

September 25, 2023

Council President Mr. Martin called the September 25, 2023 Belpre City Council meeting to order at 7:31 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. Cassidy 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. 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.

President of Council Mr. Martin asked for a motion to approve the minutes of September 11, 2023. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to accept the September 11, 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 on September 12, I attended the first Community Advisory Panel at Kraton. They invited city officials, chamber of commerce, civic groups, and others to explain their role in the community and get ideas of where they can be of service.

Sergeant Kirby, Service Director Hoblitzell, and I travelled to Glouster and attended a training session on emergency preparedness. Our insurance carrier sponsored the class.

The Landings sponsored a tailgate party for the senior center on September 19th. My guess is that nearly 100 attended and enjoyed the beautiful weather.

The Safety Director and I attended a meeting with the county commissioners to discuss the proposed sewer line going north. As they continue searching for funding, I will keep you informed of progress. On Friday I provided a letter of support for the project. We also asked for the same so to apply for funding at the sewer plant.

AEP has requested we remove the hanging baskets from the Civitan Light poles due to the weight. The poles are fiberglass, and many are cracked from the weight or from vehicles striking them. I am working with the beautify Belpre group to find an alternate method for hanging baskets.

Wednesday September 27th is the official Ribbon Cutting for Shriver's Pharmacy. This is scheduled for 11 am.

I am waiting on Dominion for gas supply needs so we can install the generator at Sr. Center. Hopefully this is the last step to getting costs finalized.

Mayor Lorentz was pleased to announce that over 70 folks attended the drive thru flu clinic. I was the only city employee that showed up to get my shot.

Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzell was absent however there was a report prepared in her absence. On September 20th, Eddie Richardson, WWTP Foreman, Susan Abdella and I attended the Aqua Store in Chicago, the company that will supply our new water tank. We learned the process of manufacturing the tank. It was a very informative visit.

The Mayor, Sergeant Kirby and I attended an Emergency Response training session on September 13 provided by our insurance company. We will need to start updating our emergency response plan soon.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan announced that before you tonight are copies of the August Utility Report that needs approved by council. Copies were emailed to all members of council for review and copies were placed on the back table. At this time, Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the Utility Adjustment Report for August. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

City Law Director Mr. Webster had no report.

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassady announced that before you tonight are copies of the August Treasurers Report that needs approved by council. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to accept the August Treasurer's Report as presented. Discussion followed. Mr. Ferguson stated that on the bottom line of the report the total is almost 6 million dollars and the General Fund Total at Month End is \$1.7 million dollars with a few months yet to go. Mr. Ferguson asked about the Permissive Tax Month End Balance showing a -94,977.23. Is this something that we will have to take from the General Fund? According to Mrs. Nolan she will need to review as she just noticed it being in the negative. According to Mayor and Mrs. Nolan we just received a check in the amount of \$54,000. Fund 218 EMS Levy there is a balance of \$169,468.59 and we have a new heavy rescue or fire truck coming. Can someone please clarify for me the type of vehicle? Per Mr. Locke it is a heavy rescue and the amount is \$325,000 non-equipped. Per Mr. Locke council is going to kick in and pay the difference. Not sure if

the delivery date will be this year or next year. The Pool Maintenance Fund 303 is in a negative dollar amount of \$-27,039.30. We appropriated \$81,000 to begin with and we have a revenue of about \$50,000. According to Ms. Abdella there will be some transfers. Mrs. Nolan stated that there is a transfer that needs to be made however I'm waiting until we get all the final invoices. According to Mr. Ferguson at the previous meeting we had received the final bill. Mayor Lorentz stated that he didn't know what the invoice was for but perhaps it was for concession. Ms. Abdella asked Mrs. Nolan to do a profit/loss for this year on the pool. Last year we determined we lost money on concession due to the up charge. Mr. Ferguson also announced that in Fund 602 Water there is 1.2 and Fund 603 Sewer 1.7. This is where we are at financially. I believe personally the city is in pretty good shape. A vote was taken on the motion to accept with all members of council present voting aye.

Communication and Petitions: none

Reports of Standing Committee

Mr. Ferguson Finance/Audit Committee announced that there was a committee of the whole that I called at the last meeting on September 18, 2023 at 4pm regarding EMS services. Shortly after the meeting was called to order we recessed for an executive session. Since Mr. Coon sets on the EMS Board, he was asked to attend the meeting. After the executive session Mr. Webster stated that the EMS Services was under a trial period for transporting patients to Marietta Memorial. Ms. Riffle was in attendance and asked about Mutual Aid and the number of runs made. At this time, I would like to call a Finance/Audit Committee meeting for October 9th, 2023 at 6:30pm to begin our discussion on the 2024 Budget. Please bring any questions you may have to the meeting. I propose we work with the first 25% of the 2023 Budget for the first three months of 2024. I would like to know if we want to wait and work on the Capital Budget once the new council takes over. It is up to this council. Mrs. Dennis asked if the 25% would affect contract agreements. We are contracted to give EMS ½ by January and the other ½ by July. We will address during our discussion. Ms. Riffle asked Mr. Ferguson if handouts will be made available before the meeting. Mr. Ferguson stated that is the plan.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee had no report.

