

June 10, 2024

Council President Mr. Martin called the June 10, 2024 Belpre City Council meeting to order at 7:30 pm. The roll was called with the following members present: Mr. Ambrozy, Mrs. Dennis, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Godfrey (who was present but had to leave for emergency but returned back to the regular meeting at 7:45pm), Mr. Locke, Ms. Riffle and Mr. Seebaugh present. Also, present were Mayor Abdella, 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. Absent from the meeting was City Auditor Mrs. Nolan.

Council President Mr. Martin asked everyone to please rise for the Prayer and remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Ambrozy 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.

Council President Mr. Martin asked for a motion for the May 13, 2024 minutes. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to accept the minutes of May 13, 2024 and by-pass the reading. Ms. Riffle stated that we needed to amend the minutes and add the name **Ryan Varian** as being nominated as the Golden Shield Award Winner for EMS provider and to cross out the time of adjournment at the end of the meeting. Mrs. Dennis did a resend on her motion. 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:

Law Director Mr. Webster had no report.

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassidy reported that the Auditor, Mayor, Chairman of Finance and myself met with Daniel Wolf with Software Solutions. Council has received a copy of the Treasurer's Report that needs approved. Copies are in the back. We went over the report that is being taken from our new software. This Treasurer's Report is from January 1, 2024 to April 30, 2024. Mr. Ferguson stated that this report is very very busy. It has Month to Date to Year to Date and so on. This will not be as accurate however the numbers will not add up if you're not really careful. The mayor can run this report two or three days later in order to get the accuracy needed. The new report is not wrong, it is a timing issue. Mayor Abdella stated that the report you were given (Statement of Cash Position) is the one that they will used to reconcile with the bank statement. The grand total and the unexpended balance are the bank reconciliation total per Mrs. Cassidy. Mayor Abdella stated that she is happy with the new report however she feels you need both reports for the bank reconciliation. State Auditors like you to receive more about how the city is functioning. Council would like to receive both reports. Less is more per President of Council Mr. Martin. Further discussion followed. Mr. Ambrozy asked why the report didn't run through May. According to Mayor Abdella it is because she didn't have the bank reconciliation yet. It usually comes the second meeting in June. Mayor Abdella stated that she could give her report first and the Treasurer's Report will come second.

Mrs. Dennis made a motion on the Treasurer's/Statement of Cash Positions for January 1, 2024 to April 30, 2024. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. Council President Mr. Martin stated that any information we can receive on our funding is very much appreciated.

Council President Mr. Martin welcomed back Mr. Godfrey.

Communication and Petitions:

Council President Mr. Martin assigned to the following committee:

City of Belpre Policy Manual was assigned to Ms. Riffles, Rules Committee. Mayor Abdella stated that she would send the old Belpre Policy Manual and the new Belpre Policy Manual to Ms. Riffle.

Mr. Ferguson Finance Audit Committee was assigned Creating the \$4.00 and

the pond. The depth of the pond is deeper. They are going to have a good habitat in the pond. Mrs. Drake stated that the Belpre Women's Club has voted to donate \$250 to help stock the pond. Mayor Abdella stated that Chris went out to the fish hatchery in Barlow and we will be able to stock it with Catfish, Blue Gill and Bass. There is enough money to get these additional fish.

Mr. Godfrey, Planning and Zoning and Economic Development Committee met this evening at 7:00pm for the purpose of discussing a zoning change at 209 Lee Street, Belpre. Mr. Godfrey reminded everyone present of the Planning and Zoning Committee meeting on June 25, 2024 at 5:30pm for the purpose of discussing the Moore Property. Mr. Godfrey would like to see more information about the pool.

Mrs. Drake stated that there are many grants available for parks and recreation.

Ms. Riffle Rules Committee called a Rules Committee meeting for Monday June 17, 2024 at 6:30pm for the purpose of discussing Political Signs. I hope to have a preliminary write up and if council agrees we will forward on to the law director for legislation. Last Tuesday, I attended Music by the River that is put on by the Belpre Women's Club. There was a great turn out and the entertainment was very good. Weather was nice! I encourage you to attend. It is held every Tuesday night throughout the summer. Special election tomorrow at the high school. The election is to fill the position of Senator Bill Johnson. Mike Rulli is the Republican candidate and Mr. Cripchek is running as the Democratic candidate.

President of Council Mr. Martin reminded all members of council that we need 75% of all council to do the online training to make the City of Belpre eligible for Utility Management Training from the State. Please let us know when you have completed it. Mayor Abdella stated that you would get a certificate.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL – AGENDA items only – None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for second reading **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BELPRE MAYOR AND AUDITOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH INVOICE CLOUD INC. TO PROVIDE BILLING SERVICE**

FOR MONTHLY WATER/SEWER BILLS FOR THE CITY OF BELPRE. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for first reading **A RESOLUTION SUPPLEMENTING 2024 APPROPRIATIONS** with exhibit. 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 first reading **A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TAX BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2025.** 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 reading of **A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TAX BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2025.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for second and third readings **A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TAX BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2025.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson moved this be **Resolution #6, 2024-2025** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

PERSON APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Jan Holter 911 Florence Street an avid animal lover passed out literature to council regarding what Hot Asphalt will do to your pet's paws. She would like council to review the literature for signage.

