

June 12, 2023

Council President Mr. Martin called the June 12, 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. 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. Absent from the meeting was Mr. Millhone.

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 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 22, 2023 as presented. Ms. Abdella made a motion to accept the minutes of May 22, 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 since our last meeting most of my time has been spent doing research into the Rehab facilities and a more specific ordinance against panhandlers in our city.

The Alumni group asked me for an article to go in the next Olden Eagle publication.

My wife and I attended the State Annual Conference for The American Legion Auxiliary where I welcomed all the visiting officers.

The W.W.W., MOVTA, ODOT and I met virtually to discuss the results of the survey pertaining to the bus line running through town. Hopefully this week I will learn of funding sources to assist us and will relay the information to the council.

June 7<sup>th</sup>, I attended the Chamber Breakfast along with some 40 other business owners and members. Our host for the breakfast was SOPEC and very informative.

We received complaints about the playground equipment at Civitan Park. I personally went to investigate and found just one link of chain broken on the Pirates Ladder. It was removed and will be repaired or left off the display.

The city pool has been very busy and well attended. So far everyone is doing a great job keeping all safe and wet.

The Cruise In and music in the park were a great success but did have some parking issues. We need to remember that parking is not allowed at the north end of the park where your well field is located. 300 feet is the distance we need to maintain.

Belpre EMS made 152 runs total for the city during the month of May.

Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzell reported that the pool has opened, and we have had more swimmers than usual.

We received 3 summer youth from ODJFS. There is one in the water department and 2 in the street garage.

The admin AC is failing. We got a quote to replace and it's around \$30,000. I will need to come to council to ask for an appropriation.

We have received the pole for the 2nd meter reader and are almost ready for the system to start reading meters. This also will allow for some of the water meters to be turned on/off by the staff from their computer.

Tree commission meeting is tomorrow at 11am if anyone would like to attend and possibly become a member.

As a reminder from President of Council Mr. Martin to please see that the clerk gets a copy of your report.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan reported that it was previously stated that the Tax Budget was due July 1, 2023 however the correct due date is July 15, 2023 to the County.

Reminder to council that due to the paper pricing the Utility Adjustment Report will be emailed and found on line prior to the last meeting of each month.

City Law Director Mr. Webster reported that his office has been working hard.

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassidy had no report.

**Communication and Petitions:**

President of Council Mr. Martin assigned legislation to the following committees.

**AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A SIX-MONTH MORATORIUM ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INPATIENT OR OUTPATIENT ADDICTION FACILITIES INCLUDING SOBER LIVING HOMES AND RECOVERY HOMES WITHIN THE CITY OF BELPRE** was assigned to Mr. Wallace's Planning and Zoning and Economic Development Committee.

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TAX BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2024** was assigned to Mr. Ferguson, Finance/Audit Committee.

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (10,000.00) TO SAVE A KITTY FERAL CAT PROGRAM FOR SPAYING AND NEUTERING FERAL CATS IN THE CITY OF BELPRE** was assigned to Mr. Null, Rules Committee.

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BELPRE TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND ENTER INTO A WATER SUPPLY REVOLVING LOAN ACCOUNT (WSRLA) AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF BELPRE FOR DESIGN AND/OR CONSTRUCTION OF WATER FACILITIES: AND DESIGNATING A DEDICATED REPAYMENT SOURCE FOR THE LOAN** will be assigned to Mr. Millhone's Utilities Committee when he is available.

