

October 28, 2024

Council President Mr. Martin called the October 28, 2024 Belpre City Council meeting to order at 7:32 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. Cassidy 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. Chief Stump 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 rise, come to the podium, state your name clearly so the clerk can get your information, and address council.

Council President Mr. Martin asked for a motion for the October 14, 2024 minutes. Mr. Locke made a motion to accept the minutes of October 14, 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:

On Thursday evening, I attended the Belpre Chamber Dinner. It was a fantastic event with many local businesses, non-profits and citizens being recognized for all their hard work and dedication to the community. It was well attended and several of our young emerging leaders were recognized for their successes.

I have had several meetings over the past couple of weeks to discuss development opportunities within the city. People are excited to see the growth and opportunities of doing business in the City of Belpre.

Today we met with Doug Moore EMA director to discuss the changes in the local 911 system on November 12, 2024. On this date we will be receiving all of the 911 calls in our boundaries. We will need to make sure that our department is NexGen 911 Compliant by October 2025. The Chief and our team will be working on this evaluation and documents to make us compliant.

2025 Budget – The work on the 2025 Budget continues. This is taking extensive amounts of time since we have several projects on the books for 2025. We have lots of projects and critical items that need to be entered and projected.

Please assign the Senior Center Contract for 2025. I would also like for you to assign a review or evaluation of the 2023 Special Pricing Explorers to committee. We were informed today that another agency did not take the 2023 Ford Explorers and we were offered them for a special price.

Mr. President, I would like to request an executive session at the end of tonight's meeting to discuss employee compensation. I would also request that the auditor be invited.

President of Council Mr. Martin assigned the Senior Contract to the Finance/Audit Committee, Mr. Ferguson Chairman.

President of Council Mr. Martin assigned to Police and Fire, Mrs. Dennis Chairperson, the review or evaluation of the 2023 Special Pricing Explorers for the police department.

Safety-Service Director Mr. Kirby reported that he continues to work with Brandon Miller, our new Code Enforcement Officer, on getting him accustomed to our city. He visited another city to see how they operate. He came back with a lot of information. We have been looking at city ordinances for some of the codes. There are some ordinances that need updated or changed.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan reported that SSI's system uses a Payroll Clearing Fund which is on the Treasurer's report as 9998. Per SSI and our State Auditor, we need a voice vote from Council approving to change 9999 to 9998 to accommodate SSI's software.

The September Expense and Revenue Budget Reports were emailed to Council, Tuesday, October 22, 2024. The RITA Monthly Distribution Report was emailed to Council, Thursday, October 24, 2024.

The Utility Adjustment Report for September 2024 was emailed to all Council, Thursday, October 24, 2024 and needs Councils approval.

President of Council Mr. Martin asked for a motion on the Utility Adjustment Report for September 2024. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to accept the Utility Adjustment Report for September 2024 as presented. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

President of Council Mr. Martin asked for a motion to change 9999 to 9998 to accommodate SSI's software. Ms. Riffle made a motion to accept the change. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

City Law Director Mr. Webster stated that at your committee meeting previously you received legislation titled **AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR OF BELPRE TO EXECUTE A DEED AND OTHER DOCUMENTS TO ENABLE THE TRANSFER OF REAL ESTATE FROM THE CITY OF BELPRE AND TO ACCEPT THE TRANSFER OF REAL ESTATE TO THE CITY OF BELPRE**. This has been discussed before. The survey didn't get to me until after 2:30pm this afternoon to verify that the deal is going through. Since it is not on the agenda, if the President of Council could assign to committee. This is something that I would like council to consider tonight and take action on because time is of the essence for these transactions. I would be glad to explain once it is on the agenda for first reading.

President of Council Mr. Martin assigned to Planning and Zoning/Economic Development, Mr. Godfrey Chairman, **AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR OF BELPRE TO EXECUTE A DEED AND OTHER DOCUMENTS TO ENABLE THE TRANSFER OF REAL ESTATE FROM THE CITY OF BELPRE AND TO ACCEPT THE TRANSFER OF REAL ESTATE TO THE CITY OF BELPRE**.

Mr. Webster also stated that he is doing research on Indigent Burials. We have lots of containers of Indigent ashes and we are trying to determine what we can do with those if anything. I'm trying to find Ohio Statute that applies to that. I will let everyone know once I find out about what we can do. There

has been discussion about this for years here in city hall. We have folks here that are very nervous about storing ashes in cabinets. I'm trying to figure out what we can and can't do.

