

July 22, 2024

Council President Mr. Martin called the July 22, 2024 Belpre City Council meeting to order at 7:38 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. 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 July 8, 2024 minutes. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to accept the minutes of July 08, 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:

This has been a busy couple of weeks.

- I attended the Mayors Partnership for Progress meeting and there was lots of good discussion related to housing in Southeast Ohio and many communities' guidelines related to trailer, modular homes and buildings that have wheels coming in. We also discussed the America 250-Ohio campaign and how cities and communities can be involved. Couple of good opportunities for 2026.
- Meeting with ODOT related to RT 7 paving and crashes at Farson Street. They are using new methods to reduce accidents in certain areas. One is an RCUT. They are putting one in near Jackson, Ohio. Being the visual person I am, I made the trip to Jackson to see how it was being completed. More to come on this. We also discussed the traffic on Washington Blvd. and the excessive speed in certain areas. We are exploring traffic calming options.
- We have had meetings with the engineering firm to discuss the Lead Line Survey and the progress.
- Mr. President, we appropriated the funds for the H2O Ohio Grant of 10K, however I need a motion for you to accept the funds and allow me to use them.
- Also, Laurie Gwinn is a member of the Health Board and represents both Marietta and Belpre. Her term is coming to an end, I would like a voice vote to accept this appointment. Her term will expire May 31, 2027. She is a very productive member of the Health Board and we want to keep her.

Well 2 Rehab – Engineering on this project is about complete and the bidding process will begin.

Water Rate Analysis:

- I have completed the preliminary rate information for Mr. Ambrozy for the utility committee. I will be sending this information to all for discussion and consideration.

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.

Lead Service Lines – I have blocked my schedule for a couple weeks coming up to go out and assist door to door with this project. Friday, we had the engineering firm remove the email requirement. It was a hard stop on the form and many that have been turned in the citizens do not have email. We should focus on Lee Street to Florence. This is the oldest part of town and the most critical to complete. There have been four lead lines identified from Lee Street to Florence Street.

Park Plan – Structure Point – We have begun the work on the park plan. In the next few weeks (date to be determined), they will be in town to kick off the plan and conduct interviews with business and community leadership. If you know of a business leader or group that should be invited, please let me know so I can get them on the list.

Street Department:

- Chris and I met with ODOT and discussed options for paving city streets and funding available. This is not Grant funding; this will require loans. Chris has developed a list of streets and we are rating them based on need. These will be placed into the streets capital plan. There is a form for street break downs.

Water Department: The water dept has been very busy with leaks. Florence Street and the Orion O'Neal Lift Station pump and another leak on Friday.

Income Tax Distribution Report:

There has been extensive discussion related to income tax collection. We have been able to identify a report available to the city from RITA that we can run to show income tax collections. The report we ran was the top 300 Distributions for Belpre. The report shows if collection is up or down for business. YTD Belpre is \$1,321,052.59 compared to 23 at \$1,276,871.48.

The Traveling Clerk spent a day with us and will be back on July 31, 2024. I will allow the auditor to share more of their day together. She will be coming to the City on a regular basis to help us resolve the issues with the State Auditor.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the funds for the H2O Ohio Grant of 10K. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Ms. Riffle made a motion for a voice vote to accept the appointment of Laurie Gwinn to the Health Board for her term to expire May 31, 2027. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

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

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan reported that the last two weeks have involved continued training via Zoom with Invoice Cloud, VIP Analytics and we will be wrapping up our training on the SSI software the end of the month.

I spent all day Wednesday, July 17, with a traveling Clerk having 20 plus years of experience in being an Auditor. She retired and does consulting part-time. She has a wealth of experience and knowledge. We covered multiple subjects with our main focus on the 2022 Audit. She provided information for resources on cyber security as well as developing policies. She will be returning Wednesday, July 31.

The tagging of the Assets is $\frac{3}{4}$ completed. Several of the 2023 Assets did not convert thru the conversion. I am waiting to hear back from SSI. If they can recover these I will be finished by the timeline of July 31.

The June Utility Adjustment Report was emailed to Council Thursday, July 18, 2024, and needs Councils approval.

