

July 08, 2024

Council President Mr. Martin called the July 08, 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, Mr. Locke, Ms. Riffle and Mr. Seebaugh present. Also, present were Mayor Abdella, City Auditor Mrs. Nolan, City Law Director Mr. Webster, Treasurer Mrs. Cassidy 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. Mrs. Nolan 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 24, 2024 minutes. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to accept the minutes of June 24, 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:

- On the 4th of July I had the pleasure of attending the Belpre Area Veterans and Masonic Lodge Flag raising and retirement ceremonies. What an incredible and moving event. Those organizing and

Operational Issues:

Currently we have several open positions: 1 in the streets, 1 in the water, 2 in sewer and the Public Works Superintendent has submitted his resignation effective August 3. Mr. President at the end I would request an executive session related to staffing and salary planning.

Pond Update: The pond is full and beautiful. We are receiving many nice comments and people are excited for it to be stocked and ready for the children. I have met with the Bass Club regarding their desire to stock for the kid's derby in August.

I did receive a quote for (4)12X18 signs for Hot Paws. The quote came in at \$48.00. I did ask Chris to go ahead with the signs.

Mr. Locke made a motion to go into Executive Session after the business is conducted for our regular meeting and before adjournment. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Per President of Council the only thing that will be discussed is what the mayor requested during her report. Mayor Abdella asked that the auditor be included in the meeting.

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

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan reported Software Solutions implemented our VIP Analytical Software Friday, July 5. We have six hours of training scheduled to begin Thursday, July 11. I was given a quick overview Friday and this system will provide many helpful reports.

We began the Invoice Cloud training Monday, July 1 for Utility Billing.

The State Auditor's will be on site tomorrow, July 9, to begin Auditing for 2023.

participating did a wonderful job retiring 1047 flags. I was also pleased to see the number of citizens that came out to participate in the service and retire a flag.

- We have posted the Cities open positions on indeed, the city website. Facebook and are working with Civil Service to get applicants tested if they want to move forward.
- We have had a couple water leaks over the past several days. The water crew in collaboration with the street department has worked very hard on resolving these issues. This piece of wood was what was on Washington Blvd. and was found under the link. The curve in this wood is what caused the break in the line which caused the leak.
- Tomorrow Rumpke will be having a seminar on Recycling at the Lafayette.

Well 2 Rehab – Engineering on this project to begin.

Water Rate Analysis:

- 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:** This project is on hold until Utilities determine if any rate hike will occur. The hospital is preparing for demolition of the current site at the end of the month. We need to determine where we are going to get started so we can determine about the water tank.

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.

President of Council Mr. Martin asked the auditor when she expected to hear back from the State Auditor's regarding the 2023 State Audit Report. City Auditor Mrs. Nolan stated that she is in hopes we will hear back in October.

City Law Director Mr. Webster had no report.

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassidy had no report.

Communication and Petitions:

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

Annual Codified Ordinance was assigned to Ms. Riffle, Rules Committee.

Public Utilities Commission disc was assigned to Mr. Ambrozzy, Utilities Committee. (Ohio Public Utilities Commission, CASE #23-0894-GA-AIR, Certified Mail 70191640000038648638 on 06/28/2024).

Reports of Standing Committee

Mr. Ferguson Finance/Audit Committee reported that his committee met July 02,2024 at 6:00pm for the purpose of reviewing the State Audit Report for 2022. It was pointed out that there needed to be a correction on the June Supplemental as the attachment reflected 2002 and should have been 2202. This had to do with OPERS Hospitalization.

At this time, I would like to make a motion to accept the amended Resolution. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee reported that her committee met this evening at 5:00pm for the purpose of discussing Recreational Marijuana. There has been legislation produced by the law director and it does already appear on tonight's agenda. We do not have an EMS Report for this evening's meeting however we should have one at the next meeting. The Belpre Volunteer Fire Department has requested that we add Katelynn Starcher to their roster. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Locke, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer Committee had no report. Mr. Locke stated that HB370 states that within the next 5 years they will be paving 50/7. The city will be responsible for the cost of paving inside the city boundaries.

Mr. Ambrozy Utilities Committee reported that he has been working with the mayor on the water and sewer rates and specifically the amount it should be raised and when it should be raised. This is very important for capital funding especially our new water tank. On June 27th, 2024 I attended the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Boone Docks Inc.