Mayor Abdella asked Mr. Webster when the Ohio Valley Crematory Society gave us direction that it is not okay. Per Mr. Webster it is not necessarily so. I'm trying to verify through the O.R.C. but I haven't been able to do that yet. Mr. Webster also stated that if you can give me a phone number, I will contact the Crematory to verify. They may be going by the West Virginia laws and not Ohio laws. I believe they work both sides of the river. There is statutory authority to bury someone in a lot that is in a cemetery and owned by the city. Mr. Webster stated that the city doesn't own any cemeteries at this point. I don't want to get us in a situation that family members want to stop us from doing so.

Mayor Abdella stated that they can't live here. John Leavitt was here and he stated that we have to keep record as to where they are and we have to give them a proper service. There is a plan in the next several weeks.

Mrs. Cassady asked the law director that when the city pays for someone to be cremated because a family can't afford it or because a family can't be found then we can provide for the cremation. Mr. Webster stated that if a family wants their ashes, then they would be required to pay for the cremation and the ashes would then be turned over to the family member.

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassady stated that before council this evening is the September's Treasurers Report that needs approved. President of Council Mr. Martin asked for a motion to approve the September's Treasurers Report. Mr. Ferguson made a motion to approve the Septembers Treasurers Report. Mr. Ferguson questioned the \$4.00 and \$2.00 monies for the water storage tank for the water system. Mrs. Nolan informed Mr. Ferguson that the money is in separate accounts. At the end of September, the money was going into Fund 5605 and 5606, which were the two accounts created for the money. According to Mr. Ferguson the report says September 30, 2024. Mrs. Nolan stated that she should have put September 28, 2024 because the last two days the money went into Fund 5605 and 5606 that was the two accounts created for the \$4.00 and \$2.00 monies. The roll was called with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Webster asked if each member of council received the legislation in regards to the two trucks. According to Mr. Martin they were received.

Communication and Petitions: -

Council President Mr. Martin stated that the only thing he has is that we will need a motion at the end of the meeting to go into executive session.

Reports of Standing Committee

Mr. Ferguson Finance/Audit Committee reported that his committee met on October 21, 2024 and this evening October 28, 2024 to review the 2025 Budget. At the October 21st, 2024 meeting there was a request for more details on some of the line items. We continued our review this evening on the 2025 Budget. Mr. Ferguson stated that he was cancelling the November 4, 2024 meeting and the next meeting would be held on November 11, 2024 at 6:15pm to continue our review.

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

Mr. Locke, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer Committee had no report. Mr. Locke made a motion to add to tonight's agenda for first reading **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BELPRE TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH MATHENY MOTOR TRUCK TO PURCHASE A 2024-2025 HINO L7 TRUCK ALLISON 3500 RDS.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. Mr. Locke stated that this piece of legislation would be presented tonight for all three readings as it is an emergency. Also, tonight we have the head of our Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer with us tonight for anyone having questions on the legislation that will be presented for first reading this evening.

Mr. Ambrozy Utilities Committee had no report.

Mr. Seebaugh Parks and Recreation Committee had no report.

Mr. Godfrey, Planning and Zoning and Economic Development Committee made a motion to by-pass committee to consider **AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR OF BELPRE TO EXECUTE A DEED AND OTHER DOCUMENTS TO ENABLE THE TRANSFER OF REAL ESTATE FROM THE CITY OF BELPRE AND TO ACCEPT THE TRANSFER OF REAL ESTATE TO THE CITY OF BELPRE.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Godfrey stated that he has been working on the zoning and to expect a meeting here real soon. I will try and explain to the public about what has been discussed in past meetings. Thanks to the Economic Development Group we have put together an idea as to what we would like the new zoning to look like. I would like to get with the Safety-Service Director to go over that.

Ms. Riffle Rules Committee announced that she attempted to have a meeting on October 17, 2024 at 6:30pm for the purpose of discussing the City of Belpre Personnel Handbook. We didn't have two members from my committee present so we canceled that. We managed to have two committee members present on our October 21st, 2024 meeting and was able to go through the entire manual. Changes have been made with addendum. I will request that Mr. Webster draw up legislation for the next meeting and we will run for all three readings as there are some outstanding bills that need paid.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL – AGENDA items only - none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to table for second reading **AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AUTHORIZED MANPOWER FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2024.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to add to tonight's agenda for first reading **AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AUTHORIZED MANPOWER FOR CALENDAR YEARS 2024 AND 2025.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for second 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.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

Ms. Riffle stated that Section 1 states that this piece of legislation is effective as of November 1, 2024.

Mr. Ferguson stated that this would not lie over until the next meeting of council and he would move to suspend the rule for the third reading.

