

May 08, 2023

Council President Mr. Martin called the May 08, 2023 Belpre City Council meeting to order at 7:40 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, Treasurer Mrs. Cassady and Clerk of Council Mrs. Meredith.

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

If you address council this evening, please do it in a respectful manner.

President of Council Mr. Martin asked for a motion to accept the minutes of April 24th, 2023 as presented. Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the minutes of April 24th, 2023 regular meeting as presented and by-pass the reading. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. Motion carried.

President of Council Mr. Martin asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the Special May 1st, 2023 minutes as presented. Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the minutes of May 1st, 2023 minutes as presented and by-pass the reading. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. Motion carried.

Reports of City Officials:

Mayor Lorentz reported that depending on your definition of a winner, I guess I won the pie in the face contest at the Sr. Center. I am pretty sure it was rigged.

The Chamber of Commerce Breakfast was held Wednesday May 3rd with quite an attendance. John Wallace from the Bridge partners was the speaker and explained the tentative opening date plus the transponder costs etc.

The Tree Commission finally celebrated Arbor Day on Thursday with the kindergarten and 1st grade at our elementary school. A Maple tree was planted with

their assistance and I read a proclamation and explained the importance of trees in our city.

May 4th we held the town Hall meeting with WWW, Mid-Ohio Valley Transit Authority and Burgess & Niple. Approximately 12 – 15 in attendance and pretty much a positive response. You can still go out on the WWW website and respond to the survey but, at this time we will continue to explore funding sources to ease the burden on the city should we decide to enter into an agreement.

Friday May 5th Karen Waller and I met with representatives from Dominion, SEOPA, Washington County Commissioner Schilling, M.M.H., Jobs Ohio, Ohio S.E. Economic Development, Solvay, and business owners to discuss the need for natural gas and our availability of gas. The numbers discussed that would ease our needs were staggering.

Work on the computer systems and phone system is ongoing.

Belpre EMS is up and running with the first day being last Thursday. Ryan and the crew are doing an amazing job. The board continues to hold numerous meetings to ensure all issues are resolved.

Relay for Life will be held May 20th, 2023 at Civitan Park.

Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzel reported that a seasonal part time mower has finally been hired for the summer.

Our first EMS squad run was this past Thursday. They had an excellent day. Things are going well.

The last of the hydrant flushing will be this Wednesday.

We had our new phone system installed and it's up and running as of today.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan had no report.

City Law Director Mr. Webster reported that his office had prepared multiple pieces of legislation since our last meeting. I wanted to directly mention the amendment in regards to an error in Belpre Code 1313.12(b) regarding inoperable vehicles in Section 1 and 2. I went back and checked my records from 2021. At the time this ordinance was drafted there were two pieces of legislation drafted. One was for residential only and the other pieces were for residential and commercial. When it was signed, I pulled the incorrect piece of legislation. I have created an ordinance to amend that to remove commercial and the legislation is for residential only.

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassady had no report.

Communication and Petitions:

President of Council Mr. Martin stated that he had several pieces of legislation to assign this evening. They are as follows:

1. AN ORDINANCE TO CORRECT AND AMEND AN ERROR IN BELPRE CODE OF ORDINANCE SECTION NO. 1313.12(b) was assigned to Ms. Abdella.
2. 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) was assigned to Ms. Abdella.
3. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BELPRE TO ENTER INTO A COMMUNITY HOUSING IMPACT AND PRESERVATION PROGRAM PARTNER AGREEMENT was assigned to Ms. Abdella.
4. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF OHIO TO ACCEPT A DEED FOR LOTS 4 AND 5 IN HOLSTEIN ACRES ADDITION was assigned to Mr. Wallace.
5. AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AUTHORIZED MANPOWER FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2023 was assigned to Mr. Ferguson. This was a continuation that goes back to Mr. Ferguson.
6. A RESOLUTON SUPPLEMENTING YEAR 2023 APPROPRIATIONS was assigned to Mr. Ferguson.

Reports of Standing Committee

Mr. Ferguson reported that Finance/Audit Committee met prior to this evening's meeting at 6:30pm on May 8, 2023 to discuss the fire chief's vehicle, police computer system with Anti-Virus Protection. There were two estimates for the fire chief's vehicle that provided for maintenance and TLC (Tender Loving Care). The committee plus the rest of council approved that the fire chief would receive the police vehicle as a fire chief vehicle. There was also discussion about the police back-up computer system and a supplemental to move \$64,500 from the police budget over to the IT System.

