

May 22, 2023

Council President Mr. Martin called the May 22, 2023 Belpre City Council meeting to order at 7:33 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. Mrs. Nolan 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 and I will ask council do be respectful in return.

President of Council Mr. Martin asked for a motion to accept the minutes of May 08, 2023 as presented. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to accept the minutes of May 08, 2023 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 on your desk is a note from Community Action stating funding opportunities for housing preservation. The USDA Rural development Service is offering help with home rehab to very low-low-income homeowners. This is info you should share with your constituents.

The Chamber of Commerce Luncheon was attended by over 50 people on the 18th. It is amazing to see the interest in our city and the great cooperation.

Thanks to Ryan and the Safety-Service Director we are now staffed to the point where we can do some 24-hour service. Good job!

On May 19th I attended the awards ceremony at our high school. The Alumni Association does a great job making sure everyone possibly gets a little help. I was able to award the two scholarships from our family to two very deserving students.

Council, I emailed all a copy of legislation related to Rehab and Treatment Centers. It looks like we may have one wanting to locate here. It is my belief we are not manned to accommodate the issues that come with such a facility. A discussion is needed and legislation soon if we agree.

On May 20th I attended the Relay for Life Ceremony at Civitan Park. The people in charge did an amazing job heading this up. As usual our park looked great.

Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzell reported that the Tree Commission met May 9th and discussed a fund raiser for the Tree Commission. They talked about selling ribbons for you to place your wish on the ribbon and hanging it on the Weeping Willow Tree by the river in Civitan Park. Their plan is to rent a booth at the Apple Butter Stir-Off in October

We applied for a grant for the Water and Sewer Department and Street Garage and we are awaiting approval on that.

The street department has been working on getting the pool ready to go. It is now ready.

The chief and I attended the Ohio Public Safety Association Conference. We learned a lot there. Mrs. Hoblitzell asked Chief Stump to speak regarding the conference. Chief Stump spoke about Syber Security Threats and how they are targeting municipalities in the State of Ohio. Quite an interesting presentation. Not only are individuals being targeted by email but also municipalities. It brought to light some of the very same situations that we have been discussing and the need for Syber Security. They want to be sure that we are ready to move into the next several years by making sure we are ready for those threats.

Mr. Null asked for the target date for opening the pool. Mrs. Hoblitzell stated that it would open on Saturday May 27th, 2023.

President of Council Mr. Martin reminded everyone that if you have a report to turn it into the clerk.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan reported that the State Auditors have wrapped up their on-site work. It will be 3-4 more weeks for completion. The Audit performed last year by Julian & Grube cost the city \$20,500.00. The State performs a more thorough audit and have informed us the cost for this year's compilation will be \$25,215.00.

Software Solutions has our "sandbox" ready to install. The project kick-off date for implementation is set for Thursday, June 15. They have offered a refresher course for us the last two weeks of June.

Due to high paper price increases, beginning the last Council meeting of June, I will be emailing the Utility Adjustment Report to ALL Council on the Wednesday before Council. Please review the report prior to the meeting. I will not be making copies for all of council.

The April Utility Adjustment report is on the back table for Councils review and approval.

Council President Mr. Martin asked for a motion to accept the April Utility Adjustment Report. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to accept the April Utility Adjustment Report as presented. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

City Law Director Mr. Webster reported that his office has been preparing multiple pieces of legislation both ordinances and resolutions. I would like to request an Executive Session at the end of the meeting for the purpose of pending litigation.

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassady reported that before you this evening is a copy of the April Treasurer's Report that needs council approval. Copies are on the back table. Council President Mr. Martin asked for a motion to accept the April's Treasurers Report. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Communication and Petitions:

President of Council Mr. Martin stated that he had a request from the police chief to assign to committee the Nuisance Ordinance. I'm assigning the Nuisance Ordinance to Mrs. Dennis Chairman of Police and Fire Committee.

Reports of Standing Committee

Mr. Ferguson reported that Finance/Audit Committee met prior to this evening's meeting to discuss the 2024 Tax Budget and the 2023 Manpower Ordinance. At this time, I would like to make a motion to add to the agenda for third reading **AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AUTHORIZED MANPOWER FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2023**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

At this time, I would like to make a motion to add to tonight's agenda for 1st reading **A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TAX BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2024**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee reported that she has been meeting with the police chief regarding the Nuisance Ordinance. I would like to call a meeting for June 12, 2023 at 7pm for the purpose of discussing the Nuisance Ordinance. Mrs. Dennis asked the police chief to elaborate on the topic.