President of Council Mr. Martin assigned the request to Mr. Seebaugh, Parks and Recreation Committee.

Rod O'Donnell #3 Bay Point Drive addressed council regarding the possibility of Retail Sale of Marijuana. There are three groups: for, against and neutral. This is not a personal thing. Rod O'Donnell presented some facts about the retail sale. There are two books that I encourage council to read: Teach Your Children and Dangerous Truth About Marijuana. We have a city that is beyond belief. I do not want to see our city turn into Colorado. I ask council to read the book and then vote.

Judy Drake 713 Oak Tree Lane stated that there are a lot of decisions that need to be made for this town regarding Retail Sale of Marijuana. The decision you all make affects everyone in this town. Mrs. Drake presented a lot of facts regarding what marijuana can do to your body, our town, etc. Keep in mind to make a sound decision.

Jesse Wynecott 805 Main Street addressed purchasing a small tablet run Wi-Fi and run Facebook Live on the tablet for committee meetings.

I did a survey on our water bills as individual I know had a higher bill then expected. In reviewing the water bills I found that the meter was read 37 days rather than 30 days causing her to run over. I would like to see the bills read every 30 days rather than every 36 or 37 days. Mayor Abdella asked if Mrs. Wynecott if she could provide her with the water bills that she know has affected citizens.

I would also like to see the water rates revised. They have not been revised since 2008.

Several council meetings ago Mr. Godfrey asked that the funds be listed in city legislation when we are spending money. At this time, they still have not been assigned.

Mrs. Dennis stated that she has a lot of things she is doing up here and that is why she only streams Facebook live on the regular council meeting. She stated that the City of Vienna has a group called Friends of Vienna which they volunteer to record other meetings besides the regular council meeting. However they have to have admin to be able to access the Facebook live page.

Mrs. Wonycott suggested that when we have spending legislation, she would like to have funds listed so citizens know where the money has been spent. Council President Mr. Martin assigned to Mr. Ferguson/Mr. Godfrey coordinating funds in legislation and see what we come up with. Mayor Abdella stated that she has to list every fund that she puts money into or takes money out of.

B J Cassady 824 Belrock Avenue concurred with Rod O'Donnell and Mrs. Drake about the sale of marijuana and set examples of what happens with addiction of drugs from the use of marijuana and other stronger drugs to get a high. I'm asking the law director to have legislation prepared at the next meeting to prevent the sale of recreational marijuana in the City of Belpre. Mr. Cassady doesn't want vendors coming in and applying for license for the sale of marijuana. Permits for the retail sale started June 7th, 2024. Someone could have already applied for license in our city. It is time to take action and stop this. There is hope for those out there that are addicts.

President of Council Mr. Martin asked Mrs. Dennis to look into the legislation.

Mr. Locke passed out legislation from Granville, Ohio establishing a moratorium on the issuance and processing of permits related to the cultivation, processing or dispensing of recreational marijuana within the Village of Granville, Ohio. I would like for council to review the legislation.

Mayor Abdella stated that she has had multiple calls from multiple States within the last 10 days asking our position on dispensaries and sales as they are looking for locations. I told them that it is coming before council on June 17th, 2024

Mrs. Dennis asked if Ms. Riffle could co-chair regarding the legislation. President of Council added Ms. Riffle to the committee assignment.

Mr. Locke stated that 10% of the sales of marijuana goes into rehab facilities.

Mrs. Dennis called a Police and Fire Committee meeting for June 24th at 6:30 pm to discuss **Recreational Marijuana**. She asked Mr. Webster to have sample legislation on the topic.

Karen Locke 726 Tuttle St Belpre stated that Teresa's concern was what could go into the property at 209 Lee Street. She is afraid that a business to sell marijuana could go into that location. Mrs. Locke stated that Mrs. Gilbert will give her a list of businesses that can come into that. This is why she wants to know what kind of businesses is coming in. We want businesses into our city but we don't want it to be detrimental to our kids or our city.

Mr. Locke stated that there is a webinar by the State of Ohio that gives municipalities the opportunity to decide what businesses they want in their city.

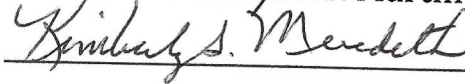
Mrs. Cassidy stated that she appreciates council working so hard on this topic.

Mrs. Cassidy expressed the beauty of the flowers in the park. This week they will be installing poles for the hanging baskets. If you haven't been down by the park you should take the opportunity to visit and enjoy the beautiful flowers.

A motion was made to adjourn at 9:03pm. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.



Council President Mr. Martin



Clerk of Belpre City Council Mrs. Meredith