At this time, I would like to make a motion to add to tonight's agenda for 1st reading A RESOLUTON SUPPLEMENTING YEAR 2023 APPROPRIATIONS. This is actually the first one for 2023. This supplemental is to move the \$64,500 from the police budget over to the IT System. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson called a Finance/Audit committee meeting for 7:15pm on May 22, 2023 to discuss Manpower for 2023.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee had no report.

Ms. Abdella, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer Committee made a motion to add to tonight's agenda for first reading AN ORDINANCE TO CORRECT AND AMEND AN ERROR IN BELPRE CODE OF ORDINANCE SECTION NO. 1313.12(b). Mr. Null stated

that he thought this should go back to committee for discussion. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye except Mr. Null.

Ms. Abdella asked the mayor about the timing on the other two pieces of legislation that were assigned to her committee. According to the mayor the CHIP legislation has to be completed by the end of the month. It would be nice to run it for one reading tonight. Ms. Abdella asked the mayor to explain the CHIP Program. This is a city-wide program for Belpre. The county is doing the project and we manage the grant. This is typically a five-year loan as long as the person is doing what they are supposed to do.

Ms. Abdella made a motion to add to tonight's agenda for first reading A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BELPRE TO ENTER INTO A COMMUNITY HOUSING IMPACT AND PRESERVATION PROGRAM PARTNER AGREEMENT. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Ms. Abdella called a committee meeting for May 22, 2023 at 7:00pm for the purpose of discussing 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) and AN ORDINANCE TO CORRECT AND AMEND AN ERROR IN BELPRE CODE OF ORDINANCE SECTION NO. 1313.12(b).

Mr. Millhone Utilities Committee presented council with an estimate from MC Pressure Washing LLC for services of paint removal restoration wall. This is to remove yellow paint from retaining Wall near high school. I have received a lot of calls on this.

President of Council Mr. Martin stated that this is an administrative issue. You need to address this with them and if you don't get an answer in a timely manner, you can bring it back before council. This would be up to the Safety-Service Director. If the decision is to redo the wall it would have to come back through Mr. Ferguson's committee.

Mr. Millhone stated that this should not be repaired with city monies. Someone should pay for it. The city should have never authorized it to be painted in the first place. This is private property owned by the city.

Mr. McClead Parks and Recreation Committee stated that the law director gave him a letter from the Belpre Area Community Foundation regarding playground equipment for Special needs children. I would like to call a committee meeting for May 22, 2023 at 6:30pm to discuss the playground equipment and the condition of the playground itself. Mr. McClead also stated that there were concerns of the pond as the water is very low. Mr. McClead stated that he thought the pond should be eliminated. Mr. McClead was asked by the President of Council to bring his concerns of the pond to the administration.

Mr. Wallace Planning and Zoning Committee had no report. Mr. Wallace called a committee meeting on May 22, 2022 at 6:45pm for the purpose of discussing A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF OHIO TO ACCEPT A DEED FOR LOTS 4 AND 5 IN HOLSTEIN ACRES ADDITION.

Mr. Wallace, Economic Development Committee had no report.

Mr. Null, Rules Committee reported that there was a meeting that he was going to attend on May 6th, 2023 regarding Save the Kitty. There was a mix up on their meeting plans. The meeting never happened. We are going to wait on the legislation until they get back with us. They may have to call for an emergency meeting.

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)). None

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for first reading A RESOLUTON SUPPLEMENTING YEAR 2023 APPROPRIATIONS. This is to move \$64,500 from the Capital Improvement Fund to Software in the amount of \$64,500. Also, Pool Construction Maintenance of \$30.78 and Marina in the amount of \$234.37. The total memorandum is \$265.15. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to suspend the rule of council on three different days to allow for the second and third readings of A RESOLUTON SUPPLEMENTING YEAR 2023 APPROPRIATIONS. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson moved the second and third readings of A RESOLUTON SUPPLEMENTING YEAR 2023 APPROPRIATIONS. Discussion followed regarding the reason that this needs to be ran as an emergency. Mr. Ferguson stated because the importance of the police department with up-to-date equipment. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson moved this be Resolution #30, 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 from the clerk.