Police Chief Stump stated that we have encountered several residents around town that we have done repeated calls to. I have asked Mrs. Dennis to try and locate some legislation that have been written by other municipalities. We have located some of

the written legislation. It addresses multiple calls and excessive amounts of police services and emergency services at the same location. Athens has this legislation. We are trying to locate some that have multiple misdemeanor crimes. We also get repeated alarm calls with no incentive. The alarms can be fixed.

Mr. Jeff Greenly spoke briefly about our new EMS service in the City of Belpre. Mr. Greenly reported that we are very pleased with the EMS service. We had 26 runs in the month of May with 8 hours a day and now up to 12 hours of coverage per day. The response time from getting the call and out the door was about 7 minutes. Our goal is 24-hour care and hope to reach that goal as soon as we can.

Chief Stump stated that as I had mentioned we attended the Ohio Public Safety Association Conference and last week the city got hacked. Someone was hacking and probing everyone of our email addresses. There was a trojan that was hidden within the email itself. It was with the email address that ended with City of Belpre. If that had been activated it would have affected the entire network. We did have the antivirus and it was caught quickly.

Ms. Abdella, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer Committee reported that her committee met prior to this evening's meeting to discuss **AN ORDINANCE TO CORRECT AND AMEND AN ERROR IN BELPRE CODE OF ORDINANCE SECTION NO. 1313.12(b)**, inoperable vehicles. All of our questions were resolved. Once this is finished, we would like to reassign back to Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer committee so we can do some adjustments to the legislation later. Secondly, we talked about the CHIP funding that is for houses within our community that might need some repairs. There are funds available. They can contact Washington Morgan County Community Action or the city building to make it happen. We will move on with those pieces of legislation this evening.

Mr. Millhone Utilities Committee had no report.

Mr. McClead Parks and Recreation Committee had no report.

Mr. Wallace Planning and Zoning /Economic Development reported that we had a meeting to discuss real estate uses for rehab within our city. We will have additional meetings in the near future. Secondly, my committee met to discuss **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**. At this time, I would like to make a motion to add to tonight's agenda for first reading **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**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Ms. Abdella stated that she failed to make a motion to add to tonight's agenda **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A MOU WITH THE**

WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO APPLY FOR A COMMUNITY FUNDING PROGRAM GRANT (CFP). A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Null, Rules Committee had no report. Mr. Null called a Rules committee meeting for June 12th, 2023 at 6:45pm for the purpose of discussing feral cats, Exhibit A.

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)).

Ms. Abdella brought before council for second reading **AN ORDINANCE TO CORRECT AND AMEND AN ERROR IN BELPRE CODE OF ORDINANCE SECTION NO. 1313.12(b).** Ms. Abdella stated that this is in regards to inoperable vehicles. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Ms. Abdella made a motion to suspend the rule of council on three different days to allow for the third reading of **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.

Ms. Abdella brought before council for third 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.

Ms. Abdella moved this be **Ordinance #10, 2022-2023** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Ms. Abdella asked that this be left on the committee assignments so that future work can be done on the ordinance.

Ms. Abdella brought before council for second 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. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for third reading **AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AUTHORIZED MANPOWER FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2023.** Discussion followed regarding the attachments of the salaries that were requested. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson moved this be **Ordinance #11, 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 ADOPTING THE TAX BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2024**. There is a typo of 2023 in the original resolution and will be corrected before we pass the resolution. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

Mr. Wallace brought before council for first reading **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**. 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 MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A MOU WITH THE WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO APPLY FOR A COMMUNITY FUNDING PROGRAM GRANT (CFP)**. 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:

Tim Craft 3712 School House Road, Little Hocking, Ohio addressed council regarding Rehabilitation/Outreach Events and owner of Angel's Harbor addressed council showing interest in coming to Belpre and telling stories about folks that have overcome their addiction problems. After much discussion, Mr. Craft asked that this be assigned to committee.

President of Council asked Mr. Craft to be a part of the discussion with Mr. Wallace and stated that everyone is welcome to attend the committee meetings.