**A RESOLUTION SUPPLEMENTING YEAR 2023 APPROPRIATIONS** was assigned to Mr. Ferguson, Finance/Audit Committee.

**PANHANDLERS ORDINANCE** was assigned to Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee.

President of Council Mr. Martin asked for a voice vote at this time. Motion was made by Mr. Ferguson to nominate a new sewer treatment plant facility for EPA funding – grants and/or loans. The motion is to allow EDG (Environmental Design Group) to submit the application required to be filed with the Ohio EPA to nominate the now City of Belpre sewer treatment plant for consideration for grants and/or loans to complete construction of the new and renovations of the existing sewer treatment plant facility to comply with Ohio EPA requirements. Discussion followed on the time frame that the million dollars for design has to be applied for which is August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023. According to Ms. Abdella this one piece of legislation for the water supply has to be paid now in the amount of \$104,000. Ms. Abdella stated that part of the money had been received for the waterline. Mrs. Hoblitzell stated that we have already received \$50,000 for the lead service line for the study and \$250,000 to start replacing the line. Mr. Webster stated that we don't have to move forward we are just seeing if we are qualified to receive. We don't have to commit. Further discussion followed. Mr. Webster explained the EDG study to all present at the council meeting in regards to the flood plain situation at the sewer treatment plant. Our first step is to file an application to see if we qualify for the loans and grants and after that point you start the design and engineering phase and then on to final grants and funding. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

## Reports of Standing Committee

Mr. Ferguson reported that Finance/Audit Committee met prior to this evening's meeting to discuss the second supplemental appropriations to continue with the police departments security and computers. It was originally \$50,000 and we talked about down sizing to \$20,000. I have been asked not to run legislation this evening. This will be left on the table like it is right now.

I would like to call a meeting for June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 7PM for the purpose of furthering our discussion on the supplemental. We will have more details at that time from the police department showing where we are at and our security system over there.

We had a meeting that I was Pro Tem Chairman of and that was the Sewer Plant discussion. Jeff Carr with Environmental Design Group was present to discuss and laid out four options one being what the EPA had to say, second was to build a wall around our sewer plant, third is to revise what we have now, and last is to build a new sewer plant. This meeting was held on June 6, 2023 at 3PM in the afternoon. Thanked all those present. Copy of the presentation was sent out to each member of council.

Mr. Ferguson stated that the meeting was called as a Committee Meeting of the whole.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee reported that she had piggy backed on a meeting that Mr. Ferguson had last week for the purpose of discussing the Panhandlers Ordinance. This meeting was an informational meeting and was to introduce information that we have. Mrs. Dennis stated that the committee has decided to beef up the information that we already have in place.

Tonight, June 12, 2023 at 7PM we had another meeting to discuss the Nuisance Ordinance. It is in the very early stages and I will be calling another meeting to further our discussion on both of the issues.

Ms. Abdella, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer Committee had no report.

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

Mr. McClead Parks and Recreation Committee had no report.

Mr. Wallace Planning and Zoning /Economic Development had no report.

Mr. Wallace made a motion to add to tonight's agenda for first reading **AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A SIX-MONTH MORATORIUM ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INPATIENT OR OUTPATIENT ADDICTION FACILITIES INCLUDING SOBER LIVING HOMES AND RECOVERY HOMES WITHIN THE CITY OF BELPRE.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Null, Rules Committee reported that the Rules committee met June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 6:45pm for the purpose of discussing feral cats. Unfortunately, I don't feel that the legislation can be passed tonight so I will leave it tabled.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to add to tonight's agenda for first reading **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BELPRE TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND ENTER INTO A WATER SUPPLY REVOLVING LOAN ACCOUNT (WSRLA) AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF BELPRE FOR DESIGN AND/OR CONSTRUCTION OF WATER FACILITIES: AND DESIGNATING A DEDICATED REPAYMENT SOURCE FOR THE LOAN.** Discussion followed. Ms. Abdella asked if there is a loan or match to this? Mayor Lorentz stated this just allows us to apply. Ms. Abdella stated that this is the whole thing. Ms. Abdella stated that she would like to have a special meeting to get a clearer picture. I would like Mr. Carr to explain this to me again. I want to know what we owe. I'm trying to see the projects that we owe money on. Mr. Wallace stated that he didn't feel we had enough information to proceed this evening. Mrs. Hoblitzell checked to see when Mr. Carr would be available. Mr. Ferguson resent his motion.

**PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL - AGENDA items only** ((President of items.))

Tim Craft appeared before council requesting clarification on the Moratorium. I applied for my occupancy of use on May 17, 2023 and I haven't received it yet. If this passes tonight my concern is if there is a time limit from the time, I received my occupancy and the time this is voted on. Mr. Craft was informed by the law director that if this was filed before this moratorium is passed the application would be grandfathered in before the moratorium takes effect. Mr. Webster stated that the application didn't apply to his application.

