

April 8, 2024

Council President Mr. Martin called the April 8, 2024 Belpre City Council meeting to order at 7:43 pm. 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.

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.

At this time, Council President Mr. Martin asked for a motion to excuse Ms. Riffle from the March 25th, 2024 meeting. Mr. Ferguson made a motion to excuse Ms. Riffle from the March 25th, 2024 meeting. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Council President Mr. Martin asked for a motion for the March 25, 2024 minutes. Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the March 25, 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:

I would like to start with thanking the city workers for their efforts during the recent flood event. Everyone contributed and did an amazing job. Our hearts and prayers go out to those now facing all the clean-up. Here at the City, we have cleaning supplies to help those affected by the flood.

It's been a very busy couple of weeks. I have met with each department to do long range planning while determining critical needs. We will be presenting the information during the State of the City address.

I have attended meetings with Wood County Development for collaboration efforts.

Communications:

- Please complete your Ohio Ethics form if you have not at this time.
- We will be taking applications for summer mowing help. This person will work the same hours as the street department.
- We have posted on the website for a Patrolman
- RCAP Services MOU for Free services to help meet needs of Utility Infrastructure.
- Beverly Chamber Dinner Service Awards Selection – a nomination was accepted from the Police Department staff.

Police Department

- The Police Chief, Mr. Martin and myself will be going to site visit related to centralized 911.
- They assisted with a flood evacuation over the past few days. Thank you for protecting our citizens.

Project Updates:

Water Rate Analysis:

- The canvassing of the city went very well and the data will be aggregated this week so we can complete the rate analysis.

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:

- On April 22, 2024 at 6:30pm, I will be presenting the State of the City address.
- Also, there are three wells that are not on emergency power. We will need a finance committee meeting to discuss the Invoice Cloud utility payment software, as well as the Health Department.

Congratulations:

The City of Belpre received the Tree City designation again for 2023. The Awards will be April 18, 2024 at Vinton Furnace Experimental Furnace. Several members of the Tree Commission will be attending to accept the award.

Events:

- Girl Scouts Orchard planting on Boulevard Drive: On Saturday morning Chief Stump, Chris Barringer and his daughter and Council Person Penne Riffle assisted the scouts from Black Diamond Council plant several apple and peach trees. They are also planting several berry bushes. We read the Arbor Day proclamation and the scouts have voted on the name “Friendship Orchard”. We were very pleased that the Arborist Ann Bonner attended the day to provide education and instruction to us all.
- Tomorrow night is the Historical Society Dinner at Belpre Church of Christ. Doors open at 5:30pm. There is a very engaging speaker coming.

Safety-Service Director has not yet been appointed.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan reported Wednesday and Thursday, March 27, 28 I attended the Auditor of State Conference in Columbus, Ohio. City Auditors are required 24 Certified Public Education hours per 4-year term. I've acquired 15.75 credit requirements to date with 8.25 left to complete by the end of 2025. I took the Certified Public Records training part 1, 2, and 3 as well as Ethics, OPERS Update, Grant writing 101 and 102, ways to invest in infrastructure, and Forecasting & Capital plans basic and advanced. The conference was informative and valuable.

Mayor Abdella and I discussed the importance of forecasting out 5 years and plan to develop soon.

Monday, April 1 the software from our current system was downloaded into SSI's system. We were in Zoom meetings every day last week. They are reviewing the data today and plan to upload tomorrow for our review. The department heads met Friday, April 5 for additional training.

I began working on the 2025 Tax Budget last week and plan to have to Council no later than the second Council meeting in May.

City Law Director Mr. Webster asked if everyone had received the proposed agreement with the Washington County Engineers that Kim (from his office) sent out late today. Since no one had received the proposed agreement copies were made and distributed. This is in regards to the Rockland Avenue Paving Project.

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassady had no report.

Communication and Petitions: None

Reports of Standing Committee

Mr. Ferguson Finance/Audit Committee had no report. Mr. Ferguson called a Finance/Audit Committee meeting for April 15th, 2024 at 6PM for the purpose of discussing the HB33 that has to do with the tax ordinance from RITA, Invoice Cloud and the Health Department.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee reported that she met with the EMS Board. Council should be receiving the report for last month. In recent meetings I have attended there have been so many positive comments about our Police Department and the Emergency Preparedness and future plans that I wanted to pass along.

