

June 24, 2024

Council President Mr. Martin called the June 24, 2024 Belpre City Council meeting to order at 7:35 pm. The roll was called with the following members present: Mr. Ambrozy, Mrs. Dennis, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Godfrey, Mr. Locke, Ms. Riffle and Mr. Seebaugh present. Also, present were Mayor Abdella, City Auditor Mrs. Nolan, 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.

Council President Mr. Martin asked everyone to please rise for the Prayer and remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance. Chief Stump 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 June 10, 2024 minutes. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to accept the minutes of June 10, 2024 as presented and by-pass the reading. 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:

**Communications:**

I have participated in several committee meetings, as well as attending the South Eastern Solid Waste District Annual Meeting in Caldwell. I also had the pleasure of participating in the Multi-Cultural Festival opening. I had a

wonderful meeting with the O'Neill Center about renewing next years contract. We are busy and lots of things are happening.

We do have open positions within the city. The police department and the street department. These jobs will be posted until the positions are filled.

The City of Belpre Website is up and running. Thank you to IDAPT and Lyndsay for making this happen. We will continue to add information to the site. If there is anything you would like to see on it, please send me a note.

**Well 2 Rehab** – Engineering on this project to begin.

- A rate analysis presentation went very well. I look forward to the next steps of discussion in order to begin moving our projects forward.
- **Water Tower:** We are working with RCAP to complete the proforma's for financing.

**Lead Service Lines** – We are not doing very well with getting the surveys completed. Everyone needs to work within your wards to help get the surveys completed. Next week we will have a strategy session on how to accomplish this task prior to Sept 1.

**Street:**

- ODOT will be working on Rt 50/7 near the city line. They are having issues with road surface.
- The recent Tar spill along the highway was handled quickly and effectively by all parties involved. The area has been reseeded with no issues following the incident.

**Other Info:**

**Grants:**

ODOD received and funds requested for the pond.	\$100,000.00 (Inv. Sub.)
H2O Ohio Grant for Valve exercising equipment	\$10,000.00

PEP Grant for AED for Council Chambers

\$1,000.00

**Operational Issues:**

Vacation season is in full swing and many staff are out with families so we are currently focusing on the day-to-day operations.

**Tree Commission:**

Tree Commission is ramped up and very excited about identifying placement for the trees to be planted as the plans and streetscapes come together, I will share them with you.

**Pond Update:**

The pond is now completed and Dirt Works did an amazing job. The street crew is working on filling the pond. It is going to take a little bit to complete this since they can not run hoses over the sides. They are being very cautious with the sides as not to damage them. Now is when we have to exercise a little patience. Its going to be wonderful.

Those citizens that have back flows on your water lines please be sure and have them inspected. There will be letters going out regarding this issue.

Safety-Service Director – no report as there has not been one hired at this time.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan reported that The State Auditors visited and presented the 2022 Audit exit meeting Wednesday, May 29 at 9:00am. The Finance committee will need to meet for addressing items the Auditors brought to our attention. The Audit is on our newly designed website for review.

Julian & Grube have completed their portion of the 2023 Audit and forwarded to the State Auditor's. The State Auditors have begun requesting items and stated they will be on site soon to begin reviewing 2023 records.

The Tax Budget was sent to the County Thursday, June 13 receipt was acknowledged.

Software Solutions have been very helpful in addressing items in the new software that we have needed assistance with.

The May Utility Adjustment Report was emailed to Council Thursday, June 20, 2024, and needs Councils approval.

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

Law Director Mr. Webster reminded all members of council that the Zoning Committee will be having a Public Meeting tomorrow evening June 25, 2025 at 5:30pm for the purpose of discussing the re-zoning of three parcels of the Morella Moore Property from R1-R2. All members and public are welcome to attend.

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassady reported that the May Treasurer's Report is before you this evening and is awaiting approval by council. Email was sent to council and copies of the report appears in the back for review. Mr. Ferguson made a motion on the Treasurer's/Statement of Cash Positions for May 2024. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

#### **Communication and Petitions:**

Council President Mr. Martin assigned the following legislation to committee:

Mr. Godfrey was assigned **Zoning Change at 209 Lee Street from R1 to C2.**

Mrs. Dennis was assigned **AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING ADULT USE CANNABIS PROCESSING DISPENSING, LABORATORIES, CULTIVATION AREAS AND CULTIVATION FACILITIES** (Two pieces prepared: One without an emergency clause and one with an emergency clause); and **A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A MORATORIUM ON THE ISSUANCE AND PROCESSING OF PERMITS RELATED TO THE CULTIVATION, PROCESSING, OR DISPENSING OF RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA WITHIN THE CITY OF BELPRE, OHIO** (Two pieces prepared: One without an emergency clause and one with an emergency clause).

