

September 23, 2024

Council President Mr. Martin called the September 23, 2024 Belpre City Council meeting to order at 7:31 pm. The roll was called with the following members present: Mr. Ambrozy, Mrs. Dennis, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Godfrey, and Mr. Seebaugh present. Also present was Mayor Abdella, Safety-Service Director Mr. Kirby, City Law Director Mr. Webster, Treasurer Mrs. Cassady and Clerk of Council Mrs. Meredith. Absent from the meeting was City Auditor Mrs. Nolan, Councilpersons Mr. Locke and Ms. Riffle.

Council President Mr. Martin asked everyone to please rise for the Prayer and remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Ambrozy gave the invocation and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council President Mr. Martin asked all present if you have cellphones or any electronic devices to please turn them off or to vibrate so it won't interfere with the recording.

If you plan to address council this evening, please stand, come to the podium, state your name clearly so the clerk can get your information, and address council.

Council President Mr. Martin thanked Council President Pro tem Mrs. Dennis for filling in for him, in his absences.

Council President Mr. Martin asked for a motion for the September 09, 2024 minutes. Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the minutes of September 09, 2024 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 Abdella presented her report before council. It is as follows:

Communications:

- Rod O'Donnell would like to make a statement to council at this time. Mr. O'Donnell spoke to council regarding the recent Cross-Country meet that was held here in Belpre. There were over 1500 people, including

spectators that were present for the event. Mr. O'Donnell thanked the City of Belpre, Council, Mayor, police department, and all that were involved. He thanked Michael Church for his production of the Cross-Country Race. He thanked the many volunteers that were available to help. He remarked on all the good comments about Belpre. This event proves that when everyone works together, we can see success. In the next week or so we will begin planning for next year's event. Mr. Ferguson said if you haven't seen the video, you must do so. There was a high school female from John Marshall that ran a 3.1 mile in 18.37 making it a 6-minute mile.

- We are having an increase in indigent burials within the city. We will be adding to the supplemental for this purpose. **We will need to increase funds.**
- Kick off meeting for the City Grant Committee will be October 7 at 4pm. We will identify the critical needs of the city and how we will start the process of working on them and what data will be required. This will be a working meeting for anyone wishing to participate.
- Manpower – I have updated the manpower to reflect the addition of one of the water workers and a modified position from the Public Works Superintendent. **Please assign this to the Finance committee.**
- Ambulance – The Ambulance 490 is at the end of life and has broken down again. I have requested a breakdown of the expenses on this vehicle. We are in desperate need of an ambulance. I have reached out for a couple quotes, one from Medix and one from Atlantic. **Please assign this to the Police and Fire Committee as this is an emergency situation.**
- These past two weeks we have been interviewing for the open positions within the city. We are very fortunate that we have had many wonderful candidates to choose from. We have had 45 applicates for the Code Enforcement Office. There have been 2 strong candidates for Laborer II. I would like to hire 1 now, and 1 later. This is why I'm asking for the Manpower change.

Lead Service Lines – The City staff will be conducting a door to door canvassing on September 30, 2024 to work on completing the water line survey that is due to the EPA on October 16th, 2024. We will be meeting at the city building at 7:30am. We are creating name lanyards for everyone participating along with booties if

you have to enter a resident's home in order to complete this critical task. We will be out canvassing door to door. President of Council Mr. Martin asked how many residents have completed the survey. Mayor Abdella stated that approximately 800. Mayor Abdella stated that we are going to focus on Lee Street to Florence Street, the older section of town. We anticipate this is where are highest risk is for lead lines.

Safety-Service Director Mr. Kirby stated that he has dealt with the code side for the past two weeks. I have been trying to take care of a lot of different violations, concerns, and complaints from the citizens. I'm trying to stay on top of it. It is important to get the Code Enforcement Officer position filled so he or she can focus on that.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan was absent from the meeting however Mrs. Cassady presented her report. On Tuesday, September 17, we had our final Invoice Cloud Zoom meeting reviewing all processes. Invoice cloud will upload and test the files September 30 thru October 3 and the Utility billing will be down that week. It will go live October 4, 2024.

An email regarding the training which will allow us to be considered for Principal Forgiveness Financing was sent to all Council, Thursday, September 19, 2024. I have received certificates from two of you. There are two sections a 101 and a 201 of which you will receive two certificates for completion. Those who have not completed the training please do so as soon as possible.

The Tax Budget will need to be signed by all Council members after third reading. There are two places for signatures. Please be sure the document is signed before leaving tonight. Thank you.

Friday, September 20, council was emailed Revenue and Expense Budget Reports thru August as well as RITA's Monthly Distribution Report.

The August Utility Adjustment Report was emailed to Council Friday, September 20, 2024 and needs councils' approval.

