

August 08, 2022

Council President Mr. Martin called the August 08, 2022 meeting to order at 7:37 PM. The roll was called with the following members present: Mrs. Dennis, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. McClead, Mr. Millhone, Mr. Null, Mr. Ruth and Mr. Wallace present. Also present was Mayor Lorentz, Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzell, City Law Director Mr. Webster, and Treasurer Mrs. Cassidy. Absent from the August 08, 2022 meeting was City Auditor Mrs. Nolan and Clerk of Council Mrs. Meredith.

Council President Mr. Martin asked that everyone please rise for the Prayer and remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Ruth gave the invocation and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President of Council Mr. Martin reminded council and the administration that if you have a report, please see that the clerk gets a copy of your report.

Mr. Martin also reminded everyone in the audience that is speaking before council to stand, state your name and address for the council clerk to hear and what you are addressing. Also please turn off all cellphones.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the minutes of July 25, 2022 as presented and by-pass the reading. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Public Hearing

President of Council Mr. Martin opened the Public Hearing at 7:39 pm for the purpose of discussing **AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN REAL ESTATE BY DECIMA DEVELOPMENT, LLC**. Mr. Webster began by stating that all members of council should have received on their desk the original Decima request for the zoning change and the minutes of the recommendation from the Planning Commission Robert H. Rauch. The parcels of land are located at the corner of Farson and Hanvey Streets and adjacent to the Speedway Gas station. One parcel (Parcel ID #08-33772 requires a zoning change from a R-1 to a C-2. In submitting the zoning request documents to the Planning Commission for Belpre as required, the Planning Commission has found that the parcel change from a R-1 to a C-2 for parcel ID #080033772001 (08003772000) for commercial purposes if justified as prepared/modified. This came fairly quickly as the project needs to begin. Mr. Holter is here this evening representing **DECIMA DEVELOPMENT, LLC**.

Mr. Ben Holter stated that he was owner of the business and building of the new Shriver's Pharmacy and wellness that will occupy the three parcels of land. Mr. Hilverding will be the pharmacist. Mr. Hilverding spoke briefly about himself to council.

Mr. Null asked about the size of the building. He was informed that it would be a little under 4,000 sq. ft. with a drive thru and parking. It will be more the size of CVS. It will be a retail pharmacy. We offer delivery service.

Dina Clark from Beverly was in favor of the pharmacy.

Bill Locke 726 Tuttle Street asked about when this would start. Mr. Holter stated that if we get the green light it will start within the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Locke asked if there was any negative feedback. Mr. Webster stated that he has received no responses.

The Public Hearing was closed at 7:48pm.

Reports of City Officials:

Mayor Lorentz reported that the Safety-Service Director and I met with the school maintenance representative Scott Trew to discuss the possibility of our street crew clearing snow during winter months. Our street foreman and service director will work out the costs and bring them to council for discussion. The school system has neither the manpower nor equipment to accomplish this task.

As I reported last month, Belpre will be host to a couple of the luxury cruise liners that travel the Ohio. If you have questions, we have Deanna Clark with us tonight that could answer all.

Last week I met with representatives from the Interstate Planning Commission, MOVTA, and O.D.O.T. to discuss the ability of running the bus line through Belpre. As it turns out the funds are there, to at least do the study that is needed. Belpre has no match in this. Mr. President, I would like this to be assigned to committee so that when the time comes the committee and council will be ready to act one way or another.

Our Police Chief and I attended the Global Leadership Summit on Thursday and Friday. This was very inspirational and I feel worthwhile.

On Sunday evening the Belpre Area Veterans held a very meaningful ceremony remembering all Purple Heart Recipients. August 7th was declared Purple Heart Day. Along with this information was presented on Agent Orange as October is designated for this. Bill Harpold and team deserve a lot of recognition for all they do.

Hopefully all of council received the email about the bridge closing. This is a disappointment to me but, if some people cannot follow the traffic rules all get punished. Safety has to come first.

York is scheduled to make the last connection Saturday morning at the hospital. This should finish Farson Street with the exception of paving. The south side of Braun is well under way with paving.

Another Homecoming in the books for Belpre. Our volunteers pulled off a very nice weekend in spite of the rainstorms.

Belpre will host cruise liners along the Ohio River. Deanna Clark is with us this evening to answer any questions you may have.

Deanna Clark with the Marietta/Washington Convention Bureau announced that we have working for a long time to get the cruise liners to stop along the Ohio River with Belpre being an alternative stopping place. This year we have been successful. The Mayor and the Safety-Service Director has helped us secure a spot. Mayor Lorentz stated that they would be stopping behind the Shrine Building on Blennerhassett Avenue. There is a slant access. Per Ms. Clark this was the only place that met the requirements. There is two different cruise lines and it is very confusing. One is called the American Cruise Lines and they operate the American Heritage that will be here on September 6th, 2022. American Queen Voyages who own the American Countess will be here on September 8th, 2022. We are very excited that they will be stopping here. Each cruise line has buses that follow them. They have a set agenda as to where they go. They will have a hop on hop off time to visit areas on the agenda. There are hundreds of people that will follow. They love to feel appreciated when they come. The folks taking the tour pay approximately \$10,000 to take this tour. It was suggested that you might have a hot dog and ice cream trailer.

