

November 13, 2023

Council President Mr. Martin called the November 13, 2023 Belpre City Council meeting to order at 7:31pm. 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 Mrs. Hoblitzell, City Auditor Mrs. Nolan, City Law Director Mr. Webster Treasurer Mrs. Cassady and Clerk of Council Mrs. Meredith.

Council President Mr. Martin asked everyone to 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.

President of Council Mr. Martin asked for a motion to accept the minutes of October 23, 2023. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to accept the minutes of October 23, 2023 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 since our last meeting we have met with two different insurance carriers to seek better rates for the employees.

October 26<sup>th</sup> SOPEC representative Erin Stevens and I held a public meeting to help residents understand the aggregation. Only one attended but, she tried.

Halloween went off without issue. Our officers were out in full force to make sure it went well.

The Belpre Marching Band held their community night at the stadium on Friday November 3, 2023. Mr. VanPelt asked for a proclamation recognizing the students for an outstanding year. Our band again went to state OMEA finals and returned with the highest score in some 30 years for our school. Congratulations to all involved.

The S.D. and I traveled to Marion to view some of the equipment available for a new Wastewater Plant on November 7<sup>th</sup>.

On Wednesday the Belpre Area veterans are having a drive-by parade for Roy Sees. Roy is turning 105 years old and a World War two veteran. I encourage some of you to attend. They line up at the Church of Christ at 9 am. Thursday the 16<sup>th</sup> is the Chamber Luncheon.

The area Mayors prepared a Proclamation recognizing Veterans Day 2023. Anyone wanting to read it, I have it here on my desk.

The Belpre Holiday Lights were nominated for the Ohio Holiday Lights Trail for the third time. They were the only ones nominated this year from Southeastern Ohio.

Tonight, Alexa Bland is with us from United Bridge Partners. There are some misunderstandings on how the transponders are to work so we are about to be enlightened.

Alexa provided information to us about the use of the transponders, monthly cost and usage. Also provided was United Bridge Partners new address and time of operation.

Safety-Service Director Mrs. Hoblitzell announced that Brownfield has completed the project on property behind Fruth's. No remediation needs done on the property.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan reported that ARPA First Responder Retention Grant in the amount of \$39,305.02 was received October 20, 2023. These funds are an in and out payable to the police department. I am requesting verbal approval from Council to accept the grant monies.

Reminder to Council at the conclusion of tonight's meeting, the Tax Budget requires signature on two separate pages. Please sign before leaving. Thank you

City Law Director Mr. Webster had no report.

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassady had no report.

#### **Communication and Petitions:**

President of Council Mr. Martin assigned SOPEC Natural Gas Aggregation to Mr. Millhone's Utilities Committee. Mr. Millhone was informed that this needs to be passed prior to January 1, 2024 meeting.

#### **Reports of Standing Committee**

Mr. Ferguson Finance/Audit Committee announced that his committee met prior to this evening's meeting at 6:30pm for the purpose of discussing the Temporary Budget for 2024. With all in agreement I am cancelling the November and December committee meetings that were previously called.

At this time, Mr. Ferguson made a motion to add to tonight's agenda for first reading **TEMPORARY APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR CALENDAR AND FISCAL YEAR**



**2024.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee had no report. Mrs. Dennis stated that she has completed all her committee assignments for the year.

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

Mr. Millhone Utilities Committee reported that the curb has been cut at the Spires Car Lot. Concrete should be poured soon. I have talked to Rick Helmbright regarding the cellphone tower. Mr. Helmbright proposes to put tower at Depot Park.

Mr. McClead Parks and Recreation Committee had no report.

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

Mr. Null Rules Committee had no report.

President of Council Mr. Martin reminded all members of council that if you plan to take action on committee assignments you must do so before end of year. These assignments will not be carried over to the next term. They will have to be reassigned.

President of Council Mr. Martin stated that the second meeting in December is Christmas Day and he is sure that council doesn't want to have a meeting on that day. Council President asked for a motion to cancel the December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to cancel the December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

**PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL - AGENDA items only:** None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for third reading **RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson moved this be **Resolution #39, 2022-2023** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for second reading **RESOLUTION ACCEPTANCE OF COMMUNITY GRANT FROM SUSTAINABLE OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

Ms. Abdella brought before council for second reading **AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING CAMPING AND CREATING BELPRE CODE ORDINANCE SECTION 541.12**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Wallace brought before council for first reading **AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE A 4.05 ACRE TRACT ON LEE STREET OWNED BY DAVID D JOHNSON FROM R-2 TO C-2**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for first reading **TEMPORARY APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR CALENDAR AND FISCAL YEAR 2024**. 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:**

Penne Riffle 763 Ann Street, Belpre addressed SOPEC Natural Gas Aggregation.

Bob Rauch 511 Ridge Street, Belpre announced that for the third time in a row The Belpre Holiday Lights were nominated for the Ohio Holiday Lights Trail. They were the only ones nominated this year from Southeastern Ohio.

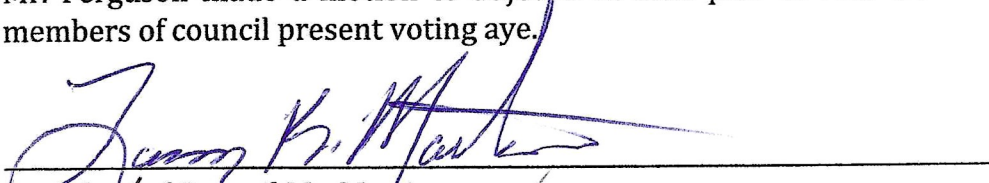
Mr. Rauch also thanked Mayor Mike for everything he has done for him and his accomplishments.

Mr. Rauch asked if new employees are paying city income tax. He was informed that they are and that it is checked periodically.

Mayor Lorentz read Veteran's Proclamation from the Mayor's in the Surrounding Area.

**ADJOURN:**

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to adjourn at 8:11 pm. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James K. Martin", written over a horizontal line.

President of Council Mr. Martin

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kimberly Meredith", written over a horizontal line.

Clerk of Belpre City Council Kimberly Meredith