

October 14, 2024

Council President Pro tem Mrs. Dennis called the October 14, 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, Mr. Locke, Ms. Riffle and Mr. Seebaugh present. Also present was Mayor Abdella, Safety-Service Director Mr. Kirby, City Auditor Mrs. Nolan, City Law Director Mr. Webster, Treasurer Mrs. Cassady and Clerk of Council Mrs. Meredith. Absent from the meeting was President of Council Mr. Martin.

Council President Pro tem asked everyone to please rise for the Prayer and remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance. Chief Stump gave the invocation and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council President Pro tem 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 Pro tem asked for a motion for the September 23, 2024 minutes. Mr. Locke made a motion to accept the minutes of September 23, 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:

- At this time, Mayor Abdella swore in Warren Moyer as our new police officer. Chief Stump stated that we are excited to have him on staff and are one step closer to having a full staff.
- On Tuesday October 8th, The Akron Women's and Children's hospital had the ground breaking ceremony. It was well attended by all the local as well as the state officials. It is so exciting to see such a needed service come to this community which will transform how Women and Children will receive care in the future.
- Kick off meeting for the City Grant Committee was October 7 at 4pm. It was well attended and provided several suggestions and lots of offers to help us get the needed funds for critical projects.
- 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 to an Administrative person to assist the utility departments.
- Ambulance – An intent to purchase has been submitted. The company stated that they are in production and deliverable date will be sometime between the end of November - first of January. Also, the Auditor has reviewed the state purchasing plan and the company is on the state purchasing program.

- The Fire Department is requesting we approve the following new recruits to the fire department.

- David Dodd
- Joseph Riffle (Todd)

We have onboarded three new employees since the last council meeting

- Jacob Holman – Water Department
- Brandon Miller – Code Enforcement
- Warren Moyer – Patrolman (Trey)

2025 Budget – The work on the 2025 Budget has begun. We are working on a few software issues to get it pulled together.

Lead Service Lines – The City staff conducted 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. We have received the final data and we will have lots of work to do to complete this project over the next few years. However, we will have the report on the city website at the beginning of November as required by the EPA for all Citizens. There is a lot to do by 2027.

Street – The large Kenworth snow plow that the Street department requested to be sold and replaced with an unclassified truck has been shopped to the surrounding municipalities and townships. The City of Athens has expressed interest in this vehicle and at the price of 110K. We reached out for a quote to replace this vehicle, the quote is 190K. I'm requesting that we sell the truck to the City of Athens and we start the process of purchasing a vehicle to replace it.

Fire Department – Tower truck – The damages are 12,770. The truck will be going to McConnelsville for repair when parts arrive. There is Mutual Aid if we would need a tower truck.

Moratorium of Elected officials' wages for 2025. I am requesting that a moratorium be placed on all elected officials' wages for the year 2025. We have placed a large burden on our Citizens with the rate increases. We are bound by Union Contracts for staff wages however, we have the ability to freeze ours for the 2025 year in an effort to maintain expenses.

Safety-Service Director Mr. Kirby stated that we would like to recognize a couple members from our police department, Chief Stump and Patrolman Campbell. These two gentlemen have finished their black belt in the Jiu Jitsu Academy and will benefit our department for future training for our other officers. We have hired Brandon Miller as our Code Enforcement Officer. We are working on getting him trained. We have a lot of work to do to teach him how to do the job efficiently. Bear with him as he goes through the training process. He has already hit the ground running and has already offered us some ideas for Council to consider down the road.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan thanked the Treasurer for presenting my report September 23, in my absence. 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. There are two sections a 101 and a 201 of which you will receive two certificates for completion. I have received certificates from four of you. We are required to have 5 Council members complete the training to qualify. We need 1 more before the end of

October. Those who have not completed the training please do so as soon as possible. We are presently working on the 2025 Budget

City Law Director Mr. Webster had no report.

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassady had no report.

Communication and Petitions: -

Council President Pro tem Mrs. Dennis assigned to the Finance/Audit Committee the purchase of a snow plow.

Council President Pro tem Mrs. Dennis assigned to the Rules Committee Moratorium of Elected officials wages for 2025.

Reports of Standing Committee

Mr. Ferguson Finance/Audit Committee reported that his committee met on October 8, 2024 at 6:40pm. Those present from the Finance Committee were Dave Ferguson, Lyndsay Dennis and other members of council John Ambrozy, Rick Seebaugh and Bill Locke.

Discussed was Manpower for 2025 and all present agreed to add to the Agenda for October 14, 2024 for first reading.

Discussed also was THE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BELPRE, OHIO TO PICK UP 19.5 PERCENT OF THE STATUTORY REQUIRED CONTRIBUTION TO THE OHIO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT AND PENSION FUNDS FOR EMPLOYERS OF THE BELPRE POLICE DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO O.R.C. SECTION 742.31. Everyone agreed to add this to tonight's agenda as well.

