

April 25, 2022

Council President Mr. Martin called the April 25, 2022 meeting to order at 7:33 PM. The roll was called with the following members present: Mrs. Dennis, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. McClead, 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 25, 2022 meeting was Council person Mrs. Millhone.

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.

President of Council Mr. Martin reminded council and the administration that if you have a report, please see that the clerk gets a copy of the report.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the minutes of April 11, 2022 as presented and by-pass the reading. Mr. Null stated that he had a letter that was written by Mr. Millhone that he was asked to present. Mr. Null was informed that Mr. Millhone should present the letter and that this motion was to accept the minutes of April 11, 2022. A vote was taken with members of council present voting aye except for Mr. Null who voted nay.

### **Reports of City Officials:**

Mayor Lorentz announced that Wood County Emergency Communications contacted my office asking for space on our tower for an antenna. The antenna is solar powered and approximately 3 ft. tall and 1 ½ in diameter. Mr. Martin, Mr. Webster, and the Service Director have the information.

Our commissioners want to add customers on the county sewer line. As of now the flow has been a bit steadier so I told them to allow the 5 or 6 that have applied. Hopefully we get our work complete, and the Commissioners get their end complete and all the issues go away. The Commissioners did agree to advance notice and a list of who will be attaching to our system.

The planning and zoning appeals board met on Wednesday to discuss a variance on 4<sup>th</sup> Street. The variance was allowed and all left satisfied.

On April 29<sup>th</sup> Arbor Day students from the High School, The Tree Commission and other volunteers are mulching trees at Civitan Park and also planting a tree at Howe's Grove. Anybody interested in assisting the kids we will start at 09:00. Three of the trees will be Holdren Apple trees that Jon Neff at Bob's Market helped us graft and take care of until large enough to plant.

April 22<sup>nd</sup>, I helped the Alumni Group and my family interview our graduates for scholarships. We had 16 to interview and all were deserving of the awards. Belpre is turning out some very bright and pleasant acting young students. Only one stated they liked the virtual learning classes. This surprised us all.

Our contractor called stating that the work on Farson Street will commence next week. The hospital has been made aware of the traffic changes and some lane closures. Hopefully all this will complete before the blacktop gets laid on Washington Boulevard.

The Belpre High School art class is well underway painting the lower Railroad tunnel at Barclay. If you have not been by to look, please do so. This is an amazing change and improvement.

The Governor will be in Marietta this Thursday for an announcement that effects our southeastern region. According to his office this is good news for all of us but, no details.

Mr. Webster verified with the mayor when Commissioner Schilling would hold his meeting. According to Mayor Lorentz the date is Thursday at 1:30 PM.

Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzell reported that she spent 2 days in training with the Ohio Auditors of State for new city officers. I also spent 2 days in Columbus for training with State Employment Relations Board. A lot was learned in both trainings.

The street garage is getting ready to grind out and replace the caulking in the pool, this should start on Wednesday, weather permitting. The pool will be ready to fill in 2-3 weeks. The slide will be repaired and ready for opening day.

I met with Toni Tiano, the City's grant writer. She mentioned the city could apply for the FLAP grant for a handicap kayak launch. I think this would be a huge benefit to the city.

The Fire Chief, Tony Cronin, and I attended an award ceremony at the Washington County Career Center to present awards from Wendy's to the two girls (Lexie and Amanda) who saved a man's life by pulling him from the burning home on Stone Road a few weeks ago. A Wendy's representative rewarded them with free meals for the rest of the year.

The Washington Boulevard project will start the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of May and will take approximately six weeks putting up signs and working on the handicap crossings. The paving will begin the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of August and will take approximately 8 weeks.

We hired Mark Henderson for the water/sewer department. His first day was last Monday.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan reported that the state Auditors will be here next week May 2, 3, 4. Julian and Grube provided a 2 ½ page GAAP Source data list of which ¾'s of the information has been compiled and forwarded to them. The remaining items will be completed this week.

April 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> was the Ohio Auditor of States government Officials conference online webinar which was of great benefit.

The Tax Budget for 2023 is also being worked on and will be completed for the Finance Committee's review May 9. Legislation for the 2023 tax budget has been requested.

The March Utility Report copies are on the back table and needs Councils approval.

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

City Law Director Mr. Webster had no report.