Ms. Abdella brought before council for first reading AN ORDINANCE TO CORRECT AND AMEND AN ERROR IN BELPRE CODE OF ORDINANCE SECTION NO. 1313.12(b). A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

Ms. Abdella brought before council for first reading A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BELPRE TO ENTER INTO A COMMUNITY HOUSING IMPACT AND PRESERVATION PROGRAM PARTNER AGREEMENT. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Bill Locke 726 Tuttle Street, Belpre stated that Karen and I will volunteer to paint the wall. We will buy the paint if I'm told what color it needs to be. Mr. Millhone stated that it needed to go back to the original concrete service or have the Golden Eagle put back on it.

Penne Riffle 763 Ann Street asked if Lee Street is on the paving plan for this year. It is looking really bad (pot hole city) and has been patched so many times. Mrs. Hoblitzell stated that Putnam Howe is grooved where people drive on it and must be done as it is reshaping our plows. Ms. Riffle stated that she thought Lee Street would be the same with the amount of traffic going to Kroger's.

Ms. Abdella asked with Homecoming in August, I was wondering if there is a new agreement with the new group that allows them to have Homecoming in the park with insurance and liability. Ms. Abdella stated that we need a new agreement with the new board. We need to know that they have insurance and that they have everything in place to have Homecoming in our park.

Mr. Null stated that this is the 3rd year that the Chamber and the new group had it together. Per Mrs. Dennis she thought there is a new agreement. The mayor to find out if there is a new agreement.

Mr. Null asked Mr. Webster about insurance in our parks for routine activities if someone was to get hurt. Mr. Webster wasn't sure what the policy says. I was wondering if we have some kind of coverage. Mr. Null was informed that there is coverage by the mayor.

Mr. Ferguson stated that the City Auditor would like to have a piece of legislation for the 2024 Tax Budget. She will provide the exhibit. President of Council Mr. Martin assigned it to Mr. Ferguson's committee. Mr. Ferguson stated that he would add that to the May 22, 2023 Finance/Audit Committee meeting at 7:15pm.

Mr. Ferguson stated that prior to this evening's meeting there were questions raised about Authorized Manpower. I would like to know what those questions are so we can have answers for them by the next meeting.

Ms. Abdella stated that there are 2 vacant positions under Laborer II. Have they been filled and if so, can we have the names? Also is there still a vacancy in the police department? She was informed that there still is a vacancy in the police department and the two in the street department have been filled. The two that were hired for the positions were Ian Joseph and Jeremy Clintworth. Ms. Hoblitzell to verify Jeremy Clintworth's name.

Mr. Wallace asked about S8, Operator 3. Is this still vacant and do you plan to fill? Ms. Hoblitzell stated that it will be filled once we have someone qualified.

Mr. Ferguson stated that someone asked about openings and salaries. We have provided salaries and discussed openings for the Manpower.

Mrs. Nolan stated that the Manpower Ordinance must be turned into the County.

Mr. Wallace stated that he would like to have a revised copy with everyone's name and salaries on it so we know it is complete. We have no salary for Operator 1 or 3. Mrs. Hoblitzell stated that there is no Operator 3. The salary for Operator 1 is there. It is \$19.14. Mr. Wallace said he was sorry he meant Laborer I. He was informed that there is no Laborer 1.

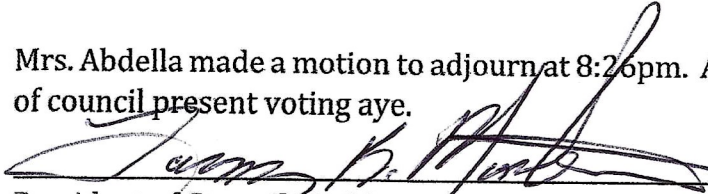
Mr. Webster stated that if a name changes before the next meeting does that mean the name has to be changed before it is submitted to council. Mr. Wallace stated that yes it would be great. If someone is hired that day, Mr. Wallace stated that he would use a pen.

Mr. Webster stated that the purpose of a Manpower Ordinance is to know what the people are paid and if the positions are filled. The name of a person changes often. With previous council's we have not asked for the names because they constantly change.

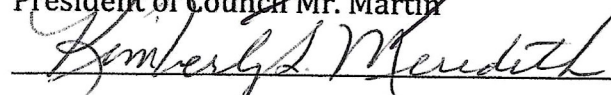
City Auditor Mrs. Nolan stated that the County is wanting the number of employees. This is what they are looking at.

ADJOURN:

Mrs. Abdella made a motion 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