At this time Mr. Ferguson made a motion to add to tonight's agenda for first reading **AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AUTHORIZED MANPOWER FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2025**. Mayor Abdella stated that the Manpower exhibit was an amendment for 2024. I asked for a modification for 2024 affective immediately. This is for the two positions on the water department. One position was to replace Clint and the other will be a new hire for January 2025 that they approved on the rate analysis. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

At this time Mr. Ferguson made a motion to add to tonight's agenda for first reading was **THE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BELPRE, OHIO TO PICK UP 19.5 PERCENT OF THE STATUTORY REQUIRED CONTRIBUTION TO THE OHIO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT AND PENSION FUNDS FOR EMPLOYERS OF THE BELPRE POLICE DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO O.R.C. SECTION 742.31**. Mr. Ferguson gave a point of clarification. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson called a Finance/Audit Committee Meetings for the purpose of reviewing the Budget for 2025. Please see meeting dates and times below:

October 28, 2024 at 6:30pm, November 04, 2024 at 4:30pm, November 11, 2024 at 6:15pm, November 18, 2024 at 4:30pm, November 25, 2024 at 6:15pm, December 02, 2024 at 4:30pm, December 09, 2024 at 6:15 pm, December 16, 2024 at 6:15pm.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire *Committee reported that since the last meeting of council she attended the Manpower Committee meeting and also had a Police and Fire Committee meeting on September 30,*

2024 at 4:30pm to discuss the 490 Ambulance for the city. Due to the importance of the ambulance the committee agreed that they need to purchase the ambulance. The vehicle is in production and will be available sometime between the end of November – first of January. I also attended the ground breaking ceremony of the Akron Women's and Children's Hospital.

Mr. Seebaugh made a motion for a voice vote to approve David Dodd to the fire department. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Seebaugh made a motion for a voice vote to approve Joseph (Todd) Riffle to the fire department. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye except for Ms. Riffle due to a conflict of interest.

Mr. Locke, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer Committee met this evening at 6:30pm. There was some considerable discussion on our parking ordinances especially the 72-hour parking that has been a subject in the past. I will be giving the clerk a written copy of my report later this evening or tomorrow. We will continue our discussion with the Mayor, Safety Service Director and the law enforcement on the topic. We also discussed golf carts and changes to the legislation which we will have to vote on amending.

Mr. Ambrozy Utilities Committee announced that he participated in the Lead Service Line Door-to-Door canvassing on September 30, 2024. I also attended a Virtual Teams meeting on October 3, 2024 to go along with the EPA on the Lead Service Line Inventory. On October 7th, at 4:30pm, we had the kick off of the City Grant Committee meeting that Mayor Abdella spoke about in her report. Prior to the meeting I would like to recognize Jesse for doing a lot of prep work which will help us quite a bit as we move forward. Mr. Ambrozy announced that he had attended the ground breaking ceremony on October 8th, 2025 of The Akron Women's and Children's hospital.

Mr. Seebaugh Parks and Recreation Committee had no report.

Mr. Webster commented that the parks were in great shape for the Apple Butter Stir-Off that was held this past weekend. Mrs. Dennis also stated that they were also in great shape for the MOV Faith in Blue held on Sunday.

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

Ms. Riffle Rules Committee had no report. Ms. Riffle called a Rules Committee meeting on October 17, 2024 at 6:30pm for the purpose of discussing the City of Belpre Policy Manual and furthering discussing the City of Belpre Policy Manual on October 21st, 2024 at 6pm. Ms. Riffle also announced that early voting is now open. Ms. Riffle also asked if there would be another meeting held on the City Grant Committee. According to Mayor Abdella there will be one called at a later date.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL – AGENDA items only - none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for first reading **AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AUTHORIZED MANPOWER FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2025.**

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to amend the title of **AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AUTHORIZED MANPOWER FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2025** changing the year to 2024 and also in Section 1 changing the year to 2024. Mr. Ferguson gave an explanation on the number of employees. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for first reading **AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AUTHORIZED MANPOWER FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2024 as amended**. 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 **THE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BELPRE, OHIO TO PICK UP 19.5 PERCENT OF THE STATUTORY REQUIRED CONTRIBUTION TO THE OHIO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT AND PENSION FUNDS FOR EMPLOYERS OF THE BELPRE POLICE DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO O.R.C. SECTION 742.31**.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to amend the third line of the title from **Employers** to **Employees**. Per Mr. Webster it is the **fourth** line on the original legislation. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for first reading **THE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BELPRE, OHIO TO PICK UP 19.5 PERCENT OF THE STATUTORY REQUIRED CONTRIBUTION TO THE OHIO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT AND PENSION FUNDS FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE BELPRE POLICE DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO O.R.C. SECTION 742.31** as amended. 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:

Jesse Wonycott 805 Main Street addressed council regarding an assignment that had been left off of the Council Committee Referral List. The assignment was coordinating funds on legislation. It was assigned on June 10, 2024 to Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Godfrey.

Mrs. Wonycott also asked if the City of Belpre has a Fair Housing Board. According to Mayor Abdella we do not.

Mrs. Wonycott also asked if the City of Belpre has a Treasury Investment Board. According to Mrs. Wonycott it is in the O.R.C. 147, 157.01 and 157.02. The Board consists of a Treasurer, the Mayor and the Law Director. Mrs. Wonycott wanted to know if it would be a public meeting. According to Mayor Abdella and City Law Director Mr. Webster it would be. Mr. Webster also stated that he didn't think any investments had been made by that committee.

Mr. Ferguson addressed a letter he had received from a source regarding 4-8 cars parked on properties for sale in the City of Belpre on Marketplace.

Mrs. Cassady thanked Chief Stump for the fantastic job that was held at Civitan Park on Sunday, October 13, 2024, MOV Faith in Blue.

Adjourn:

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to adjourn at 8:14pm. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Council President Pro tem Mrs. Dennis

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Clerk of Belpre City Council Kimberly Meredith

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