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassady reported that the March 2022 Treasurer's Report is before you tonight and is awaiting council approval. Copies are on the back table, and posted on line. I would like to thank the City Auditor Miss Tina for helping me out this week as I was having computer issues. Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the March 2022 Treasurer's Report as presented. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Martin reminded Mrs. Cassady that the clerk needs a signed copy.

**Communication and Petitions** – none

**Reports of Standing Committee** –

Finance/Audit Committee Mr. Ferguson asked about the Tax Budget. Mr. Webster informed Mr. Ferguson that the County would have to provide some of the numbers to him such as estimated income. Mrs. Nolan stated that she had been in contact with Paige about that. I'm filling out the form that I found within the Excel System. This is what I'm working from. I understand that this is what was worked from last year. Mr. Webster stated that Mrs. Nolan should check with the County Auditor because if I recall we didn't receive the numbers from the County Auditor that was needed until July. You might want to check with Matthew's Office to see if we are going to get them earlier. Mrs. Nolan stated that she knew it was approved in May of last year. Mr. Martin assigned the Tax Budget to the Finance/Audit Committee this evening. Mr. Ferguson stated that he would wait for the exhibit before calling a meeting. Mr. Ferguson also reported that his committee met on April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022 to discuss the Belpre Senior Contract for the O'Neil Center out of Marietta. It was approved by his committee to place on the agenda for this evening.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee met on April 25, 2022 at 6PM for the purpose of discussing raising parking violation fees for the fire chief. We are researching those ordinances. I would like to call another committee meeting for May 9<sup>th</sup> at 7PM for the purpose of discussing salaries.

Mr. Ruth, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer reported that he also called a committee meeting for April 18, 2022 for the purpose of discussing the Force Main Project for the City of Belpre and the Final Resolution for Resurfacing of Braun Road, due to the importance of the legislation Mr. Ruth also requested a Special Council Meeting for April 18, 2022 for the purpose of **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 FINAL RESOLUTION FOR RESURFACING OF BRAUN ROAD (between S.R. 7 and Poplar Street), POPLAR STREET (between Braun Road and Belrock Avenue), BELROCK AVENUE (between Poplar Street and Putnam Howe Drive), and FLORENCE STREET (between Gibbens Lane and the railroad bridge just south of Washington Boulevard).** Due to a lack of quorum the meeting was cancelled.

Mr. Millhone, Utilities Committee was absent. No report was given in his absence.

Mr. McClead, Parks and Recreation Committee reported that we had a meeting earlier about the RC Track at the park. I will be calling a committee meeting at a later time to discuss the Ohio Valley Racing Controlled Car Club.

Mr. Wallace, Planning and Zoning Committee had no report.

Mr. Wallace, Economic Development Committee had no report.

Mr. Null, Rules Committee met on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 7PM for the purpose of discussing committee meetings. Mr. Null's comments are as follows: The City of Belpre has a council-mayor form of government. The City Council shall be the governing authority of the city and work with the Mayor and Service director, who will execute the laws and administrate the city government. City Council Meeting adhere to Robert's Rules of Order. Now on to the topic of the Rules Committee Meeting. Committee meetings are held on an as needed basis best on day of council meetings between 6-7:00PM. It is the recommendation of the Rules Committee to better encourage the public attending committee meetings that schedule meeting as suggested.

Judy Drake asked Mr. Null if he had taken his Sunshine Law Training. According to Mr. Null he has not. Mrs. Drake informed Mr. Null that he needed to take the training.

Mr. Null stated that he was informed that he didn't have his Sunshine Law Training so he won't have any meetings until he gets his training. It's a new State Law that you have to have a certificate. It is a class I will have to take.

**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 reported that on Monday April 18 I attended both the committee meetings and the council meeting.

I had several questions pertaining to the Sewer Project on the West end of Belpre. The Mayor and Safety-Service Director answered my questions. This project has been in the “Works” for many years. This will allow the bottleneck in that are relieved.

Also, the Paving/Resurfacing of designated streets was discussed and questions answered.

Infrastructure such as this Belpre desperately needs. Everyone wants growth, but sometimes it is painful, such as costs.

Hopefully these 2 pieces of legislation will be passed in a timely manner, as they will benefit all of Belpre Citizens.