Ms. Abdella, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer Committee had no report. Ms. Abdella stated that after reviewing the June Report she reached out to the engineering firm about what different things meant on the report. She asked to attend the field day training. I went to the training on Wednesday and Thursday and learned how they go about building the water tank. Their facility was amazing along with their staff. I feel they would do a great job?

Mr. Millhone Utilities Committee reported that his committee met on September 25, 2023 at 6:45 pm for the purpose of discussing the Putnam Howe Tower and the

possibility of leasing it for a cell tower. Mr. Millhone stated that he visited Chris Newberry of Pioneer Casting and Kendall Communication and got them together on the proposed cell phone tower. An impasse was met over a "Right of way" as necessary. There wasn't enough money offered to seal the deal. Mr. Millhone spoke briefly about the proposed sewer line going north.

Mr. McClead Parks and Recreation Committee had no report.

Mr. Wallace Planning and Zoning /Economic Development had no report. Mr. Wallace reminded council of his committee meeting on October 9th at 7:00 to discuss rezoning property behind Kroger's and he also added to the meeting a split rail fence at 810 Farson Street.

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)).

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.

Mrs. Dennis moved this be **Ordinance 13, 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 AMENDING SECTION NO. 145.01 OF THE BELPRE CODE OF ORDINANCES as amended**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Dennis made a motion to suspend the rule of council on three different days to allow for the third reading of **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION NO. 145.01 OF THE BELPRE CODE OF ORDINANCES as amended**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

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

Mrs. Dennis moved this be **Ordinance #14, 2022-2023** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

NEW BUSINESS: None

PERSON APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Penne Riffle 763 Ann Street, Belpre stated that she had received a flyer about the Marietta/Belpre Health Department having a drive-thru to get flu shots. She thought that this was very helpful and asked that flyers like this be sent out on other happenings in Belpre.

Ms. Riffle also addressed the damaged asphalt getting damaged on the corner of Ann and Miller Street.

Ms. Riffle also asked about the speed limit signs at Civitan Park. Ms. Riffle asked if this was for certain areas. The mayor thought it was along the roadway by Civitan Park. He thought that perhaps the signs hadn't been received yet.

Tom Menear 754 George Street, Belpre has lived there approximately 40 years. Mr. Menear addressed home at 752 George Street that is owned by WASCO. He stated that there are eight people taking care of two adults living in the home. He addressed disorderly conduct such as loud music, loud talking, arguing, etc. They are causing damage to his property by a bus driving over water and gas lines. They recently put a roof on the garage that looks like it should have been torn down. No building permits. Mr. Menear was informed by Chief Stump to contact the police department when these events happen again and they will respond. Mr. Webster to check on ownership of the property and get back with Mr. Menear. Mayor Lorentz was not aware of any of this.

Jesse Wonycott 805 Main Street questioned the status of the internet wiring in the city building. According to Mr. Ferguson he hasn't heard anything about it.

Jesse Wonycott also addressed the committee assignments that have not been completed. Mr. Martin stated that he was going to address before close of meeting.

Jesse Wonycott asked if the city cleans out storm sewers. She was informed that storm sewers are cleaned out. Jesse is to get in contact with Mayor tomorrow.

Jesse Wonycott addressed the EMS meeting that was held as a committee of the whole. I couldn't find where they have transport license in place. Where in the lease does it say they can do it? Mr. Webster stated that it didn't say they couldn't do it. Does the city have any position on it? According to Mr. Webster there has been no opposition on it. It is on a trial bases until the end of the year.

Mrs. Wonycott stated that there are trees down in alley between Badger Lumber and George Street. I have tried to get them removed since the middle of August. According to

the Mayor the tree isn't on city property. Mrs. Wencycott said that Badgers cut it up as it fell on their fence. The trees didn't fall from the alley it fell from the renter's property.

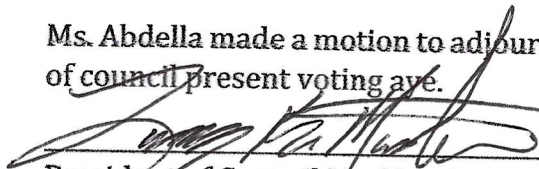
Bill Locke 726 Tuttle Street, Belpre stated that we were scheduled to demolish three homes this year. There was two on Walnut Street that have been demolished Where is the third one? Mayor Lorentz stated it was on Washington Boulevard that is across from the Sr. Center and is owned by Rocky Alkire.

Mr. Null stated he has a Hardee's Staff shirt on this evening. The person that used to run the restaurant years ago when we had a horrible accident down at Kraton gave it to me. A couple restaurants supplied the first responders with food, water, ice. Hardees stepped forward and helped. The owner presented me with this shirt that I'm wearing this evening. I would like to see the Citizens of Belpre step forth and support them if you can.

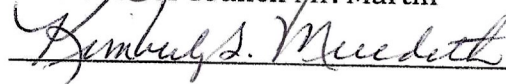
President of Council Mr. Martin informed council that there is five weeks left before this council ends. Nothing can be carried over from one term to another. We need to finish the assignments or they will be reassigned to the new committee for the new term of office.

ADJOURN:

Ms. Abdella made a motion to adjourn at 8:17 pm. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.



President of Council Mr. Martin



Clerk of Belpre City Council Kimberly Meredith