B J Cassady 824 Belrock Avenue stands in support of Mr. Craft and what he is attempting to do. Mr. Cassady would like to see the moratorium voted down.

Jesse Wynecott 805 Main Street stood in support of the moratorium. Mrs. Wynecott stated that we need to get the proper zoning and we paid Sixmo \$50,000 to help with zoning issues. To my knowledge we haven't got any report on that. Also, this legislation is similar to \_\_\_\_\_, Ohio. I have been in contact with them and the Ohio Attorney's Office and it is pretty solid. Mrs. Wynecott asked for verification of the legislation regarding the word commenced that appears throughout the legislation. Mr. Webster stated the project has already been commenced and the ordinance can only be effective after it is past. If something should start then they would be in violation of the moratorium and they wouldn't be able to get an occupancy permit.

Linda Cestero with Marietta Memorial Hospital stated that if you don't give the facility an opportunity in the City of Belpre you become a part of the problem and not a solution.

Bobbi Lockhart 1613 Washington Boulevard addressed the location of the facility.

Judith Drake 713 Oak Tree Lane stood in support. Mrs. Drake asked the council not to be selfish and to support the facility. I can't see that this facility would have a impact on the businesses.

Micah Christian, Admission Director spoke on behalf of what the program can do for the community. I am a licensed counselor.

Nicolet Christian is a Substance Abuse Counselor and spoke regarding being in addiction for 15 years.

Rita Lowe 315 Maple Street asked the age of the sewer plant. She was informed that the facility was built in 1964 and upgraded in 1980.

**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 third 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 moved this be **Resolution 31, 2022-2023** and duly passed.

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for second reading **A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TAX BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2024.** 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 second 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.

Mr. Wallace moved to suspend the rule of council on three different days to allow for the third reading of **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.** Discussion followed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Wallace brought before council for third 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.

Mr. Wallace moved this be **Resolution 32, 2022-2023** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Ms. Abdella brought before council for second 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.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Wallace brought before council for first reading **AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A SIX-MONTH MORATORIUM ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INPATIENT OR OUTPATIENT ADDICTION FACILITIES INCLUDING SOBER LIVING HOMES AND RECOVERY HOMES WITHIN THE CITY OF BELPRE.** Discussion followed. Ms. Abdella asked if this does or does not stop them from moving forward. Mr. Wallace stated that it does not. Ms. Abdella stated that it gives them time to work on the project. Mr. Null stated that he had no objections. This is a good Christian clinic. Mrs. Dennis asked if we need a moratorium for zoning issues or can this be done regardless. Mr. Webster stated that we can discuss zoning issues and proposed changes at any time. A vote was taken with Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Wallace voting aye; Mrs. Dennis, Mr. McClead, Mr. Null and Ms. Abdella voted nay. Motion failed.

#### **PERSON APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:**

Bobbi McClain Walker 1613 Washington Boulevard, I also own 1623 Washington Boulevard and own a business at 2505 Washington Boulevard. Sixteen months ago, I came before council in regards to the Spires property that has no curb cut. I haven't been able to put my business there, nor was I able to use it for homecoming, I haven't been able to sell it, I continue to pay the bills there and I continue to call the city building and can't get a call back. I have had one call back in the last four months from a gentleman at the water department and he said he was going to deal with it at the end of May. We are now into the second week of June. I was told this isn't a council issue but since nothing has been done, I'm asking for it to be a council issue. This is

not only affecting my home life, but also my business. You can't tell me that anyone of you would be happy if you didn't have access to your property. I also received a letter about mowing the grass. When I got this property, it didn't have grass. You all put the grass there. You have mowed it for 16 months and now I'm getting letters about mowing the property. Mrs. Hoblitzell stated that Chris Barringer talked to me this morning and told me that he had talked with Mrs. Walker and he told her it would be done in the month of June. Mrs. Hoblitzell stated that she was not a part of that conversation but Chris is with the street department. President of Council Mr. Martin asked if they were going to do the curb cut? Mrs. Hoblitzell stated that he said he told her the month of June. Mr. Martin stated that you have her commitment that it is going to happen this month. If it doesn't than you bring it back to council. Council is here to legislate and appropriate. This is what we are allowed to do.