**Unfinished Business:** -None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for first reading **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE BELPRE SENIOR CENTER.** Mr. Ferguson stated that the contract was for \$48,500. It has been the same cost since 2018. There has been no change in the contract or the amount in the last four years. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

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

Mr. Ruth moved to suspend the rule of council of three different days to allow for the second and third readings of **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.** Mr. Null asked why this was an emergency? Mrs. Hoblitzell stated that it was because we didn’t want to tear up the new pavement on Washington Boulevard. The pavement gets laid in August and if we wait, we will be tearing out the new pavement. It comes down from the Church of Christ to Farson Street. After hearing what Mrs. Hoblitzell had to say, Mr. Null stated that it does qualify as an emergency. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ruth brought before council for the second and third readings of **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.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ruth moved this be Resolution #11, 2022-2023 and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ruth brought before council for first reading **FINAL RESOLUTION FOR RESURFACING OF BRAUN ROAD (between S.R. 7 and Poplar Street), POPLAR STREET (between Braun Road and Belrock Avenue), BELROCK AVENUE (between Poplar Street and Putnam Howe Drive), and FLORENCE STREET (between Gibbens Lane and the railroad bridge just south of Washington Boulevard).** Discussion followed. Mr. Null asked what the cost was for the project. Mr. Ruth stated \$129,479.00 for the City of Belpre. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ruth moved to suspend the rule of council of three different days to allow for the second and third readings of **FINAL RESOLUTION FOR RESURFACING OF BRAUN ROAD (between S.R. 7 and Poplar Street), POPLAR STREET (between Braun Road and Belrock Avenue), BELROCK AVENUE (between Poplar Street and Putnam Howe Drive), and FLORENCE STREET (between Gibbens Lane and the railroad bridge just south of Washington Boulevard).** Mr. Null asked why we had to have an emergency clause on street paving. Mrs. Hoblitzell stated that it is because if we don't pass it and have on their desk by Friday, we will lose \$187,000.00 in Grant money plus the \$129,479.00. Mrs. Hoblitzell stated that we have had the paperwork for three weeks however the legislation wasn't ready. ODOT sends out the paperwork late and since it was Good Friday Mr. Webster didn't have the staff to prepare it. Mrs. Dennis pointed out that present at that meeting was Mrs. Dennis, Mr. Ruth and Mr. Ferguson. Mr. Null stated that he didn't attend the meeting because he wasn't properly notified. Mr. Null didn't check email until Sunday. Mrs. Dennis stated that notification was sent out on Thursday prior to him reading it on Sunday. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ruth brought before council for the second and third readings **FINAL RESOLUTION FOR RESURFACING OF BRAUN ROAD (between S.R. 7 and Poplar Street), POPLAR STREET (between Braun Road and Belrock Avenue), BELROCK AVENUE (between Poplar Street and Putnam Howe Drive), and FLORENCE STREET (between Gibbens Lane and the railroad bridge just south of Washington Boulevard).** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ruth moved this be Ordinance #2, 2022-2023 and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Hoblitzell stated that she would need a certified copy of the legislation.

**PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:**

Bill Locke 726 Tuttle Street informed the mayor that he forgot to report about the Boy Scouts being over on Blennerhassett Island this past weekend. City employees removed the mud and added gravel for parking. He also stated that the boat docks had been put in the river. Parks have been mowed and looks very good.

Mayor Lorentz stated that there were 362 Boy Scouts in attendance.

Shayle Greathouse presented the EMS report for March at tonight's meeting. Ms. Greathouse stated that a copy of her EMS Report had been sent to the clerk's email.

165 Calls

7 mutual aids (Wood Co. and Dunham Township)

Average out the door time – 2 mins

Average on-scene time – 4 mins

Also, the Incorporation purchased a new squad, which is labeled as 492. Primary Squad for the City of Belpre.

Mr. Wallace asked if there was any cost to the city. According to Ms. Greathouse it was paid for by the Belpre Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. Mr. Wallace stated that we really appreciate it. Ms. Greathouse stated that we have 2 squads in service and soon to have 3.

Steve Null announced that he was sure glad that Belpre EMS was back. With their quick response time they helped save my wife's life.

Jesse Wonycott 805 Main Street asked about the March Report. What is Fund 260 Clerk Comp? Where does the \$480 come from that is showing in Revenue. Mrs. Nolan to research. Water Fund 602 shows we expended \$224,906.72. Do we know what that was expended for? Mrs. Nolan stated that she would have to pull the Budgetary Report and get back to her. Mrs. Wonycott also mentioned the Sewer Fund. Revenue for the Sewer Fund is \$181, 837.69 and expended was \$97,118.08.

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

**ADJOURN:**

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to adjourn at 8:17PM A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

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President of Council Mr. Martin

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Clerk of Belpre City Council Mrs. Meredith