

March 27, 2023

Council President Mr. Martin called the March 27, 2023 Belpre City Council meeting to order at 7:32 PM. The roll was called with the following members present: Mrs. Dennis, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. McClead, Mr. Millhone, Mr. Null, and Mr. Wallace present. Also present were Mayor Lorentz, City Auditor Mrs. Nolan, City Law Director Mr. Webster, and Clerk of Council Mrs. Meredith. Absent from the March 27, 2023 meeting was Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzell, Treasurer Mrs. Cassady and Councilperson Ms. Abdella.

Council President Mr. Martin asked that everyone 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 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 March 13, 2023 as presented. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to accept the minutes of March 13, 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 on March 15th I received a copy of the signed CFP Agreement we approved earlier this month. Now we wait and see if Belpre is successful.

At our last meeting the statement was made that our restaurants paid some \$2,600 a year for their health license. I checked with our board, and it is actually \$639 per year for our three largest restaurants. Not even Kroger pays \$2,600 for theirs. This fee also covers the two required inspections per year.

The Service Director, Police Chief and I met with Marietta leadership to discuss our stand on a county wide 9-1-1 for Washington County.

The Service Director and I met at Buckeye Hills to decide our Procured planner for the Appalachia Community Grant Program. Hopefully we can compete for the recreational portion of this process.

On Thursday Chief Stump along with myself were the judges for a Chili Cookoff at the Sr. Center. The Chief is really having his day filled with everyone wanting him to either speak or make appearances around town. This day he really took one for the team! There were 16 entrees.

Three new Opioid Settlements agreements have been signed and returned. I am hopeful Belpre will receive a bit of the monies from the suits.

March 24th The Service Director and I met with the new Bridge Partners General Manager. The opening is still scheduled for late August or September 1. Pre-registration for your pass is now available on-line.

The Belpre Veterans have asked for council to allow them to grow the memorial in Howe's Grove Park should the need arise. I believe we should meet with them and decide where and how much room will be allowed. We are on the search for the original resolution.

This past Sunday was the Wood County Society Telethon. Our Chamber Director Karen Waller and the City of Belpre really came out strong for this effort. Karen didn't have a chance to look up her entire hour. Hopefully all of you are as proud of our residents and city as I am. Good job for a good cause.

Our street and water crews did a very good job this weekend clearing the roadways of trees and limbs. The water crew had numerous calls for lift stations tripping during the power outages.

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

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan reported Julian & Grube Auditors were on site Tuesday, March 21 for two hours reviewing purchase documents as part of their preparation for the Audit.

We had a Zoom meeting with SSI on Tuesday March 14 going over fund items, and again on the 16th reviewing the processes for moving data.

The February Utility Adjustment report is on the back table and needs Councils approval.

Mrs. Dennis made a motion to accept the Utility Adjustment Report for February 2023 as presented. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

City Law Director Mr. Webster announced that one of the council folks would ask for an Executive Session this evening for possible litigation. The Executive Session would be called at the end of the meeting.

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassady was absent. Mrs. Nolan reported that the February 2023 Treasurers Report is on the back table and needs council approval. Mrs. Dennis 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: None

President of Council Mr. Martin assigned to the Streets, Sidewalks & Storm Sewer the Salt Water Contract.

President of Council Mr. Martin assigned to the Police and Fire Committee the EMS Contract.

Reports of Standing Committee

Mr. Ferguson explained the importance of the salt contract and in the absence of Ms. Abdella called a Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer Committee meeting for Wednesday March 29, 2023 at 7:00 PM. Mr. Null stated that he might have a hard time being here.

Mr. Ferguson reported that his committee met prior to this evening's meeting at 6:15 PM to discuss the Manpower Ordinance for 2023. There was a suggestion made by a member of council to review the annual salaries for the Mayor, Safety-Service Director and Law Director and also review the 2021 hourly salaries. The committee agreed to have the first reading tonight. I will be calling an Executive Session at the end of the regular meeting.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee thanked the Police Chief for coming across the bridge to do a presentation at Artsbridge. He spoke to our non-profit about their lead in safety in and out of the office. Mrs. Dennis also mentioned that she had a committee meeting this evening at 5:45 PM to discuss the agreement between City of Belpre and City of Belpre EMS, Inc. I would like to call a committee meeting April 3, 2023 at 5:15 PM and I would like to request a Special Session of Council at 5:30 PM.

Chief Stump gave an update on dispatch and EMS. There is a lot of EMS calls being taken. There is a lot of time we don't have EMS coverage and the officers are going to see what is going on and being on the scene to help. I just wanted you all to see my view point on the importance of getting this up and running.

Ms. Abdella, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer Committee was absent. No report was given in her absence.

Mr. Millhone Utilities Committee reported that prior to this evening's meeting at 6:30PM his committee met to discuss the back flow valve on our sprinkler systems.