Mr. Seebaugh Parks and Recreation Committee had no report. Mr. Seebaugh mentioned that the mayor and I are meeting with Ron Taylor from Pickerington to analyze the pool and to tell us what needs to be fixed on the pool and the estimated amount that it will cost to fix the pool. Once we get the information I 'm calling a Parks and Recreation Committee meeting for July 22, 2024 at 6:00pm for the purpose of discussing fund raising for the pool and pond ordinance. Mayor Abdella stated that she does not have a non-profit however the Community Foundation does that graciously helped us with the pond.

President of Council Mr. Martin asked Mayor Abdella about the pump circulation at the pool. According to Mayor Abdella, Chris has been down at the pool and has bumped the water flow circulation.

Mr. Godfrey, Planning and Zoning and Economic Development Committee had no report. Mr. Godfrey called a Planning and Zoning committee meeting for July 22, 2024 at 7:00pm for the purpose of discussing R-1 and R-2.

Belpre Homecoming will be August 1st, 2024. The Homecoming committee has worked very hard to put everything together. I hope to see a good attendance.

Ms. Riffle Rules Committee announced that she attended the committee meetings that were held on Tuesday and attended the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Boone Docks Inc. She is still reviewing the Policy Manual for the City of Belpre. She hopes to be putting it forward in August. I would like to ask that the flag at the Sewer Plant be replaced as it is tattered. Also, she had been informed that people are putting fish in the pond. Please do not put any fish in the pond. There are chemicals in the pond and need to dissipate before placing the fish into the pond. Ms. Riffle also stated that she has had complaints about boat traffic/parking at the boat ramp that needs addressed. Also addressed was the Supreme Court ruling on the Camping Ordinance. Ms. Riffle stated that it addressed small towns.

Ms. Riffle called a Rules Committee meeting for July 15, 2024 at 5:00pm for the purpose of discussing a Moratorium on Addiction Rehabilitation Centers.

Mr. Martin stated that the light pole on Blennerhassett Avenue by the Wilson Home needs to be replaced as it is leaning. According to Mayor Abdella the cost to replace these poles is \$1,043.00 per pole. She will ask Chris to contact AEP regarding this issue.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL - AGENDA items only -

Pastor Ken Fullerton from Calvary Community Church addressed council regarding Drug and Alcohol Addiction Abuse.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Ms. Riffle asked that **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** lie over until the next meeting of council as additional information is being gathered. Ms. Riffle directed the clerk to put on the agenda for second reading at the next meeting of council.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mrs. Dennis brought before council for first reading **AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING ADULT USE CANNABIS PROCESSING DISPENSING, LABORATORIES, CULTIVATION AREAS AND CULTIVATION FACILITIES**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye except for Mr. Godfrey who voted nay.

Mrs. Dennis moved to suspend the rule of council on three different days to allow for the second and third readings of **AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING ADULT USE CANNABIS PROCESSING DISPENSING, LABORATORIES, CULTIVATION AREAS AND CULTIVATION FACILITIES**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye except for Mr. Godfrey who voted nay.

Mrs. Dennis brought before council for the second and third readings **AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING ADULT USE CANNABIS PROCESSING DISPENSING, LABORATORIES, CULTIVATION AREAS AND CULTIVATION FACILITIES**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye except for Mr. Godfrey who voted nay.

Mrs. Dennis moved this be **Ordinance #6, 2024-2025** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye except for Mr. Godfrey who voted nay.

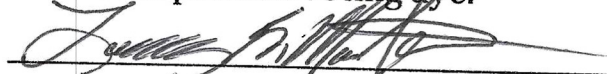
PERSON APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL: None

Council retired to Executive Session at 8:01pm to discuss staffing and salary planning. President of Council Mr. Martin stated that once council resumed from Executive Session there would be no further action taken at this evening's meeting. Council recessed.

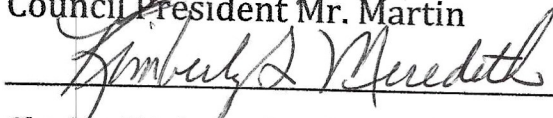
Council resumed from Executive Session at 8:37pm. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

ADJOURN:

A motion was made to adjourn at 8:38pm. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.



Council President Mr. Martin



Clerk of Belpre City Council Mrs. Meredith