Mrs. Cassady asked for the time that the cruise liner would arrive. She was told by Ms. Clark that the time was from 8am-5pm on the 8th. She wasn't for sure on September 6th, 2022 but would be back in contact with the City of Belpre on this.

Mr. Null stated that behind the Shrine Club was a wonderful place to dock.

Mr. Martin assigned to Mr. Ruth's committee the Cities Bus line.

Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzell reported that Kathy Davis with Washington County Soil & Water and I have been going over stormwater files in preparation of the EPA audit.

I attended the Hydro-Dyne Academy last week. We went over items that need upgraded in our sewer plant so that the system will run more efficiently. We were able to visit two sewer plant to learn how they run more efficiently.

The policeman's Pool Party was held today. Prizes were given out & fun was had by all.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan was absent. Mrs. Cassady presented Mrs. Nolan's Auditor report. It is as follows: Reminder of the Annual Audit Exit meeting Thursday, August 11th at 9:00 AM in the Conference Room. All Council invited to attend.

City Law Director Mr. Webster requested an Executive Session before the adjournment this evening to discuss litigation. I would request that no further action be taken after the Executive Session.

Mr. Webster also discussed an incident that happened the afternoon of June 1, 2022. This incident resulted in the involvement of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad.

I received my first information about the incident on July 29th, at 1:30 p.m. The mayor advised me verbally about a citizen complaint on July 30th, an email from Paula K. Sellers was sent to Belpre City Council Members, et al. I did not receive this email at that time. I received a copy of the email on August 2nd at 10:25 am from Council President Larry Martin.

From this point forward I have been attempting to collect information about this incident. I have reviewed an informal report from Police Chief Terry Williams, a copy of the Dispatcher records from that day, and their reports from Belpre Police Officers, and a copy of the Bomb Squad report. I have requested additional police reports and additional information from the Belpre Police Department.

Pursuant to an agreement with Mayor Lorentz and SSD Hoblitzell, I am continuing to seek additional reports from the Washington County Sheriff's Department, the Bomb Squad, Parkersburg PD, Belpre Police Department, ATF, and any other Federal Agencies that might be involved. I am also seeking information in regards to any written policies from the Marietta PD, Parkersburg PD, Vienna PD, and the Sheriff's Departments in Wood and Washington Counties. I am also in the process of trying to speak to the Detectives in charge of the bomb squad.

I'm also requesting any information from Belpre residents or any persons who may have personally witnessed any of the events that occurred on June 1, 2022.

Anyone who wishes to contact me personally may do so by calling my Belpre Office at 740-423-9548 between 8am and 4pm or you may leave a message on our answering machine after hours. My mailing address is PO Box 196, Belpre, Ohio or you can email me at twebster@suddenlinkmail.com.

Everyone needs to realize that I am trying to get the facts regarding this incident. Gossip, innuendo, and wild accusations are not what is needed right now. Please be advised that I will be on vacation from August 13th to August 20th. You may still send reports, emails, or leave a message that week.

Once I have the facts, I will complete a written, public report on my findings. If I believe that anyone has committed a crime, I will refer this matter to an outside agency to investigate further and I will then request that a prosecutor from outside Washington County be appointed.

Mr. Null asked if there was a bomb that went off. Is this a fraud or hoax? Mr. Webster stated that it was not. If the Bomb Squad believes that it is an explosive and is small enough that it can be exploded on site they will dig a pit, close to where it is and they will explode it in that pit as long as it is a safe area. Mr. Null asked why they didn't take it to the Gravel Pit. Mr. Webster stated that he didn't know the answer.

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassady had no report.

Communication and Petitions – None

Reports of Standing Committee –

Finance/Audit Committee Mr. Ferguson reported that his committee met at 7:20 pm this evening to discuss **AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE FUND NO. 483 – ONEOHIO OPIOD SETTLEMENT FUND and ONEOHIO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**. With the approval of the Finance Committee, I would like to add to tonight's agenda.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee reported that she attended the mayors Dinner that was very nice. I appreciated the mayor's efforts for that. I also attended the two-day summit with the Mayor and Safety-Service Director. It was a very good informational meeting learning about what it takes to be a leader. Police Department Kid Day was today for which I volunteered. We were there from 12pm-4pm. The kids had a blast with prizes given out. I wanted to thank everyone who participated with the Belpre Homecoming. Mrs. Dennis called a committee meeting for August 22nd, 2022 at 7pm for the purpose of discussing appropriations and possible purchase of two trucks for the fire department.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to add to tonight's agenda for first reading **AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE FUND NO. 483 – ONEOHIO OPIOD SETTLEMENT FUND**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to add to tonight's agenda for first reading **RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ONEOHIO REGION 12 GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE UNDER THE ONEOHIO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ruth, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer had no report.