Mr. Null stated that he was interested in a team that works.

Mayor Lorentz asked Mr. Craft to contact him and Chief Stump and set up a meeting.

Those appearing on the above topic were Natasha Robertson, 305 Lee Street, Apt. 3, Belpre, Counselor for Tim Craft.

Mr. Craft stated that it would bring about 30 or more jobs to the community.

Vanessa Goins, 4492 SR 339, Belpre, Ohio, spoke on rehab.

Vanessa Annuzzi, 4492 SR 339, Belpre, Ohio spoke about the success of the program. Came from Florida and joined the program.

Joey Fields, 4001 10th Avenue, Parkersburg, WV spoke about how Angel Harbor saved his family and that his family reconnected.

Yvette Wright, 1030 Market Street, Parkersburg, WV stated that she was very grateful for Angel's Harbor. At age 52, she found the right road through this ministry.

Abbey Lockhart 4492 SR 339, Belpre, Ohio told her story before council and asked that the City of Belpre to give them a chance.

Abbey Craft 3712 School House Road, Little Hocking, Ohio stated that once someone comes to their program and later decides they don't want to be there we don't just put them out on the streets, we try to relocate them.

Austin Alexander (address unknown) stated that there is something amazing going on at Angel's Harbor and those struggling with addiction.

William Cassady 824 Belrock Avenue, Belpre, Ohio spoke about Zenia, Ohio and the different Treatment Facilities there. He also spoke about the zoning of these facilities. Mr. Cassady spoke about different addictions. He would like to see an impact study and expedite it immediately instead of sweeping it under a rug.

Stephanie Cassady (address unknown) stated that she was an addict and is now 100 days clean.

Michael Mosley 1226 Ann Street, Parkersburg, WV stated that he was from Charleston and spoke about his acceptance to the rehab program. He said he couldn't speak about Angel's Harbor but he could speak about the rehab programs. Everything has a purpose.

Micah Christian, 3826 School House Road, Little Hocking, Ohio has had the opportunity of seeing these girls overcome their addiction. Proper steps are taken if an individual doesn't want to be there. Please give us a chance.

Jesse Wonycott 805 Main Street, Belpre addressed the Syber Security.

Dave Ferguson called a Finance/Audit committee meeting for June 12, 2023 at 6:15pm for the purpose of discussing Supplemental Appropriations #2 where Mrs. Nolan requested \$50,000 to be appropriated.

Mr. Ferguson addressed a letter from SOPEC regarding the Aggregation Program and if you don't do something by June 1, 2023 there might be a 100% increase. If you opt out and go with AEP Energy the rate is going to be 11.8 per kilowatts.

A question was asked if this is automatic. Electric rates are going to double. If you don't do anything and leave as is the rate is going to be 11.8. If you have any questions, please call Connie.

Jeff Greenly 930 Pine Street commented that the threat is real and you must listen to the chief and upgrade your system accordingly.

Jackie Cassady 824 Belrock Avenue addressed council regarding Angel Harbor and thanked everyone for coming this evening and asked council to consider their request. Mrs. Cassady also spoke about Beautify Belpre.

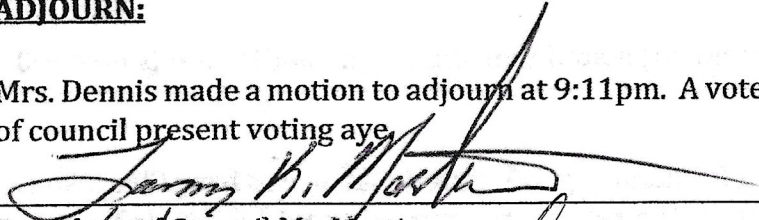
Mrs. Nolan encouraged the group to keep looking up,

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:53pm for the purpose of discussing possible litigation. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

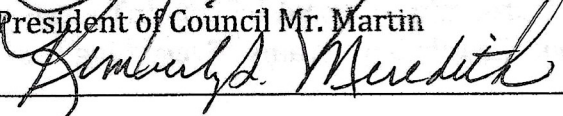
Mrs. Dennis made a motion to return from Executive Session at 9:10pm. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

ADJOURN:

Mrs. Dennis made a motion to adjourn at 9:11pm. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.



President of Council Mr. Martin



Clerk of Belpre City Council Kimberly Meredith