

August 22, 2022

Council President Mr. Martin called the August 22nd, 2022 meeting to order at 7:52 PM. The roll was called with the following members present: Mrs. Dennis, Mr. McClead, Mr. Millhone, Mr. Null, Mr. Ruth and Mr. Wallace present. Also present was 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 August 22nd, 2022 meeting was Councilman Ferguson.

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. Ruth made a motion to accept the minutes of August 8th, 2022 as presented and by-pass the reading. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Reports of City Officials:

Mayor Lorentz reported that the Safety-Service Director and I attended the Mid-Ohio Valley Mayor's Meeting in Pennsboro.

August 10th the Police Clerk and I completed the 8-hour Mayor' Court Training for 2023. Not much has changed with the cases we are allowed to hear but, it is a requirement to hold court.

August 13th, I did attend the opening for Relay for Life at Civitan. Weather cooperated and these volunteers did a very good job keeping the awareness up as well as raising money for research.

We have spent a good deal of time with the Police Union and their representatives with negotiations coming soon.

We continue to gather information as well as successes and failures for the county 911 issue that is being proposed.

Council, we need a voice vote in the affirmative for The Las Trancas to open and serve alcohol. The Police Department has already signed their copy of the same letter from the Department of Commerce. This is just a formality as I understand as it has already passed on the ballot. Mayor Lorentz stated that the Council Clerk was able to find the

minutes of July 25th, 2022 where our Law Director Mr. Webster stated that if there were no objections it didn't need acted upon. Mayor Lorentz sent a copy to the state liquor board today so there will be no voice vote needed.

Sergeant Kirby, David Shaffer, Mrs. Hoblitzell, and I met with the Memorial Bridge representative on Friday. They explained the closure and safety concerns that brought on this decision. Our Officers are going to continue working with them and try to come up with a better approach.

All the documents for the state liquor board have been sent. This was just a formality to verify that neither council or our police department had objections to the new restaurants selling liquor.

Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzell reported Alex DeValle with the EPA, performed an audit for the City's stormwater runoff regulations. We have not received any communications back yet of any findings.

York Paving should be paving by the end of the week and this project will be completed.

American Boring will wrap up this week also. They performed the pressure test today. All that's left is paving the open cuts.

Tree Commission met on August 9th. They will be setting up a tent at the Apple Butter Stir off to hand out information about how to pick a tree to plant, how to plant container trees, invasive plant species list and several fun fact worksheets for children. The tree commission will also be selling raffle tickets for a Holdren Apple Tree. The tickets are \$5 each and will be drawn at the stir off.

Shelley & Sands will start repairing Washington Boulevard on Thursday with plans to start milling in three weeks.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan reported that we had our Audit exit meeting with Accountants Julian & Grube Thursday, August 11th, 9:00 am. In attendance via zoom was Mr. Millhone, Mrs. Dennis, Mayor Lorentz, Connie Hoblitzell, and myself. August 16, we received a letter from Ohio Auditor of State Keith Farber stating the audit for 2021 was "acceptable and requires no modifications". The Financial report will be added to the website.

Mrs. Nolan stated that copies of the July Utility Adjustment report are on the back table and needs Councils approval. Mr. Ruth made a motion to accept the July Utility Adjustment report as presented. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

City Law Director Mr. Webster had no report.

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassady reported that copies of the Treasurer's report are on line and on the back table and needs Councils approval. Mr. Millhone made a motion to accept the July Treasurer's report as presented. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Communication and Petitions –

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

Mr. Null was assigned **AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE EDITION AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF BELPRE, OHIO.**

Mr. McClead was assigned **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A LEASE OF CERTAIN CITY REAL ESTATE TO THE SOUTHEASTERN OHIO PORT AUTHORITY FOR ASSIGNMENT TO OHIO VALLEY RADIO CONTROL CAR CLUB.**

Reports of Standing Committee –

Finance/Audit Committee Mr. Ferguson was absent. No report was given in his absence.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee reported that her committee met this evening August 22nd, 2022 at 7pm for the purpose of discussing appropriations and possible purchase of two trucks for the fire department. There was good discussion. Mrs. Dennis and Mrs. Nolan are to get together to discuss and report back to council.