Ms. Riffle was assigned **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING BELPRE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTIONS 541.10(a), 7431.03 and 961.08 IN REGARD TO THE DISPLAY OF SIGNS ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY OF BELPRE, OHIO.**

Ms. Riffle was assigned **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF BELPRE TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER OF AKRON.**

### Reports of Standing Committee

Mr. Ferguson Finance/Audit Committee reported that his committee met June 24, 2024 at 7:25pm for the purpose of discussing **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BELPRE AUDITOR TO CREATE TWO NEW FUND ACCOUNTS FOR THE TWO MONTHLY RESTRICTED WATER PAYMENTS OF \$4.00 AND \$2.00 PER MONTH PER CITY WATER CUSTOMERS.** At this time, Mr. Ferguson made a motion to add to tonight's agenda for first reading **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BELPRE AUDITOR TO CREATE TWO NEW FUND ACCOUNTS FOR THE TWO MONTHLY RESTRICTED WATER PAYMENTS OF \$4.00 AND \$2.00 PER MONTH PER CITY WATER CUSTOMERS.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson called a Finance/Audit Committee meeting on July 2, 2024 at 6:00pm for the purpose of the review of the State Audit.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee reported that her committee met this evening at 6:30pm for the purpose of discussing Recreational Marijuana. There was a lot of good discussion and community involvement. I would like to call another meeting for July 2, 2024 at 5:00pm for continuing the discussion on Recreational Marijuana. Mrs. Dennis also addressed the new Belpre Website is up and running and there are instructions on the bottom for accessing. If you have a problem signing in, please contact the city building. If anyone has an event they would like to have put on the calendar, please email [thirdward@belprecouncil.com](mailto:thirdward@belprecouncil.com) with graphics and event details.

Mr. Locke, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer Committee had no report. Mr. Locke stated that he would like to thank the Street Department for patching the streets around the city.

Mr. Ambrozy Utilities Committee reported that one week ago today (June 17, 2024) we had a Utilities Committee meeting to discuss Water and Sewer Rate Analysis that was presented by Jeff Carr with EDG. He explained the importance of why we needed to adjust our water and sewer rates. I also

watched a Webinar on improving and updating your contingency plan for water treatment.

Mr. Seebaugh Parks and Recreation Committee had no report.

Mr. Godfrey, Planning and Zoning and Economic Development Committee made a motion to add to tonight's agenda for first reading **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A ZONING CHANGE FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 209 LEE STREET FROM R-1 TO C-2**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Ms. Riffle Rules Committee also announced that she would like to thank the park crew for the outstanding job they are doing at our parks. I would also like to thank the Street Department for patching holes throughout the city on our city streets. The Rules Committee met on Monday June 17, 2024 at 6:30pm for the purpose of discussing political signs and other signage throughout the city. After discussion, it was decided that there would be a consensus on approval of signs. The political signs and other signage were forwarded to Mr. Webster to prepare legislation. At this time, I would like to add to tonight's agenda for first reading **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING BELPRE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTIONS 541.10(a), 7431.03 and 961.08 IN REGARD TO THE DISPLAY OF SIGNS ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY OF BELPRE, OHIO**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Ms. Riffle also stated that on June 17, 2024 the Rules Committee met to discuss Recreational Marijuana Sales. The public had the opportunity to share and discuss their stories and opinion. Each person speaking had 3 minutes to discuss what they wanted to say. There were 11 speaking against the sale, 5 in favor of the sale and 2 requesting additional information. Reports have been forwarded to the clerk.

Ms. Riffle made a motion to add to tonight's agenda for first reading **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF BELPRE TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER OF AKRON**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

President of Council Mr. Martin informed council that we need to do better about getting the legislation to the clerk so we aren't adding this much legislation the night of the meeting.

**PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL – AGENDA items only – None**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for third 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.