Mrs. Dennis made a motion to accept the August Utility Adjustment Report as presented. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mayor Abdella asked that all members of council needs to take your Fraud Training.

City Law Director Mr. Webster had no report.

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassady asked about the training. Before you tonight, Council has a copy of the August Treasurers Report that needs approval by council. Discussion followed by Mr. Ferguson in regards to the negative (\$3.00) on Fund 9999, Payroll Fund. Mayor Abdella informed Mr. Ferguson that there was a journal entry adjustment of (\$3.00) per the mayor, per the Clerk. Mayor Abdella stated that she doesn't know what was deleted and what was credited to make it go away. Discussion followed. Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the August Treasurer's Report as presented. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Communication and Petitions: -

Council President Mr. Martin assigned to the Finance/Audit Committee the Manpower Ordinance and the two Laborer II openings in the Street Department. One is Clint, and there is one yet opened to be filled (Rate Analysis) at a later time.

Council President Mr. Martin assigned to the Police and Fire Committee the 490 Ambulance to Mrs. Dennis.

Reports of Standing Committee

Mr. Ferguson Finance/Audit Committee had no report. Mr. Ferguson reminded all members of council about his October 14, 2024 meeting at 6:15pm to begin the review of the budget. Mr. Ferguson called a Finance/Audit Committee meeting for October 7, 2024 at 6:30pm for the purpose of reviewing the Manpower Ordinance. Mr. Ferguson also stated that there will be an Open Grant Committee meeting for the city on October 7, 2024 at 4:00pm in which everyone is welcome to attend.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee had no report. Mrs. Dennis called a Police and Fire Committee meeting for September 30, 2024 at 4:30pm to discuss the 490 Ambulance. She would like to have the meeting prior to the Belpre EMS Board Meeting and before our next regular committee meeting.

Mr. Locke, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer Committee was absent. There was no report given in his absence.

Mr. Ambrozy Utilities Committee announced that he would be participating in the Lead Service Line Door-to-Door canvassing. If you would like to participate, please be at the city building by 7:30am.

Mr. Seebaugh Parks and Recreation Committee had no report.

Mr. Godfrey, Planning and Zoning and Economic Development Committee had no report.

Ms. Riffle Rules Committee was absent. Mayor Abdella addressed the needs of updating the pension prices and the City of Belpre Policy Manual. It was determined by those on the Rules Committee to go ahead and proceed in the absence of Ms. Riffle. Mayor Abdella is to send out copies of the handbook to all members of council to review.

City Law Director Mr. Webster asked the President of Council if he knew how long Ms. Riffle would be unavailable? Previously, Ms. Riffle stated that she would be out for approximately 6 weeks. Council President stated that we have some items that need acted upon. One being the pension piece that needs addressed and the handbook. Mayor Abdella stated that if you would like to talk to Ms. Riffle as she stated that she has done a cross walk on the handbook. Mayor Abdella stated that she is willing to email the policy handbook to all members of council for review. There are issues that need to be resolved. The employee handbook hasn't been updated since 2008. There are items required to be in the handbook and adjustments that need to be made on some of the items that already exist. Council President Mr. Martin stated that he didn't want to circumvent around the committee chair.

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 #14, 2024-2025 and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

All members of council were told that they would need to sign the legislation in two different places prior to leaving council this evening.

President of Council Mr. Martin assigned to the Finance/Audit committee the Ohio Public Employees Retirement legislation. Discussion followed. Mr. Ferguson asked that the clerk add this to his October 7, 2024 committee meeting already in place.

NEW BUSINESS: none

PERSON APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Mr. Webster spoke about the many volunteers that were involved in the Cross-Country meet. Before the meet I asked if EMS was notified. Mayor Abdella stated that they were called and our Belpre EMS was on call. Mr. Webster stated that council needs to be very serious about the ambulance that needs replaced. We really need two different ambulances.

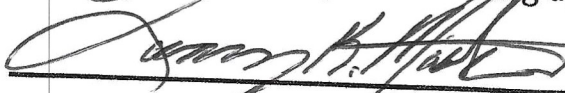
Mr. Ferguson addressed the Water Fund Revenue. Mr. Ferguson stated that you pay 1 ½ times more for the sewer than what you pay for water. He doesn't feel the water and sewer revenues add up. Mayor Abdella to take a look at each of these funds.

Mr. Rauch stated that at one of his locations there are two meters however he only pays sewer on one of those bills.

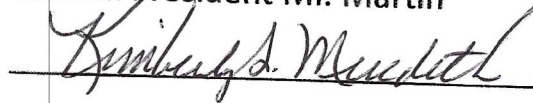
Mr. Seebaugh made a motion to excuse from this evening's meeting Mr. Locke and Ms. Riffle. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Adjourn:

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



Council President Mr. Martin



Clerk of Belpre City Council Kimberly Meredith