Mr. Ferguson moved to suspend the rule of council on three different days to allow for the third reading of **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.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for third 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.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson moved this be **Resolution #15, 2024-2025** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

New Business:

Mr. Locke brought before council for first reading **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF BELPRE TO SELL THE 2022KW MOTOR TRUCK TO THE CITY OF ATHENS.** Chris from the Street Department explained why we need to sell the truck. He stated that it is because it is too big for the city. We need something smaller that would do better. Too wide, too tall for back streets but fine for Washington Blvd and Main Street. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Locke moved to suspend the rule of council on three different days to allow for the second and third readings of **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF BELPRE TO SELL THE 2022KW MOTOR TRUCK TO THE CITY OF ATHENS.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Locke brought before council for second and third readings **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF BELPRE TO SELL THE 2022KW MOTOR TRUCK TO THE CITY OF ATHENS.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Locke moved this be **Resolution #16, 2024-2025** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Godfrey brought before council for first reading **AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR OF BELPRE TO EXECUTE A DEED AND OTHER DOCUMENTS TO ENABLE THE TRANSFER OF REAL ESTATE FROM THE CITY OF BELPRE AND TO ACCEPT THE TRANSFER OF REAL ESTATE TO THE CITY OF BELPRE.** Mr. Webster gave a point of clarification regarding property owned by Boxer's and the City of Belpre. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Godfrey moved to suspend the rule of council on three different days to allow for the second and third readings **AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR OF BELPRE TO EXECUTE A DEED AND OTHER DOCUMENTS TO ENABLE THE TRANSFER OF REAL ESTATE FROM THE CITY OF BELPRE AND TO ACCEPT THE TRANSFER OF REAL ESTATE TO THE CITY OF BELPRE.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Godfrey brought before council for second and third readings **AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR OF BELPRE TO EXECUTE A DEED AND OTHER DOCUMENTS TO ENABLE THE TRANSFER OF REAL ESTATE FROM THE CITY OF BELPRE AND TO ACCEPT THE TRANSFER OF REAL ESTATE TO THE CITY OF BELPRE**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Godfrey moved this be **Ordinance #11, 2024-2025** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mayor Abdella requested a certified copy from the clerk.

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for first reading **AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AUTHORIZED MANPOWER FOR CALENDAR YEARS 2024-2025**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

President of Council Mr. Martin thanked Ms. Riffle for catching the time legislation was effective.

Mr. Locke brought before council for first reading **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BELPRE TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH MATHENY MOTOR TRUCK TO PURCHASE A 2024-2025 HINO L7 TRUCK ALLISON 3500 RDS**. Discussion followed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Locke moved to suspend the rule of council on three different days to allow for the second and third readings of **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BELPRE TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH MATHENY MOTOR TRUCK TO PURCHASE A 2024-2025 HINO L7 TRUCK ALLISON 3500 RDS**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Locke brought before council for the second and third reading of **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BELPRE TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH MATHENY MOTOR TRUCK TO PURCHASE A 2024-2025 HINO L7 TRUCK ALLISON 3500 RDS**. Discussion followed. Mr. Ferguson asked what RDS stood for. Per Chris it has to do with the size of the transmission. Mr. Godfrey asked if we would get a warranty. He was informed that we would get a warranty. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Locke moved this be **Ordinance 12, 2024-2025** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

PERSON APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Mayor Abdella recognized the Art Work from students at Belpre Elementary School.

Mr. Locke thanked Chris for being at the meeting this evening to answer any questions in regards to the trucks.

Mr. Webster reminded everyone to vote next Tuesday. I also want to recognize Janet Gilbert who is with us tonight and my wife Margaret for going to the Nursing Homes in the County to allow residents to vote. I want to recognize them for their efforts.

Chief Stump reminded citizens that Thursday is Trick or Treat. We hope that everyone participates and makes the evening enjoyable for the kids and are safe. Chief Stump recognized those that held Trunk or

Treat for the kids. There was one held at the Boat Ramp, Elementary School, St. Marks and Rockland Ridge. Thanks to all those who participated.

Ms. Riffle made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Compensation.

Council President Mr. Martin reminded everyone in attendance that there would be no further action taken once we return from Executive Session.

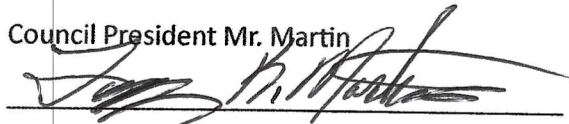
Ms. Riffle stated that she wanted to amend her motion to include the auditor. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Ms. Riffle made a motion to return from Executive Session at 8:58pm. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Adjourn:

Ms. Riffle made a motion to adjourn at 9:00pm. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Council President Mr. Martin



Clerk of Belpre City Council Kimberly Meredith

