

April 11, 2022

Council President Mr. Martin called the April 11, 2022 meeting to order at 7:30 PM. The roll was called with the following members present: Mr. Ferguson, Mr. McClead, Mr. Millhone, Mr. Null, Mr. Ruth and Mr. Wallace present. Also, present was Mayor Lorentz, Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzell, City Auditor Mrs. Nolan, City Law Director Mr. Webster, City Treasurer Mrs. Cassady and Clerk of Council Mrs. Meredith. Absent from the April 11, 2022 meeting was Council person Mrs. Dennis.

Council President Mr. Martin asked that everyone please rise for the Prayer and remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Ruth gave the invocation and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

As a reminder to the audience if you wish to address council please stand, state your name and speak loudly so that the clerk can generate the minutes for the next meeting.

Mr. Ruth made a motion to accept the minutes of March 28, 2022 as presented and by-pass the reading. A vote was taken with members of council present voting aye.

Reports of City Officials:

Mayor Lorentz reported that on March 30th the Safety-Service Director and I met with the Commissioners and everyone else that has something to do with water in this county. The Governor announced that southeastern Ohio has been neglected as far as infrastructure needs are concerned. Our commissioners are determined to hold his feet to the fire and correct a lot of our water and sewer needs. All water departments in the county are working on a list of deficiencies.

The underpass mural at Barclay is underway. The art teacher Mr. Stevens, Reed Byers and volunteers are looking for donations and or supplies to get this completed.

Thank you, Mr. Ferguson, for attending the Solid Waste Authority meeting. Both the Safety-Service Director and I were tied up.

On Tuesday I met with Commissioner Schilling to discuss the centralized 911 for the county. At this time, I feel it does not meet our needs as we still need people around the clock to answer the calls for service. On your desk is an example of the call volume for March.

April 22 through the 23rd our lower area of Civitan Park will be the parking and departure area for some 350 Boy Scouts heading for Blennerhassett Island for the Jamboree. The Island Belle will pick them up and return them. This will probably take up pool parking also.

On Wednesday the Muskingum, Beverly Chamber held its annual recognition and awards dinner for first responders. Our Chief Williams received an award for outstanding officer of the year for Belpre.

The Belpre Woman's Club, Belpre Rotary, Belpre Lion's Club, and the Belpre Civitan Club held an appreciation breakfast for the city employees at the Masonic Lodge on Saturday. This was a very nice gesture and much appreciated.

Late last week I got word that the hospital was planning another large expansion in our city. As explained to me this will mean over 200 new jobs to the area and over 100 million dollars in the building. What great news for our city? Now it gives us more cause to pass the building levy for schools so that these professionals will be proud to enroll their students here. Great Things Happening in Belpre Every Day.

Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzell announced that Arbor Day for Belpre is April 29th, at Howe's Grove Park beginning at 10:30AM. The Girl Scouts will be planting a tree.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan Software Solutions and BS&A bid packages were opened at 11:30 AM March 28. Copies of each company's contract were emailed to Council for their review. A Finance committee meeting was scheduled and held on April 4 at 5:00PM to discuss options. Council members present voted to purchase Software Solutions. Mr. Webster advised me Thursday April 8 in a telephone call that legislation would be written for purchase of the software to be voted on by Council tonight April 11.

The Cities Audit is scheduled for May 2, 3, and 4.

Wednesday April 6, along with the Mayor, SSD, Police Chief, and I attended the Muskingum Annual Recognition and Awards luncheon for first responders at the Beverly Chamber of Commerce. Chief Williams was elected and received an award for outstanding officer of the year for Belpre.

Saturday April 9 the Women's Club, Rotary, Lions Club, Civitan Club held an appreciation breakfast for city employees at the Masonic Lodge. We were able to meet family members of the employees. I appreciated their effort and time involved to do this for us.

City Law Director Mr. Webster reported that I have prepared two pieces of legislation that is before you tonight. The two pieces of legislation is as follows: **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF BELPRE TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH AMERICAN BORING, INC. FOR COMPLETION OF A FORCE MAIN SEWER PROJECT FOR THE CITY OF BELPRE, OHIO and A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF BELPRE TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS, INC FOR THE PROVISION OF NEW SOFTWARE FOR THE CITY OF BELPRE.**

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassady had no report.

Communication and Petitions –

Council President Mr. Martin assigned the following to committee:

Mr. Ferguson, Finance Audit Committee, **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF BELPRE TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS, INC FOR THE PROVISION OF NEW SOFTWARE FOR THE CITY OF BELPRE.**

Mr. Ruth, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF BELPRE TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH AMERICAN BORING, INC. FOR COMPLETION OF A FORCE MAIN SEWER PROJECT FOR THE CITY OF BELPRE, OHIO.**

Reports of Standing Committee –

Finance/Audit Committee Mr. Ferguson reported that his committee met on April 4th, 2022 for the purpose of discussing the bid opening package with Software Solutions, Inc for the provision of new software for the City of Belpre. The committee agreed with Mrs. Nolan on the Software Package. At this time, I would like to make a motion to add to tonight’s agenda for first reading **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF BELPRE TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS, INC FOR THE PROVISION OF NEW SOFTWARE FOR THE CITY OF BELPRE.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee was absent. No report was given in her absence.

Mr. Ruth, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer had no report.

Mr. Millhone, Utilities Committee had no report.

Mr. McClead, Parks and Recreation Committee announced that Daniel Jones would like to take over the Ohio Valley Racing Controlled Car Club. Mr. Jones is with us this evening and wishes to speak on the topic.

