

September 11, 2023

Council President Protem Mr. Ferguson called the September 11, 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 Ms. Abdella, and Mr. Wallace present. Also present were Mayor Lorentz, Safety-Service Director Ms. Hoblitzell, City Auditor Mrs. Nolan, City Law Director Mr. Webster, and Clerk of Council Mrs. Meredith. Absent from the meeting was Treasurer Mrs. Cassidy.

Council President Protem Mr. Ferguson asked that everyone please rise for the Prayer and remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Lorentz 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.

At this time, Belpre Police Chief Stump gave a presentation of the Facts of 911 and the tragedies that our country faced. We also remember the terrorist attack in Benghazi. Chief Stump asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence. Chief Stump gave a prayer in remembrance of this horrible tragedy.

President of Council Protem Mr. Ferguson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of August 28, 2023. Ms. Abdella made a motion to accept the August 28, 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 the Memorial Bridge opening went well. Mayor Joyce and I were among the first to cross. The Bridge Partners have been amazing people to work with for the past couple of years. If all our businesses were as community minded there would be nothing beyond our reach. We live in a blessed community.

The Cross-Country Relay is this coming Saturday in the Civitan Park area. Please be aware of the increased traffic and the many runners participating in the race.

The Marietta Belpre Health Board is holding a drive through flu shot clinic at the Sr. Center parking area. This is to be on Saturday September 23rd from 9-AM until 1-PM. Please pass the word. If there is a poor response, we won't have another.

I spoke to the realtor today and he states that the property on Hill St. has a ½ acre with it not the ¼ originally listed. Does this make a difference in our offer?

ADR was in today stating that the bids for our water tank are on schedule before year end.

Mayor Lorentz asked all first responders to stand and be recognized. The first-responders were all introduced before council, the administration and all those in the audience. Mayor Lorentz also recognized Chief Stump and acknowledged him for all his outstanding efforts to our community.

Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzell reported that the meter reader antennas are finally reading the water meters.

The left-hand traffic light at the end of the new bridge is not working because the connection may have been ripped out when the bridge was being repaired. The issue is being addressed.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan reported that the last Council meeting, August 28, Councilman Ferguson questioned if Fund 240 Indigent Drivers was correct or should it be Burials and be changed on the Treasurer's report. I stated I would research to clarify and was directed by Council President Martin to do so. Fund 240 on the Treasurer's report "Indigent Drivers" is for Indigent Driver Alcohol Treatment via the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and has been a valid fund for many years. Under Fund 101 General Government and City Building Operations line item 1401-3206 is for Indigent Burials. These are two separate entities.

Our Sandbox Review with Software Solutions begins tomorrow, Sept 12 with 1-hour sessions twice a week over the next two weeks.

The City's 2024 Tax Budget Hearing with the Washington County Auditor, of which I reported on last meeting, is Wednesday this week.

City Law Director Mr. Webster had no report.

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassady was absent. No report was given in her absence.

Communication and Petitions:

President of Council Protem Mr. Ferguson assigned to Rules committee, Mr. Null Chairman, the Codified Ordinances.

Reports of Standing Committee

Mr. Ferguson Finance/Audit Committee had no report.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee reported that the Police and Fire Committee met prior to this evening's meeting to discuss 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. The discussion was on changing age of police officers within the City of Belpre. After the discussion the committee decided to have this added to tonight's agenda for first reading. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to add to tonight's agenda for first reading **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION NO. 145.01 OF THE BELPRE CODE OF ORDINANCES.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Ms. Abdella, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer Committee had no report.

Mr. Millhone Utilities Committee reminded everyone that his committee will be meeting on 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. The company is out of Columbus.

Mr. McClead Parks and Recreation Committee had no report.

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

Mr. Null Rules Committee asked that the Codified Ordinances be passed out to all members of council. Clerk of Council Mrs. Meredith stated that they are not passed out until reviewed. Mr. Webster told Mr. Null that he could share the information that he had with his committee and it could be divided up.

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)).

Ms. Abdella brought before council for third 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.

Ms. Abdella moved this be **Resolution #37, 2022-2023** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Dennis brought before council for second 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.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mrs. Dennis brought before council for first reading **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION NO. 145.01 OF THE BELPRE CODE OF ORDINANCES**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Dennis made a motion to amend the ordinance changing the age from 18-21 for police officers. Mr. Ferguson stated that it is to change **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**. Discussion followed by Mr. Null asking if we had any Auxiliary Police Officers. He was informed that we do. Per the Police Chief they would fall under the same qualification. Mr. Webster stated that per the ORC it stated that you can have Cadet Officers between the age 18-21. They are not sworn in at that point as a full-fledged police officer. 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:

Mr. Ferguson announced that there would be a Special Committee meeting of the whole on Monday, September 18, 2023 at 4PM for the purpose of discussing EMS Services.

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

Ms. Abdella asked if all the receipts have been collected from the pool this year. We want to see how the pool did this year and if there was a loss. According to Ms. Hoblitzell there was an invoice that came in today. Ms. Abdella asked that once they are collected, she would like to have to review.

Bill Locke 726 Tuttle Street asked the mayor if he had received any other bids other than the two mentioned. Mayor Lorentz stated they were so far apart he asked them to re-bid. There was a total of three bids. The new bids should be received by Wednesday.

Karen Locke 726 Tuttle Street asked that council use microphones when speaking. She is having trouble hearing what is said.

Jeff Greenly 930 Pine Street reported that the EMS had a total of 137 calls of which the crew handled 109 as they were on other calls. The response time was 6:32. We should have 24 hours coverage from here on out.

School is going well. This Friday night is Homecoming against Caldwell. Very excited to show off the new track. I would like to thank the Wood County Schools for hosting us the last few weeks for home games in order to get the last piece of construction done.

We are looking for subs. We are slowly getting more subs.

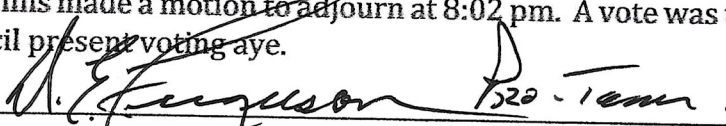
Penne Riffle 763 Ann Street informed council that the Belpre Area Veterans are forming a food drive on October 7, 2023 from 9AM until 1PM in the Kroger Plaza. Please help donate to help those who are in worse shape than we are.

Mary Aquino 109 Elm Street asked Mr. Millhone if back ground checks are done on renters on properties that are owned by his brother. Mr. Millhone stated absolutely. How are we notified of sex offenders? Our new neighbor is a sex offender. Mr. Millhone stated that is correct. Mr. Ferguson stated that the responsibility of this council is to legislation and appropriate. This is not council's issue. Mr. Webster suggested that she contact the Washington County Sheriff's Department for information.

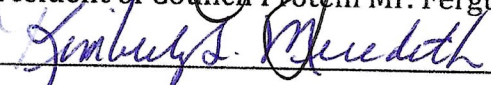
Mr. Null recognized Mayor Lorentz and his wife for helping a decorated WWII Veteran – 97 years old who locked his keys up in his car. They were able to get his keys and the gentleman made it back to his home.

ADJOURN:

Mrs. Dennis made a motion to adjourn at 8:02 pm. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.



President of Council Protem Mr. Ferguson



Clerk of Belpre City Council Kimberly Meredith