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

I met with the Sewer/Water Department Supervisors and the Administration on March 28th, 2024. Definitely an eye-opening meeting as many issues were discussed. We definitely have our work cut out for us to improve/repair both water and sewer.

On April 2, 2024 I attended a meeting with the Administration and the Street Supervisor to discuss issues we are facing on upkeep/repair of our Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewers.

Chris Barringer came prepared with 10 pages of items that needed attention.

Also, we continue working on the signage on our city streets.

Mr. Locke also stated that he saw where Marietta is buying a truck to determine Lead Service Lines. I was wondering if we could rent it for a while? Mayor Abdella stated that we have some of our own equipment to do this hydro-excavation in the area and that we will be using that equipment in order to save money. Between the lead service survey and the hydro-excavation we will be able to determine and not have to buy equipment. I have a company from St. Mary's that I talked to and they are willing to come and dig some holes and demo their services.

Mr. Locke stated that he has complained about the parking lot at the pool to Mr. Barringer and I have to say that Mr. Barringer and his crew has worked on filling pot holes in the parking lot, and cleaned trenches from Boxer's clear to the river. These guys have been doing a good job.

Mr. Locke asked Mr. Martin to have the Water and Sewer/Storm Water Management Plan be removed from his committee assignments as it has been taken care of.

Mr. Ambrozy Utilities Committee stated that since the last meeting I participated in the Preparedness Exercise, set down with the department heads with water and sewer and participated in the canvassing of the city regarding rate analysis and was teamed up with Leonard Wiggins. We spent a day and a half on this. We still have some loose ends but we will get it done. Eddie Richardson gave me a tour of the water department treatment plant.

Mr. Ambrozy made a motion to add to tonight's agenda for first reading **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF BELPRE TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH WIRT COUNTY 911 TO USE THE BELPRE RADIO TOWER TO REPAIR AND INSTALL A RADIO REPEATER SITE ON THE TOWER.** Mayor Abella informed council that when Wirt County comes to the hospital, they have no signal to communicate. They have offered to pay a monthly fee for this service so going forward we will be collecting from them and they have also offered to back pay us for the last two years. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Seebaugh Parks and Recreation Committee had no report.

Mr. Godfrey, Planning and Zoning Committee reported that his committee met at 6:45pm this evening in regards to Side by Sides in the City of Belpre. I feel that the meeting went well. Obviously, there is more material needing discussed. I will be calling a meeting before the next council meeting once I determine when everyone can be in attendance.

Ms. Riffle Rules Committee appreciated all the help from the city employees during the recent storms. I would also like to congratulate EMS on their recent certification. I did participate in the tree planting with the Girl Scouts. It was interesting. I would like to have Political Signs assigned to my committee and since you just assigned it, I'm

calling a meeting for Monday, April 15th, 2024 at 6:45 pm for the purpose of discussing political signs on city property.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL – AGENDA items only:

none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for third reading **AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AUTHORIZED MANPOWER FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2024**. Discussion followed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson moved this be **Ordinance 5, 2024-2025** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

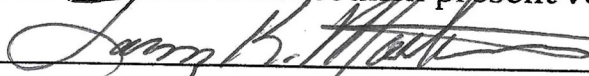
NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Ambrozy brought before council for first reading **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF BELPRE TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH WIRT COUNTY 911 TO USE THE BELPRE RADIO TOWER TO REPAIR AND INSTALL A RADIO REPEATER SITE ON THE TOWER**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

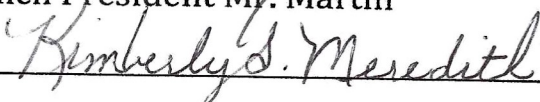
PERSON APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL: None

ADJOURN:

Mrs. Dennis made a motion to adjourn at 8:12pm. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.



Council President Mr. Martin



Clerk of Belpre City Council Mrs. Meredith