Mr. Millhone, Utilities Committee reported that his committee met at 7pm this evening to discuss water and sewer tie ins. Mr. Skinner and Mr. Burton appeared wanting the sewer line extended up Route 7 to tie into their properties. Mr. Millhone also read a letter to the City of Belpre from Jason E. Pyatt Contractor Services. The letter referenced future work addressed to who it may concern. The letter reads: This letter is to request to be considered for any upcoming projects in the City of Belpre. Enclosed you will find a copy of our licenses and a copy of our liability insurance. We have been a registered vendor with the City of Belpre in the past. This letter was forwarded on to the Safety-Service Director.

Mr. McClead, Parks and Recreation Committee reported that he had received the report. Mr. McClead was wondering if this would be voted on at the next meeting. If this report is acceptable to them, Mr. Webster stated that he will create the legislation and I will make sure it gets on the agenda at the end of the month for the Port Authority

Mr. Wallace, Planning and Zoning Committee addressed the issue of why he never see's Law Heating and Cooling trucks in the City of Belpre. Mr. Law replied to his question about the contracts for the City of Belpre hvac pm. We held the city contract from 2018 until the end of 2020. We were not asked or given a chance to quote the 2021 or 2022 contract. I messaged and called the safety service director why we were not able to bid these and was never given a reply. I also asked the mayor if we could bid them again in January and he said he would see when it was up and had not received a reply yet. I hope this answers your question. Mr. Wallace stated that he lives in this town and works in this town and I would like to see us keep this money in the city. Mr. Wallace also stated that he does have legislation on the agenda this evening regarding zoning classification changes.

Mr. Wallace, Economic Development Committee had no report.

Mr. Null, Rules Committee stated that Mr. Martin assigned to his committee an ordinance regarding the cat issue. I have researched the material and have some complicated issues. There are some things that we can do but I have not seen any solutions. Discussion followed. I will be calling a committee meeting in the future.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL – AGENDA items only ((President of Council will ask if there is anyone wishing to address City Council on any agenda items.)) None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: ((President of City Council will recognize that there is or is not any Unfinished Business this evening)). None

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for second reading **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AUDITOR OF THE CITY OF BELPRE, OHIO TO ESTABLISH A SPECIAL REVENUE FUND TO RECEIVE FUNDS UNDER THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 PURSUANT TO OHIO HOUSE BILL 168**. 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 CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN REAL ESTATE BY DECIMA**

DEVELOPMENT, LLC. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

With some discussion Mr. Wallace withdrew his request to let the legislation lie over until the next meeting and move on with the second and third readings.

Mr. Wallace move to suspend the rule of council on three different days to allow for the second and third readings of **AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN REAL ESTATE BY DECIMA DEVELOPMENT, LLC.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Wallace brought before council for the second and third readings **AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN REAL ESTATE BY DECIMA DEVELOPMENT, LLC.** Discussion followed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Wallace moved this be **Ordinance #3, 2022-2023** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for first reading **AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE FUND NO. 483 – ONEOHIO OPIOD SETTLEMENT FUND.** 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 **AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE FUND NO. 483 – ONEOHIO OPIOD SETTLEMENT FUND.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for the second and third readings of **AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE FUND NO. 483 – ONEOHIO OPIOD SETTLEMENT FUND.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson moved this be **Ordinance #4, 2022-2023** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for first reading **RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ONEOHIO REGION 12 GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE UNDER THE ONEOHIO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.** 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 **RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ONEOHIO**

REGION 12 GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE UNDER THE ONEOHIO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING. Mrs. Dennis asked if it was necessary to suspend the rules. Mr. Webster stated that if we didn't suspend the rules, we would need to have a special meeting due to timing. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for second and third readings **RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ONEOHIO REGION 12 GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE UNDER THE ONEOHIO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.** Discussion followed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson moved this be **Resolution #15, 2022-2023** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Discussion followed regarding the money. Mr. Webster stated that you have to have a specific program that will allow you to qualify for the money. It was stated that money can't be appropriated unless we have the money.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Leigh Murray 515 Florence Street appeared before council in regards to the Humane Society.

Mr. Null thanked Mrs. Hoblitzell, Mrs. Dennis and Chief Williams and his daughter for their involvement in the Police Pool Party.

Jesse Wonycott 805 Main Street addressed the annexing. If we annex these areas into the city, are we going to have more police. It is more than just water and sewer. We will need to provide services for those annexing. Mayor Lorentz and Mrs. Hoblitzell stated that this will take a while and all this will be considered.

Mr. Locke 726 Tuttle Street thanked council for working to get these ordinances and resolutions passed tonight. We had an awesome homecoming, the city looked great.

Mrs. Dennis announced that the Firearm Safety Day had been canceled.

Mr. Wallace recognized the new police truck. He is in hopes that we can get another one.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss litigation. No further business will be conducted at tonight's meeting when council returns. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Council returned from the Executive Session. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

ADJOURN:

Mrs. Dennis made a motion to adjourn. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

President of Council Mr. Martin

Clerk of Belpre City Council Mrs. Dennis