

August 14, 2023

Council President Mr. Martin called the August 14, 2023 Belpre City Council meeting to order at 7:36 PM. The roll was called with the following members present: Mrs. Dennis, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. McClead, Mr. Millhone, Mr. Null, Ms. Abdella and Mr. Wallace present. Also present were Mayor Lorentz, City Auditor Mrs. Nolan, City Law Director Mr. Webster, Treasurer Mrs. Cassady and Clerk of Council Mrs. Meredith. Absent from the meeting was Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzell.

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

President of Council Mr. Martin asked that everyone turn off cellphones or turn them to vibrate so they don't interfere with the recording.

If you address council this evening, please rise, state your name and address clearly so that the clerk can record it for the minutes.

If you address council this evening, please do it in a respectful manner and I will ask council to be respectful in return.

President of Council Mr. Martin asked for a motion to approve the minutes of July 24, 2023 minutes. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to accept the July 24, 2023 minutes 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 Ribbon Cutting exercise was held on August 3<sup>rd</sup> at the UPS store. A large group of Chamber members as well as some of our residents attended. This is quite an addition to the shopping center.

August 9<sup>th</sup> was the ribbon cutting for Pars on Main Street. Belpre is blessed with the number of medical facilities deciding to land here, remodel and or stay in Belpre. Pars is celebrating their new CT scan.

As I mentioned in the past, our Veterans Group wants to add more to their memorial in Howe's Grove Park. This needs to be assigned so that an agreement can be made to protect all parties going forward.

After numerous complaints about the sewer odor at the Barclay Trailer Park I contacted the Mobile Home Authority for advice on our next step. It was my understanding an inspector was coming down. As of this date no further communication has taken place.

Bonnie McGowen and I visited the United Way office to receive our donation to the Sr. Center on Tuesday August 8<sup>th</sup>. We should receive around \$6,500.

A big thank you to the Police Department, Water Department and Street Crew for keeping everyone safe during the huge rain event. Belpre received something around 6 inches of rain during this storm and nobody was hurt. Great effort from all. Good to know that the Red Cross was contacting folks and helping. On Thursday and Friday, a group from the fire department went back and pumped out the lake between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> street. Jeremy Crouse, Dave Starcher, Patrick Bayers and Aaron Bayers worked two long days to help the residents. Kudos to those folks.

The 91<sup>st</sup> Belpre Homecoming is in the books. The volunteers and civic organizations did a marvelous job this year. Please thank them when the opportunity arises.

Council, the realtor, is waiting on us to make an offer on the Hill Street property. Do I have the approval to make an offer for the city? If so, what is our limit?

I sent Mr. Webster a proposal from Kendall Communications asking to place a tower on city property. The site is the old water tower site, and the proposal is included in the email.

A big thank you to our Volunteer Firemen that helped pump the rainwater from between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> street. These folks had a lake in their back yards.

As I reported last month the city should really be looking at a cooling station or a safe place should we lose utilities. A request was sent to 3 different businesses for a generator to cover the Sr. Center. The only one I received was \$29,800 and change. Two of the three recommended the same person instead of bidding.

At this time Becky Jones from the Marietta/Belpre Board of Health was present to provide an update on the Health Department services provided to Belpre residents and businesses during the second quarter of 2023.

Barb can't be here this evening as she is on vacation.

Key Points are as follows: These key points were listed on her report.

\*Cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis continue to be an issue for 2023.

\*COVID numbers are steadily going down.

\*A second Community Health Worker has been added through a grant, to assist uninsured or underinsured residence to obtain services that are needed.

\*The Fall Drive thru FLU Clinic has been set for September 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Senior Center.

\*Environmental numbers for Belpre are down.

Discussion followed regarding the dead fish floating at Civitan Park pond.

Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzell was absent. No report was given in her absence.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan reported that the fire truck loan thru People's Bank was paid off on July 26, 2023 in the amount of \$6,825.82.

Ms. Abdella requested pay package for the Environmental Coordinator as discussed last council meeting. I've gathered information for this position from both Athens and Marietta that I will pass along to the Safety Service Director when she returns. Athens pay scale is \$25.79 - \$36.11 however they are non-union. Marietta's union position is a Bacteriologist that pays \$22.65 - \$24.80. Google search is much higher for an Environmental Coordinator. I believe the salary should be determined based upon the range of education and knowledge of the individual applying for the position and within the pay scale of these two cities.

City Law Director Mr. Webster had no report.

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassidy had no report

### **Communication and Petitions:**

President of Council Mr. Martin stated that he would like to assign the following to committee. These items were requested in the Mayor's Report.

Veterans Group was assigned to Mr. McClead, Parks and Recreation Committee.

Hill Street Property was assigned to Mr. Ferguson, Finance/Audit Committee

Kendall Communications Tower was assigned to Mr. Millhone, Utilities Committee.

### **Reports of Standing Committee**

Mr. Ferguson Finance/Audit Committee announced that the Belpre Senior Center Contract is on the agenda this evening for first reading.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee mirrored the sentiments that Mayor Lorentz stated in his report regarding the great job that was done by our Fire Department.

The group from the fire department pumped out some 4,000 gallons of water from people's yards.

The Homecoming was awesome this year. The EMS was there and attended to some incidents that happened during Homecoming.