Mr. Ferguson moved this be **Resolution #7, 2024-2025** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for second reading **A RESOLUTION SUPPLEMENTING 2024 APPROPRIATIONS** with exhibit.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to amend Exhibit A of the June 2024 Supplemental. There was no change to the totals. The change was to the fund/line items. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for the second reading **A RESOLUTION SUPPLEMENTING 2024 APPROPRIATIONS** as amended. 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 third reading of **A RESOLUTION SUPPLEMENTING 2024 APPROPRIATIONS** as amended. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for the third reading **A RESOLUTION SUPPLEMENTING 2024 APPROPRIATIONS** as amended. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson moved this be **Resolution #8, 2024-2025** and 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 AUTHORIZING THE BELPRE AUDITOR TO CREATE TWO NEW FUND ACCOUNTS FOR THE TWO MONTHLY RESTRICTED WATER PAYMENTS OF \$4.00 AND \$2.00 PER MONTH PER CITY WATER CUSTOMERS.** Mr. Ferguson provided a point of clarification that the funds needed to be separated. 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 readings of **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BELPRE AUDITOR TO CREATE TWO NEW FUND ACCOUNTS FOR THE TWO MONTHLY RESTRICTED WATER PAYMENTS OF \$4.00 AND \$2.00 PER MONTH PER CITY WATER CUSTOMERS.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for the second and third readings **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BELPRE AUDITOR TO CREATE TWO NEW FUND ACCOUNTS FOR THE TWO MONTHLY RESTRICTED WATER PAYMENTS OF \$4.00 AND \$2.00 PER MONTH PER CITY WATER CUSTOMERS.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson moved this be **Resolution #9, 2024-2025** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Godfrey brought before council for first reading **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A ZONING CHANGE FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 209 LEE STREET FROM R-1 TO C-2.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Godfrey moved to suspend the rule of council on three different days to allow for the second and third readings of **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A**



**ZONING CHANGE FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 209 LEE STREET FROM R-1 TO C-2.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Godfrey brought before council for second and third readings **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A ZONING CHANGE FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 209 LEE STREET FROM R-1 TO C-2.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Godfrey moved this be **Resolution #10, 2024-2025** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Ms. Riffle brought before council for first reading **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING BELPRE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTIONS 541.10(a), 7431.03 and 961.08 IN REGARD TO THE DISPLAY OF SIGNS ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY OF BELPRE, OHIO.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

Ms. Riffle brought before council for first reading **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF BELPRE TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER OF AKRON.** Discussion followed regarding Medicare license for Akron Children's Hospital. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Ms. Riffle moved to suspend the rule of council on three different days to allow for the second and third readings of **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF BELPRE TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER OF AKRON.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Ms. Riffle brought before council for second and third readings **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF BELPRE TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER OF AKRON.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Ms. Riffle moved this be **Resolution #11, 2024-2025** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

**PERSON APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:**

Rita Lowe 315 Maple Street, Belpre addressed council regarding funding for the two open positions. One is for the police department and the other is for the waste water department. Aren't we down two in the waste water. According to the Mayor we are down two. We have funding for one and will need additional funding for the second one at which time we will need to re-appropriate.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan requested a certified copy of **A RESOLUTION SUPPLEMENTING YEAR 2024 APPROPRIATIONS** legislation.

Jesse Wonycott 805 Main Street addressed Council regarding alcohol sales tax in the State of Ohio. According to the County Commissioners they only get a portion of the tax.

Mrs. Wonycott addressed SB-278 (Delta 8) which makes it illegal to sell recreational marijuana to minors. You may want to review SB-278.

When is the trash contract up with Rumpke? I was thinking it should be coming up. Mayor Abdella stated that she had not yet been contacted however she thanked Mrs. Wonycott for bringing it to her attention.

Ms. Riffle asked if she had a problem with Rumpke. Mrs. Wonycott stated that she did not she was just wondering about the contract.

I would also like to know the status of the water tower. Mrs. Wonycott was informed that it is ready to go out for bid. Mayor Abdella stated it has been ready for bid however they were waiting on funding.

Mr. Ferguson asked that the Council Committee Referrals be reviewed. HB33 tax ordinance from RITA needed to be left on his assignment.

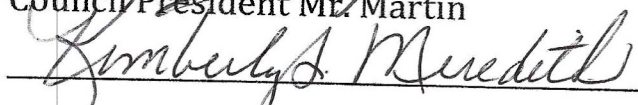
Ms. Riffle made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:32pm to discuss Personnel issues. President of Council Mr. Martin stated that once council returns from Executive Session there will be no further action taken at this meeting. Council will adjourn. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Council resumed from Executive Session at 9:07pm.

**ADJOURN:**

President of Council Mr. Martin informed the Council Clerk that the meeting adjourned from regular session at 9:08pm. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

  
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Council President Mr. Martin

  
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Clerk of Belpre City Council Mrs. Meredith