Daniel Jones 1400 Blennerhassett Avenue stated that he recently became the Director of the OVRCCC and the past years they have had the lease here in Belpre. It is our understanding that the lease expired in 2010. We would like to renew for as long as we need to with automatic monthly payment. My father-in-law and Mike Williams has been doing this for quite some time. We would like to promote the OVRCCC during Homecoming this year.

Mr. McClead stated that he would like to call a committee meeting prior to the next council meeting at 6:30PM for the purpose of discussing the race track.

Mr. Webster reminded council that if you are going to lease property you must bid it first.

Mr. Wallace, Planning and Zoning Committee reported that his committee had a meeting at 9AM this morning with Sam Tutin with SIXMO. The discussion was in

regards to combining the Planning and Zoning Commission with the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mr. Tutin was with us this evening and spoke briefly on the topic.

Mr. Wallace, Economic Development Committee had no report.

Mr. Null, Rules Committee called a committee meeting for April 25th, 2022 at 7PM for the purpose of discussing rules of council.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL – AGENDA items only ((President of Council will ask if there is anyone wishing to address City Council on any agenda items.))

Bill Locke 726 Tuttle Street, Belpre addressed council in regards to Software Solutions. Mr. Locke asked the dollar amount of the bids. Mrs. Nolan stated that Software Solutions was \$135,900 and BS&A was \$156,700. Mr. Locke asked if this included the cloud. Mrs. Nolan informed Mr. Locke that it did include the cloud.

Unfinished Business: -

Mr. Ruth brought before council for third reading **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A SALT CONTRACT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ODOT)**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for first reading **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF BELPRE TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS, INC FOR THE PROVISION OF NEW SOFTWARE FOR THE CITY OF BELPRE**. Mr. Null stated the importance of passing this legislation. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson 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 OF BELPRE TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS, INC FOR THE PROVISION OF NEW SOFTWARE FOR THE CITY OF BELPRE**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for the second and third readings **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF BELPRE TO EXECUTE AN**

AGREEMENT WITH SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS, INC FOR THE PROVISION OF NEW SOFTWARE FOR THE CITY OF BELPRE. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson moved this be Resolution #10, 2022-2023 and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Karen Locke 726 Tuttle Street Belpre addressed the RC Track. Mrs. Locke asked Mr. Webster if Mr. Jones would have to wait until everything is approved through the Port Authority before, they can do anything. According to Mr. Webster they would need permission from the city to start. There is no lease. The Director of the Port Authority would have to approve. Mrs. Locke stated that Daniel mentioned a Car Show during the Homecoming. Mrs. Locke stated as a rule it has always been closed during Homecoming. Belpre Homecoming does have a Car Show of their own.

Bobby Walker addressed 1613 Washington Boulevard and **1623 Washington Boulevard**. She addressed the new entrance from Washington Boulevard to Civitan Park and closing the entrance to what was the Spires Lot. It was purchased in August. She was informed to contact the Safety-Service Director as it was not a council issue.

Property at 1613 Washington Boulevard has not been repaired after the new gas lines were replaced. Mr. Webster stated that if you contact my office tomorrow, I will give you the name of who you should contact as we had the same problem. The Gas Company is required to fix the issue.

Reed Byers 205 Locust Street addressed council in regards to painting the tunnel down by Barclay Street.

Daniel Jones 1400 Blennerhassett Avenue asked what he needed to do to get approval for maintenance. The grass is getting high. Council President Mr. Martin informed Mr. Jones to contact the Safety-Service Director in the morning and she will give him instructions.

Jeff Greenly 930 Pine Street, Belpre, Superintendent of Belpre City School addressed council about a new school facility. We are actively discussing this levy with the community. We will be holding a meeting on April 21st at 5:30PM in the Lawton Building Gym. Discussion followed regarding the need of this facility. Mr. Locke stated that there is a lot of comparison between Belpre and Warren. Mr. Greenly stated that we receive 44% of the State Share Index. We are 7% Capacity and 7% Growth. Mr. Greely also thanked council for participating with the students with Student Government Day.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to excuse Mrs. Dennis from this evening's meeting. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Null presented a letter before council. It is as follows: Recently the Belpre Council members received an e-mail from Mayor Lorentz that was profane, very scaving & serious bulling. We find the mayor's conduct makes it difficult & even more so a hostile workplace? To best serve the Citizens of Belpre, we need respect & professionalism in the workplace. Copy of letter on file in council chambers.

Mr. Wallace stated that he was deeply disturbed by the email. Normally I would run to someone's office and come unglued on them. I tried to calm myself down and handle this in a better manner. I had asked the Mayor, Law Director and Mr. Ferguson about the fire chief's pay. All this could have been omitted if someone had been doing their job on the city's website. I don't know any member of council that is going to sit down and read the minutes. I certainly don't have the time. This needs to be taken care of. This was in 2013. When the question was asked, this could have been brought to my attention.

Mr. Millhone was informed that members of council said that Mr. Leonard Wiggins and Police Chief Williams was not to associate with each other during lunch, etc. Mr. Millhone stated that I go on Record that I never said anything to either man. A copy of letter on file in council chambers.

Mr. Ferguson stated that he was in the city building today and Mr. Wiggins and Chief Williams were having lunch together.

Mr. Millhone asked the mayor if he had anything to say about the email that was sent out. Mayor Lorentz stated that he wrote the email in gest for which I apologized for.

Mr. Null stated that I have worked with the mayor for many years and it makes me feel uncomfortable. I feel the issue needs resolved. We have some serious work that needs to be addressed and I want to feel comfortable doing so. I am professional and I want to be treated professionally.

ADIJOURN:

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to adjourn at 8:19PM A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

President of Council Mr. Martin

Clerk of Belpre City Council Mrs. Meredith