

November 25, 2024

Council President Pro tem Mrs. Dennis called the November 25, 2024 Belpre City Council meeting to order at 7:30 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, and Treasurer Mrs. Cassady, Absent from the meeting was President of Council Mr. Martin and Clerk of Council Mrs. Meredith.

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 rise, come to the podium, state your name clearly so the clerk can get your information, and address council.

Council President Pro tem Mrs. Dennis asked for a motion for the November 11, 2024 minutes. Mr. Locke made a motion to accept the minutes of November 11, 2024 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:

I would like to give a brief presentation at the end of my report

Communications:

- The Tree City USA application is almost complete. I was amazed as I was writing the application that the commission and its volunteers have put 829 hours into our trees so far this year.

- o the trees from the ODNR grant are in the process of being planted.

- The grant committee will be meeting on December 12, 2024 at 4pm in the Conference room for anyone wishing to attend.

- o OPWC - For Roads- This is a matching grant

- o Grants currently in process: An EPA grant with a very defined purpose. This is Due December 20th.

1. Emergency generator grant. 2. Source water protective strategies grant. 3. Well abandonment grant. 4. Water audit and water loss control program grant.

- On Saturday evening the Community Tree lighting occurred with the Belpre Elementary 3-6 grade choir participating. The Grinch was in attendance and I believe all the songs and lights melted his cold heart.

- The Holiday Lights Parade is scheduled for November 30, 2024 at 6pm. Come out and see all the Holiday Cheer the community has to offer.

- You will notice a speed cart located on the four- lane, ODOT has begun the safety work with us to determine how to best prevent accidents in the area
- The “NO TURN ON RED” sign at the ramp onto the bridge has been removed. After discussion with ODOT. The approach was changed during the last modification to take away a right turn. This is now a through movement. Turning on to the bridge when the light is red is opening motorist up to a ticket.
- Please keep an eye on HB 296. This bill has come out of committee and is headed to the floor. It is purposing that Ohio employers increase the contributions to Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund from 19.5% to 24 %. This increase will occur over the next 4-6 years depending on the final document. So, we need to take the increase into account as we do the budget. If over 6 years it will be a .75% increase per year.
- An over view of Sensus Analytics.

Mr. President I am requesting that a joint utilities and finance meeting be called to discuss the water meter situation.

City Projects:

- SCADA System for all Lift and Booster Stations to communicate with the plants
- OPWC Road Paving
- Lead Service Line Inventory
- 10” Water Main Extension
- WWTP project – Discussion of needs
- Well 2 Rehab
 - o Survey Complete
- Water Tank Bidding and Construction
 - o Bidding Jan 1 to February 1
 - o Loan Award March 2025
 - o Construction March 2025 to March 2026

Mayor Abdella presented a brief presentation before council about our water meters. The meters were done in 07 and we need to determine how to replace them. Sensus Analytics presented us with a dashboard that provides a lot of crucial information to the city about our water meters. Mr. President I am requesting that a joint utilities and finance meeting be called to discuss the water meter situation. I would like to have a meeting sooner rather than later.

ODOT informed us that in 2028 the anticipation is to repave the four-lane and we will be responsible for 20% of the cost. The SSD and I will begin looking for grant monies to help us with this project.

Safety-Service Director reported that On November 15th, Code Enforcement Officer Brandon Miller and I attended the Southeast Ohio Regional Code Enforcement Group Meeting. Some of the topics included

grant opportunities and different programs for community needs. CE Miller is becoming more verse in our community and is being proactive with code violations/ completing follow ups and is currently working on a list of ordinances that he would like to see updated. Once we get the list completed, we will present it to council and ask for it to be assigned to the board for possible changes.

We have been getting several calls regarding the letter that was sent regarding the Water service lines. During these calls, conversations about the surveys take place. People are getting the surveys filled out and returned to the city building or they are filling out on-line.

Mayor Abdella and I met with Councilman Locke and Street Department Foreman Chris Barringer regarding large truck- tractor trailer routes and a truck map for the businesses that are affected on certain streets during pick-up and delivery. A lot of the businesses have already gotten a copy of the map so they can forward it onto the drivers. Hopefully, this will help.

I attended the meeting with the Sensis Analytics for the water department with members of the water department and Auditor Nolan to address issues regarding water meters.

Chief Stump and I met via zoom with the 911 Feasibility study group. Our city I.T. specialist, Greg Brewster was also present to assist on answering questions.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan reported the city held an auction on Tuesday, November 12, 2024. We profited \$5,145.50.

Wednesday, November 13, 2024 I sat in on the Structure Point Plan Review. They provided 3 different design plans for our review.

We received \$110,000 from Athens for the purchase of the 2022 Kenworth Motor Truck on November 14, 2024.

Tuesday, November 19, along with Mayor and SSD, I was present for a meeting from 10:30-3:30 with Sensus Analytics reviewing our water structures.