Mr. Locke addressed the 69 reconnect fees. He wanted to know if this was normal. According to City Auditor Mrs. Nolan it is.

President of Council Mr. Martin reminded Mrs. Nolan that copies of the Utility Adjustment Report needed to be signed and given to the clerk. Mrs. Cassady was reminded that signed copies of the Treasurer's Report needed to be given to the clerk.

Mrs. Dennis made a motion to accept the June 2024 Utility Adjustment Report as presented. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

City Law Director Mr. Webster announced that ODOT never noticed that the legislation accepting the two lots on Main Street had been passed. The deed was recorded today. We will see how long it takes the Auditor to treat it as tax exempt.

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassady reported that the June Treasurer's Report/Statement of Cash Position is before you this evening and needs council approval. The report was emailed to all members of council and copies appear at the back table. Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the Statement of Cash Position as presented. Mr. Ferguson explained the report before council. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Cassady thanked Mrs. Dennis for getting her email set up.

Communication and Petitions: None

Reports of Standing Committee

Mr. Ferguson Finance/Audit Committee had no report.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee had no report. Mrs. Dennis asked Mayor Abdella if she received the updated roster for the fire department that she left on her desk? Mayor Abdella stated that she did receive and stated that we are going to inventory the fire department.

Mr. Locke, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer Committee announced that we need to amend legislation on the golf carts, license and expired license. President of Council Mr. Martin assigned this to Mr. Locke's committee.

Mr. Ambrozy Utilities Committee reported that we continue to work with the Mayor on the Water and Sewer rates along with the City Auditor in attendance. I really appreciate all the work the mayor has done on the water and sewer rates. Mr. Ambrozy called a Utilities Committee meeting for July 29th at 5:30pm for the purpose of discussing the proposed rates and the timing. Mr. Ambrozy also announced that he attended the United Community Realty Company Ribbon cutting on July 13th, 2024.

Mr. Seebaugh Parks and Recreation Committee announced that he had also attended the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Community Reality. Mr. Seebaugh announced that his committee met on July 22, 2024 at 6pm for the purpose of discussing the pool and the pond ordinance. Legislation will be drafted to protect the pond. We are gathering information on the pool and will call another committee meeting once the information is gathered.

Mr. Godfrey, Planning and Zoning and Economic Development Committee reported that his committee met on July 22, 2024 at 7:00pm for the purpose of discussing R-1, R-2 zoning, Commercial Properties will be discussed at the next committee meeting. I will continue to work on the zoning in the City of Belpre. Also, I emailed to all members of council an agenda for the opening ceremony for the Belpre Homecoming.

Ms. Riffle Rules Committee announced that on July 15, 2024 at 5:00pm her committee met to discuss Moratorium on Residential Addiction Rehabilitation Centers and about the State and Federal Rules regarding the Moratorium and what we are allowed to do along with the zoning. We recommended that the Moratorium be extended for 12 months and ask that that legislation be ready for the next meeting. I continue to work on the Policy Manual for the City of Belpre. I'm half way through the manual and hope to have it completed by the end of the month so that we can update the legislation. I have not started on the Belpre Ordinances that was given to be last week on the updates.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL - AGENDA items only - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

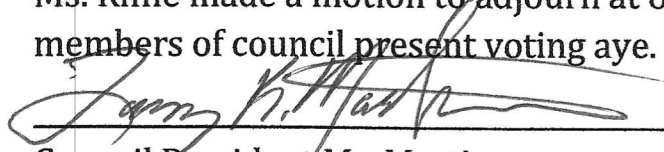
Ms. Riffle asked that **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING BELPRE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTIONS 541.10(a), 7431.03 and 961.08 IN REGARD TO THE DISPLAY OF SIGNS ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY OF BELPRE, OHIO** lie over until the next meeting of council as additional updates has not been received. Ms. Riffle directed the clerk to put on the agenda for second reading at the next meeting of council.

NEW BUSINESS: None

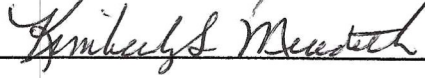
PERSON APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL: None

ADJOURN:

Ms. Riffle made a motion to adjourn at 8:03pm. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.



Council President Mr. Martin



Clerk of Belpre City Council Mrs. Meredith