Mrs. Walker asked about the mowing? Mayor Lorentz stated that if we mow it, it becomes part of your taxes. Mrs. Walker stated that the city mowed the property all last year and if you put it there you should be responsible for mowing. Mayor Lorentz was going to check about the mowing with the street department. The property is part of an estate and the folks that is mowing may have mowed that property however I have never mowed it. Further discussion followed.

Mrs. Walker also addressed the gas line at 1613 Washington Boulevard. Sprinkler line is busted and gas line issue has not been fixed. This was presented to council. I feel like I'm wasting my time taking care of issues that I shouldn't have to. Mr. Webster asked if she had contacted the gas company? She informed Mr. Webster that she had contacted them with no return calls. Mr. Webster stated that is their responsibility. This work was done within their right-of-way. Mayor Lorentz is to get Mrs. Walker a good phone number to call about the issue on Tuesday. Discussion followed.

Lois Radcliff 220 O'Neil Street asked about the broken water meter at Orion. Mrs. Hoblitzell stated that it has been repaired. Mrs. Radcliff asked if we are able to recoup some of the money that was lost. Mrs. Hoblitzell stated that we are.

Mrs. Radcliff asked about the location of a new sewer plant if we rebuild. It will be built in the general location that it is now. She was informed that if it is rebuilt it will have to be elevated.

Penne Riffle 763 Ann Street asked about the potential loans and the ability to recoup because our water bills were quite low and they were not able to qualify. This was the reason for the \$4 and \$2 charge on the water bill. My question is how is that going to affect the loans that we are going to be getting and are we even going to be close to qualifying? Mayor Lorentz stated that what you are talking about is CDBG monies and



that is an issue. Jeff is going to check on that to see but I think we are still too low to even qualify. This isn't a permanent raise of the water bill.

How long have we known about the Sewer System and the EPA issue? Mr. Ferguson stated since 2012. We have known about flooding issues for 11 years. Should something have been done before now? Mayor Lorentz stated that is has to do with the age of the plant. It has always been in the flood plain. Mrs. Hoblitzell stated that when it went through the upgrade it was done with the flood plain rules.

Ms. Riffle also addressed the system for the water meters. It is her understanding that quite a few water meters can't be read because they are broken and can't be read by the machine. Mrs. Hoblitzell stated they are fixing them one by one as they go bad.

Jesse Wonycott 805 Main Street asked about the ARPA money that totals \$305,000 and where we are going to use the monies as it seems there are three different places where it is going to be used. A decision needs to be made where it is going to be spent and council has the say.

Mrs. Wonycott stated that the moratorium didn't have anything to do with Mr. Craft. Two years ago, or maybe 2 ½ years ago we spent \$50,000 to a company called SIXMO to make suggestions on our zoning. To my knowledge we haven't got anything to council to make any changes to the zoning. I'm suggesting that we take up zoning issues. I would hope that SIXMO would have something by now. According to Mrs. Hoblitzell the zoning report from SIXMO is complete and has been forwarded to Ms. Abdella and she will be forwarding to Wallace.

Ms. Riffle stated that she knew at one time something was presented for potential rezoning on Blennerhassett Avenue. It was voted down.

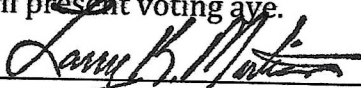
Ms. Abdella went back to the water plant and water line issue as to whether we needed to have another meeting. Mrs. Hoblitzell stated that Mr. Carr would be available Wednesday at 2PM.

Mr. Wallace called a Special Meeting of Council, Wednesday at 2PM for the purpose of funding of the water and sewer plant project.

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

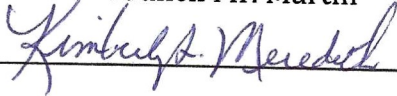
**ADJOURN:**

Mrs. Dennis made a motion to adjourn at 8:57pm. 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 Kimberly Meredith