Mrs. Dennis called a Police and Fire Committee meeting for the purpose of updating the panhandler's ordinance. I will be meeting with the police chief and the law director within the next couple of weeks in order that I may have legislation prepared to share with council. The meeting is called for 6:45pm on August 28, 2023.

Also present this evening is Jeff Greenley who has a report to present on our EMS. Last month there was 110 calls of which our Belpre EMS was able to respond to 107 of those calls. Average response time was 6 minutes and 40 seconds. Last month we managed 4, 24-hour shifts and 3, 12-hour shifts. We are closer to having a full 7-day, 24-hour EMS Service. We were honored to be at the Belpre Homecoming. We responded to 12 incidents at the Homecoming. We are also trying to pursue with Marietta Health to provide some transport service in the evening.

Ms. Abdella, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer Committee had no report. Ms. Abdella asked the mayor about Putnam Howe and what it is doing to snow plows. Chris was going to find out if the base was built to handle the large trucks from Wetz Warehouse. The mayor didn't have the answer to Ms. Abdella's question. Was this part of the permissive monies? According to the mayor it was.

Mr. Null stated that he had a complaint from a resident on Warren Avenue regarding tractor trailer on city streets.

Mr. Millhone Utilities Committee reported that his committee met at 6:45pm prior to this evening's meeting to discuss the Route 7 Project. There isn't enough money to absorb this. It was tabled as we need 4.5 million and we have only received 1 million in grant money.

Mr. Millhone made a motion to add to tonight's agenda for 1<sup>st</sup> reading **AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT OHIO ADMINISTRATIVE CODE 3745-95-07 TO REQUIRE LOW PRESSURE CUT-OFF DEVICES FOR FACILITIES HAVING WATER BOOSTED PUMPS**. Mr. Millhone stated that in order to comply with the EPA requirements we must pass this piece of legislation in a timely manner. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. McClead Parks and Recreation Committee reported that there had been 850 gallons of water put in the pond and he felt that it was a waste of money for a fishing derby. According to the mayor the water came from the hydrants. He was asked by Mr. Wallace if the water contained chlorine. Mayor Lorentz stated that it did contain chlorine however when it is exposed to the sun it will evaporate in about 5 minutes.

Mr. Wallace Planning and Zoning /Economic Development had no report.

Mr. Null Rules Committee had no report.

Mr. Null stated that he wanted to announce that he isn't in favor of passing legislation on three readings at a meeting however since this is a requirement from the EPA, I feel we need to pass on all three readings this evening.

**PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL - AGENDA items only** ((President of items.)) None

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for first reading **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE BELPRE SENIOR CENTER.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

Mr. Millhone brought before council for first reading **AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT OHIO ADMINISTRATIVE CODE 3745-95-07 TO REQUIRE LOW PRESSURE CUT-OFF DEVICES FOR FACILITIES HAVING WATER BOOSTED PUMPS.** Discussion followed. Ms. Abdella stated that she would like to see facilities changed to consumers. There was a blank on the second page regarding a penalty, \$100 a day was added to the legislation but was not part of the amendment. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Millhone brought before council for first reading **AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT OHIO ADMINISTRATIVE CODE 3745-95-07 TO REQUIRE LOW PRESSURE CUT-OFF DEVICES FOR CONSUMERS HAVING WATER BOOSTED PUMPS** as amended. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Millhone moved to suspend the rule of council on three different days to allow for the second and third readings of **AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT OHIO ADMINISTRATIVE CODE 3745-95-07 TO REQUIRE LOW PRESSURE CUT-OFF DEVICES FOR CONSUMERS HAVING WATER BOOSTED PUMPS** as amended. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Millhone brought before council for the second and third reading **AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT OHIO ADMINISTRATIVE CODE 3745-95-07 TO REQUIRE LOW PRESSURE CUT-OFF DEVICES FOR CONSUMERS HAVING WATER BOOSTED**

**PUMPS** as amended. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Millhone moved this be **Ordinance #12, 2022-2023** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

**PERSON APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:** None

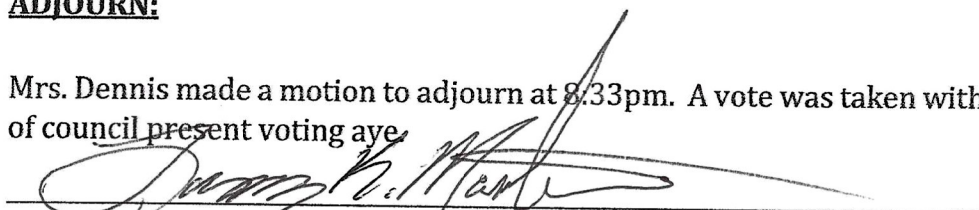
Mr. Ferguson made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:16pm for the purpose of discussing the Hill Street Property. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

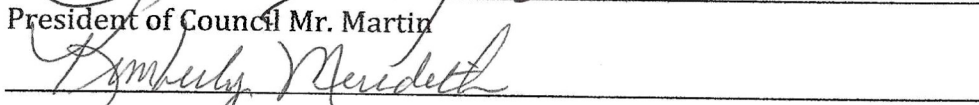
President of Council Mr. Martin stated that there would be no further business conducted at this evening's meeting.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion at 8:32pm to return from Executive Session. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

**ADJOURN:**

Mrs. Dennis made a motion to adjourn at 8:33pm. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

  
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President of Council Mr. Martin

  
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Clerk of Belpre City Council Kimberly Meredith