are up to a little bit of a time crunch. At this point thankfully we don't have to make a lot of operational decisions. Tonight we are agreeing with the City of Belpre and partnering up with the Port Authority and the County Commissioners to apply for this funding. If we are awarded the funding, we will then have a lot of operational decisions to make. There is no sense in going through the exercise before we know if we get the money. Once we know whether we get the money we will have time to put together an operational plan. This is not a new project for anyone who is not aware of it. This all was explored around the 2013-2014 timeframe. It was a very costly project that put a lot of cost on the businesses. At that time, we really weren't thinking about growth and expansions. We were just trying to solve one problem at a time. We have about 500 acres of prime developed real estate that could be served by the sewer extension of Blue Knob Road including a parcel that was embedded by West Virginia. It is important to the long-term vision of the county. Congressman Bill Johnson stated that this is a priority for his office. We are trying to take Congressman Bill Johnson at his word and meet him half way and get the application in. Discussion followed. Mr. Webster stated that all members of council should have received a copy **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO APPLY FOR A COMMUNITY FUNDING PROGRAM GRANT (CFP FUNDING).**

April 1st is the Easter Parade in Parkersburg as well as the Lip Sync Battle at the Actors Guild. My Daughter and I are one of the contestants so please go out and cast a vote for us. We have chosen the Alzheimer's association to be our charity should we win.

Tonight, we have the pleasure of swearing in a new Police Officer. Dakota Walters has passed the Civil Service Test and comes highly recommended. Our officers believe he will be a great asset to our department.

Mayor Lorentz swore in Dakota Walters as our new police officer while Chief Stump stood by.

Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzell reported that officers were elected for the City of Belpre EMS, Inc. We have held three meetings now and are getting very close to start up. We are working on completing the bylaws and the agreement between the city and the City of Belpre EMS Inc. Our goal is to be operational by April 1.

Toni Tiano is applying for a supply grant for emergency medical supplies for our emergency medical services. She is also applying for a United Way grant for the senior center.

I received an inquiry about the dirt being placed beside Fruth Pharmacy. York Paving needed a place to get rid of dirt, so they took it to the site beside Fruth Pharmacy. The streets foreman smoothed out the dirt. There was no invoice from York Paving for

this and no payment given to York Paving for the dirt. Please feel free to call Ron with York Paving to verify any of this information.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan reported that in January we received a settlement of \$903.09 from OneOhio Opioid.

We are in the process of gathering preliminary work requested by Julian & Grube for the 2022 Audit.

City Law Director Mr. Webster stated that we received legislation for the Manpower Ordinance. Hopefully it can be added to the next meeting of council.

I also passed around legislation for the feral cat issues. This was the first one I drafted and there is some difference in the other one I drafted.

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassady was absent. Mrs. Nolan reported that the January 2023 Treasurers Report is on the back table and needs council approval. Ms. Abdella made a motion to accept the Treasurers 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 legislation to Ms. Abdella's committee: **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO APPLY FOR A COMMUNITY FUNDING PROGRAM GRANT (CFP FUNDING).**

Mrs. Meredith addressed council regarding a lost Ordinance Book that has the original signed legislation in it. The book is missing from my office and I would appreciate everyone looking in there office to see if they could possibly have it. The Ordinance Book is from 1998-1999. Please look in your desk, office, etc. Clerk described the book. Ms. Abdella asked if it wouldn't be better if we start having duplicate copies so they can be locked up. Mr. Webster stated that we have a complete set in our office. President of Council thought we should change the security on the office.

Reports of Standing Committee

Mr. Ferguson reported that his committee met prior to this evening's meeting at 7:25PM to review the details on the 2023 budget.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee had no report. Mrs. Dennis announced that on Thursday there would be a presentation at Artsbridge for both business owners and non-profit organizations. The presentation would be given by Chief Stump on making time for office safety. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Ms. Abdella, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer Committee had no report. Ms. Abdella stated that she would like to by-pass committee and add to tonight's agenda for first reading **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO APPLY FOR A COMMUNITY FUNDING PROGRAM GRANT (CFP FUNDING)**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Millhone Utilities Committee reported that prior to this evening's meeting at 6:30PM his committee met to discuss the sprinkler system being mandated. This has to do with the back flow valve. There was a large group in attendance. Mr. Millhone called another committee meeting for March 27, 2023 at 6:30PM to continue the discussion.

Mr. McClead Parks and Recreation Committee had no report.

Mr. Wallace Planning and Zoning Committee had no report

Mr. Wallace, Economic Development Committee had no report.

Mr. Null, Rules Committee announced that he would like to make a motion to add to tonight's agenda **A RESOLUTION FOR THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH (SAVE A KITTY)FOR SPAYING AND NEUTERING FERAL CATS IN THE CITY OF BELPRE**. It needs some fine tuning however we need to get it on the agenda as there will be a lot of kittens born soon. Discussion followed. Ms. Abdella asked if there has been an agreement negotiated. According to Mr. Webster he was not aware of any negotiation. Ms. Abdella also stated that the dollar amount is vacant. Ms Abdella asked if Ms. Hoblitzell was responsible for negotiating the contract? Ms. Abdella stated that she would like to have seen the agreement before voting on it. Mr. Webster stated that his legal problem is that in Section III we have two blank areas on the legislation. Also, there is an issue with Section II. The resolution is incomplete and must be filled in before we can vote on for first reading. We can put something in there and amend later. Mr. Webster stated that he needed to know if there is going to be an agreement and what the dollar amount is. Mr. Null decided to resend the legislation after having a meeting on Tuesday with Mr. Webster.

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)).

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for second reading **AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING CALENDAR YEAR 2023 APPROPRIATIONS**.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to amend Exhibit A of the legislation to match the changes. We changed three things on the exhibit. One was to match \$4,800 being transferred from the General Fund to another fund. There was \$200 difference. We took out two trucks one from the sewer department capital fund and one out of the water department capital fund to help with the budget. Discussion also followed on the \$75,000 for the health department. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for second reading **AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING CALENDAR YEAR 2023 APPROPRIATIONS** as amended. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Abdella brought before council for first reading **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO APPLY FOR A COMMUNITY FUNDING PROGRAM GRANT (CFP FUNDING)**. Discussion followed with a point of clarification. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Ms. Abdella moved to suspend the rule of council on three different days to allow for the second and third readings of **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO APPLY FOR A COMMUNITY FUNDING PROGRAM GRANT (CFP FUNDING)**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Ms. Abdella brought before council for second and third reading **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO APPLY FOR A COMMUNITY FUNDING PROGRAM GRANT (CFP FUNDING)**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Ms. Abdella moved this be Resolution #25, 2022-2023 and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL: None

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to excuse Mr. McClead from the February 27th, 2023 council meeting. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Drake 713 Oak Tree Lane, Belpre asked Mr. Millhone if he was familiar with the Ohio Administrative Code and the Ohio Revised Code regarding back flow for irrigation. Mrs. Drake stated that if folks don't comply with the code their water can be turned off.

Mr. Ferguson called a Finance/Audit Committee meeting for Monday, March 27th, 2023 at 6:15pm for the purpose of discussing the Manpower Ordinance.

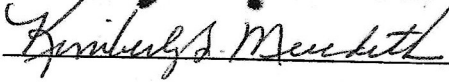
Ms. Abdella informed council that she will be absent from the next meeting as she will be out of town.

ADJOURN:

Ms. Abdella made a motion to adjourn at 8:25PM. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.



President of Council Mr. Martin



Clerk of Belpre City Council Kimberly Meredith