There was a large group in attendance. We still have many unanswered questions. I have 28 signed letters with me tonight regarding the topic. Please see the letter below with names and addresses of those who signed.

To whom this may concern:

In regard to the letter from the City of Belpre dated, February 10, 2023.

I would like to voice my concerns about this mandate.

1. Are there any municipal, city, county, or state codes or regulations that require the installation of the backflow device in our existing sprinkler systems?
2. If so, what and where can they be found?
3. And just importantly, did this mandate go before our City Council for discussion, approval, or disapproval?
4. Why weren't there any public information meetings prior to making this mandate? This letter states protection from ON SITE hazards. What hazards?
5. By definition, an irrigation system is above ground: a sprinkler system is below ground with sprinkler heads at surface level.
6. Are you mandating backflow protection on our sprinkler system or on an irrigation system?

Thank you for addressing my concerns:

Franklin Dotson 1392 Boulevard Drive, Belpre, Ohio 45714

Constance Warren Batten & James C. Batten 3 Shell Circle, Belpre, Ohio 45714

Gregory & Pamela Waybright 2 Coral Circle, Belpre, Ohio 45714

Michael J Marks & Kay L. Marks 1391 Boulevard Drive, Belpre, Ohio 45714

Adam Grossnickle 1394 Boulevard Drive, Belpre, Ohio 45714

Donald Dilliner 1395 Boulevard Drive, Belpre, Ohio 45714

Diana Skinner 1424 Boulevard Drive, Belpre, Ohio 45714

Harry G. Vavra Jr. 1427 Boulevard Drive, Belpre, Ohio 45714

Bettie Kesterson 1 Sawgrass Circle, Belpre, Ohio 45714

Paul & Sharon Snyder 6 Coral Circle, Belpre, Ohio 45714

Tom Callihan 745 Ruble Avenue, Belpre, Ohio 45714

Linda Davis 3 Adobe Circle, Belpre, Ohio 45714

Noel E. Keesor 1397 Boulevard Drive, Belpre, Ohio 45714

Robert & Dottie Radabaugh 1408 Boulevard Drive, Belpre, Ohio 45714

Donald S. Thomas 1412 Boulevard Drive, Belpre, Ohio 45714

Ricky E. Barton 1393 Boulevard Drive, Belpre, Ohio 45714

Joe Johnston 1398 Boulevard Drive, Belpre, Ohio 45714

Marcia Metz 1396 Boulevard Drive, Belpre, Ohio 45714

Patricia Masters 1421 Boulevard Drive, Belpre, Ohio 45714

Gary Giannamore 5 Coral Circle, Belpre, Ohio 45714

Mark Binegar 1411 Boulevard Drive, Belpre, Ohio 45714

Brandon & Jaime Brown 1425 Boulevard Drive, Belpre, Ohio 45714

Gerald & Betty Handschumaker 1415 Boulevard Drive, Belpre, Ohio 45714

Margaret Stover 1417 Boulevard Drive, Belpre, Ohio 45714

Joyce Fox 1419 Boulevard Drive, Belpre, Ohio 45714

Stanley Kelley 1405 Boulevard Drive, Belpre, Ohio 45714

Peggy Heater 4 Adobe Circle, Belpre, Ohio 45714

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. Wallace recognized the Street Department for a job well done after a recent wind storm that we had. My hat goes off to them.

Mr. Null, Rules Committee had no report. Mr. Null called a Rules Committee meeting for April 10, 2023 at 7PM for the purpose of discussing Feral Cats.

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 third reading **AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING CALENDAR YEAR 2023 APPROPRIATIONS**. Discussion followed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson moved this be Ordinance #9, 2022-2023 and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan requested a certified copy of the ordinance from the clerk.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for first reading **AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AUTHORIZED MANPOWER FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2023.** Discussion followed. Mr. Wallace stated that he would like to see salary additions. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye, This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Kim Martin 208 Elm Street addressed council in regards to the importance of our dispatchers and the importance of passing the EMS Contract. What takes seconds to dispatch is now taking a few minutes.

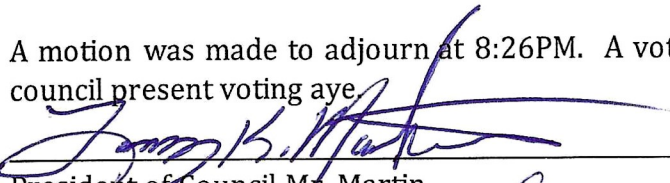
Mr. Ferguson made a motion to excuse Ms. Abdella from this evening's meeting. Ms. Abdella stated at the last meeting of council she would be out of town. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:03PM for the purpose of discussing possible litigation. Council President Mr. Martin stated that there would be no further business once we break from Executive Session. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Council resumed at 8:25PM from Executive Session

ADJOURN:

A motion was made to adjourn at 8:26PM. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.



President of Council Mr. Martin



Clerk of Belpre City Council Kimberly Meredith