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

Mr. Millhone, Utilities Committee reported that last Monday I drove up to the closed road signs on Farson Street to see what the water department was doing. There were two men in a hole. Mr. Millhone was concerned for the safety of these two gentlemen in the event that someone would run the closed road signs.

Mr. McClead, Parks and Recreation Committee had no report. Mr. McClead made a motion to add to tonight’s agenda for first reading **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A LEASE OF CERTAIN CITY REAL ESTATE TO THE SOUTHEASTERN OHIO PORT AUTHORITY FOR ASSIGNMENT TO OHIO VALLEY RADIO CONTROL CAR CLUB.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Wallace, Planning and Zoning Committee had no report.

Mr. Wallace, Economic Development Committee had no report.

Mr. Null, Rules Committee called a committee meeting for September 12th, 2022 at 7pm for the purpose of discussing the cat issue within our city.

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.))

Jesse Wonycott 805 Main Street addressed **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**. Mrs. Wonycott asked why they added the water and sewer project. She was confused on funds. Discussion by council followed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: ((President of City Council will recognize that there is or is not any Unfinished Business this evening)).

Mrs. Dennis made a motion to table **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** pending further discussion. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. McClead brought before council for first reading **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A LEASE OF CERTAIN CITY REAL ESTATE TO THE SOUTHEASTERN OHIO PORT AUTHORITY FOR ASSIGNMENT TO OHIO VALLEY RADIO CONTROL CAR CLUB**. Mr. Webster stated that he had asked Mr. McClead to run this legislation for at least one reading as the Port Authority was meeting on Wednesday and he could get it on the agenda to be approved. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. McClead made a motion to suspend the rule of council on three different days to allow for the second and third readings of **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A LEASE OF CERTAIN CITY REAL ESTATE TO THE SOUTHEASTERN OHIO PORT AUTHORITY FOR ASSIGNMENT TO OHIO VALLEY RADIO CONTROL CAR CLUB**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. McClead brought before council for the second and third readings **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A LEASE OF CERTAIN CITY REAL ESTATE TO THE SOUTHEASTERN OHIO PORT AUTHORITY FOR ASSIGNMENT TO OHIO VALLEY RADIO CONTROL CAR CLUB**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. McClead moved this be Ordinance #5, 2022-2023 and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Mary Ann Aquino 119 Elm Street appeared before council regarding OPIOID Addiction and the possibility of a Family Counseling and Rehabilitation in the City of Belpre. Suggested was the Belpre Laundromat Building with the hopes that businesses would help with the cost for something like this.

Judith Drake 713 Oak Tree Lane, Belpre addressed blighted properties within our cities. She asked the status of the property at the corner of Lee and Blennerhassett Avenue, From the Heart Church and others. She was informed that it is in the hands of the City Prosecutor. Mr. Webster was to speak to Andrew to see what the status is.

Jesse Wonycott 805 Main Street informed council and the public that she had information regarding Belpre Volunteer Fire Department Inc that she was able to get from the Ohio Attorney General since they are a separate entity.

Jeff Christian 805 Clayton Avenue, Belpre asked is there is a city ordinance regarding junk and abandoned properties. Two concerns of his was 1410 Hocking Road that looks like a junk yard and 1423 Virginia Street which is an abandoned property. He was informed that there are city ordinances in place. The property located at 1410 Hocking Road is in foreclosure by the lender. Once the litigation is done and it is in our possession it can be removed.

Bill Locke 726 Tuttle Street asked if the City of Belpre received any funds from the Washington County Commissioners to help with these issues. He was informed money was received. There will be three properties removed using these funds. Two properties are on Walnut Street and one on Washington Boulevard.

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

ADJOURN:

Mrs. Dennis made a motion to adjourn at 8:41pm. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

President of Council Mr. Martin

Clerk of Belpre City Council Mrs. Meredith

