

August 28, 2023

Council President Mr. Martin called the August 28, 2023 Belpre City Council meeting to order at 7:30 PM. The roll was called with the following members present: Mrs. Dennis, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. McClead, Mr. Millhone, Mr. Null and Mr. Wallace present. Also present were Mayor Lorentz, Safety-Service Director Ms. Hoblitzell, City Auditor Mrs. Nolan, City Law Director Mr. Webster, Treasurer Mrs. Cassady and Clerk of Council Mrs. Meredith. Absent from the meeting was council person Ms. Abdella.

Council President Mr. Martin asked that everyone please rise for the Prayer and remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance. Police Chief Stump 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.

President of Council Mr. Martin asked for a motion to approve the minutes of August 14, 2023 minutes. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to accept the August 14, 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 Shriver's Pharmacy is now open. We attended the open house on August 17<sup>th</sup>, along with quite a few employees and Chamber Members. Very nice facility, welcome to Belpre.

I attended the Chamber Luncheon on August 17<sup>th</sup>. The Belpre Area Chamber events continue to draw large crowds thanks to Karen Waller and her hard work.

The Commissioners need verification that we will accept flow should they find funding for the sewer line north of town toward Elkem.

The Memorial Bridge re-opens on August 31<sup>st</sup> at 11 am. The company has asked us to attend the opening ceremony.

We have spent the last two weeks addressing the huge amount of rain in our city. Again, on Friday morning another storm backed up water in a couple locations. Our street crews are making sure all drains are open.

Kraton has asked me to join them on a Community Advisory Panel. Our first meeting is in September so I will report to the council after that date.

Two bids for a generator at the Sr. Center have come in. One is for \$29,807.69 the other \$15,792.63. Another bid should be in tomorrow. Mayor Lorentz to send email to council once he receives the other bid.

Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzell stated that she has an ordinance that they would like to make changes to amend 145.01 Appointment. Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 124.41, any qualified person between the ages of eighteen years and forty to (fifty) years, may receive an original appointment to the Police Department (Ordinance 11, 2018-2019, Passed 12-10-18).

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan reported that she has received notification from the Washington County Auditor for the 2024 Tax Budget Hearing on Wednesday September 13, 2023. Belpre's is scheduled for 9:45 am and I will be there to represent.

April, May, June, July bank reconciliation were given to Mr. President for review and signature. President of Council Mr. Martin has reviewed and signed.

The July Utility Report was emailed to Council Thursday, August 24, copies are on the back table and needs Councils approval.

Mrs. Dennis made a motion to accept the July Utility 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 a copy of the July Treasurer's Report is before you this evening and needs council approval. Copies are on the back desk and has been posted on-line.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the July Treasurer's Report for 2023 as presented. Discussion followed regarding indigent drivers. Mr. Ferguson was informed by Mrs. Hoblitzell that it is burials. Mr. Ferguson asked if this should be changed on the report. According to Mrs. Cassady this is what appears on the Cash Report that the auditor gave her. Mr. Ferguson stated that it doesn't make it right. Mr. Ferguson asked what we use it for. Mrs. Nolan stated that she would get him an answer. President of Council Mr. Martin stated that the motion is to accept the July Treasurer's Report as is. Mr. Ferguson stated that he assumes/sure. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

**Communication and Petitions:**

President of Council Mr. Martin stated that he already assigned the request that was made by Mrs. Hoblitzell to Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee.

President of Council Mr. Martin stated that the only other request he had was that Police Chief Stump requested that we use the mics when addressing council.

President of Council Mr. Martin reminded Mrs. Hoblitzell that the clerk still hasn't been trained on our new sound system. Mrs. Hoblitzell stated that she contacted Tim Stoneking today.

### **Reports of Standing Committee**

Mr. Ferguson Finance/Audit Committee had no report. Mr. Ferguson asked the clerk to remove the Hill Street Property from his committee.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee called a Police and Fire Committee meeting for September 11, 2023 at 7:00 pm for the purpose of discussing **amendments to 145.01 Appointment. Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 124.41, any qualified person between the ages of eighteen years and forty (fifty) years, may receive an original appointment to the Police Department (Ordinance 11, 2018-2019, Passed 12-10-18.**

Mrs. Dennis also stated that she would like to invite all First Responders from the City of Belpre to the September 11, 2023 meeting to be recognized and join with us in a Moment of Silence for the Anniversary of 911.

Also, we had a meeting tonight on updating the Panhandlers Ordinance that I would like to add to the agenda. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to add to tonight's agenda for first reading **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 717 OF THE BELPRE CITY CODE.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Dennis stated that our new EMS Service is holding an event for Breast Cancer Awareness for the month of October. They are passing out fliers and it is also posted on their website.

Ms. Abdella, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer Committee was absent. No report was given for her committee.

Mr. Millhone Utilities Committee reported that he would like to call a meeting for September 25, 2023 at 6:45 pm for the purpose of discussing the Putnam Howe Tower and for the possibility of leasing it for a cell tower. Mr. Millhone also stated that he would like to talk about the Commissioners needing verification that we will accept flow should they find funding for the sewer line north of town toward Elkem. Mr. Millhone also addressed annexing inside the City Limits. Is this the group over the hill on Hocking Road in the apartments? Mayor Lorentz stated that it was not. He was informed Gandy Court that is near Middle Street.

Mrs. Hoblitzell stated that she has a zoning change request that she forgot to mention that needs assigned to committee. This zoning request is for property behind Kroger. They would like to change the zoning from R-district to a C2. I found some paperwork on my chair today.

President of Council Mr. Martin stated that he would like to take a look at the paperwork before assigning to committee.

Mr. McClelland Parks and Recreation Committee reported that the Belpre Area Veterans would like to extend memorials at the East of Howe's Grove Park. They will submit a letter to the mayor.

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

Mr. Null Rules Committee had no report.

**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)).

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for second 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.

Mrs. Hoblitzell presented President of Council Mr. Martin a copy of the rezoning request behind Kroger. Mr. Martin reviewed and assigned it to Mr. Wallace, Planning and Zoning Committee.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mrs. Dennis brought before council for first reading **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 717 OF THE BELPRE CITY CODE.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

**PERSON APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:**

Eric Freed 604 Washington Boulevard and 513 Blennerhassett Avenue addressed the housing shortage and the drainage problem. He addressed all the properties that he knew flooded. I'm trying to build a house and can't get a storm water permit. Dr. Freed was asked by Mr. Null if he was in a wetland. According to Dr. Freed he was not. There was further discussion regarding the storm water issues. Dr. Freed stated that he has placed numerous calls to Kathy Davis and he has not received any return calls. Dr. Freed was informed that Kathy Davis is not an employee of the city. She is contracted. Mrs. Hoblitzell stated that she talked to Dr. Freed this morning and informed him that she would look into the problem and get back with him.

Mr. Ferguson asked for clarification regarding the Storm Water Permit and flooding.

President of Council Mr. Martin stated that this started with Kathy Davis and the story I have is that she thought the property was wetlands.

Dr. Freed had a letter from the EPA stating that the property was not wetlands.

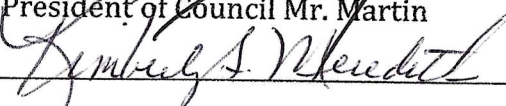
According to City Law Director Mr. Webster this is an administrative issue and has nothing to do with council.

Mrs. Dennis made a motion to excuse Ms. Abdella from this evening's meeting. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

**ADJOURN:**

Mrs. Dennis made a motion to adjourn at 8:02 pm. 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