As you may notice on the October Treasurer's report 5602's revenue is negative. This is because there was more money moved out 1/1/2024 - 9/26/2024 to 5605 \$4 fund and 5606 \$2 funds than was received during the month of October.

Water fund totals from 5602 for years 2022 and 2023 were transferred to funds 5605 and 5606 November 15 and will be reflected on the November Treasurer's report.

The October Expense and Revenue Budget reports were emailed to Council, Friday, November 22, 2024.

The Utility Adjustment Report from VIP/SSI was emailed to Council Friday, November 22, 2024. This report was the complete detail and needs Councils approval.

Council President Pro tem Mrs. Dennis asked for a motion to approve the October Adjustment Report. Mr. Ferguson made a motion to approve the October Adjustment Report as presented. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

City Law Director Mr. Webster reported that council has received multiple pieces of legislation for tonight. I will note that the mayor has requested a couple more before the end of the year. I'm not sure that this is possible due to the number of members present at the next meeting. I also believe that

these two pieces can wait until the first meeting in January. If anyone has anything that I need to prepare before the end of the year please note they will have to have an emergency clause and possibly have to have a special meeting if needed before the end of the year or we can have a regular meeting on the 23rd.

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassady reported that before you tonight are the October's Treasurers Report that needs approved by council. There are copies in the back for the audience to review. Council President Pro-tem Mrs. Dennis asked for a motion for the October's Treasurers Report. Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the October's Treasurers Report as presented. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Communication and Petitions: -

Council President Pro tem Mrs. Dennis assigned the following legislation to committee:

Mr. Ambrozy and Mr. Ferguson was assigned the water meter project.

Reports of Standing Committee

Mr. Ferguson Finance/Audit Committee stated that he had talked with Mr. Ambrozy regarding the water meter situation. We both agreed to have a meeting on December 9, 2024 at 6:30pm for the purpose of discussing the water meter project.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee reported that we have legislation before us this evening regarding the new ambulance. I'm going to forward to Mr. Ambrozy to add to tonight's agenda. Mr. Ambrozy made a motion to add to the agenda under new business **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BELPRE TO PURCHASE A FORD F-350 CHASSIS-MEDIX-METRO EXPRESS TYPE III (AMBULANCE) FROM PENN CARE, INC.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Locke, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer Committee had no report.

Mr. Ambrozy Utilities Committee reported that he was asked to look at some water and sewer regulations from some similar cities. I reviewed the regulations from five different cities and compared them with Belpre. I sent the mayor a summary and some recommendations. On November 12, 2024, I attended the Artsbridge Ribbon cutting. It was a very nice ceremony and is a very nice facility.

Mr. Seebaugh Parks and Recreation Committee reported that he attended the Structure Point Plan Review meeting. They presented us with three really nice options that were posted out on the city's website. There were some positives and some negatives but we can't win them all. We are going to meet again to hash out ideas on how to proceed.

Mr. Godfrey, Planning and Zoning and Economic Development Committee made a motion to add to tonight's agenda **AN ORDINANCE PARTIALLY VACATING AN ALEY LOCATED TO THE EAST OF THE INTERSECTION OF WASHINGTON BOULEVARD AND WALNUT STREET.** Mr. Godfrey stated that we need to amend to make three changes to the legislation, one in the first line of the title, need to change spelling of aley to alley, go down three paragraphs to where it says whereas, Belpre City Council Planning and Zoning Chairman Mr. Godfry, change Godfry to Godfrey and under section 1, where it said a Public Hearing was held on the petition in City Council Chambers on November 25, 2024 at _____, need to add 7:00 p.m. A vote was taken on the correction to the legislation.

Ms. Riffle Rules Committee announced that there are two pieces of legislation that will be presented by Mr. Seebaugh this evening. One is an Ordinance and one is a Resolution. Ms. Riffle stated that one piece of legislation comes from the Walter Drane Company. This is legislation that has been past from June 2023 – June 2024 and appears as updates to our Codified Ordinances for the City of Belpre. The other piece of legislation that has been added is the Policy Manual which we have had several meetings on and now ready to proceed with the legislation. Mr. Ambrozy pointed out that in Section 1 it refers to the Village of Belpre, Ms. Riffle thanked him for pointing it out and stated that we would need to change. Mr. Webster stated that this is how it came to us from the Walter Drane Company.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL – AGENDA items only - none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: - none

New Business:

Mr. Seebaugh brought before council for first reading **AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE ADDITION AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF BELPRE, OHIO.**

Mr. Seebaugh made a motion to amend and change Section 1, from Village of Belpre to City of Belpre. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Seebaugh brought before council for first reading **AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE ADDITION AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF BELPRE, OHIO as amended.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Seebaugh moved to suspend the rule of council on three different days to allow for the second and third readings of **AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE ADDITION AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF BELPRE, OHIO.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Seebaugh brought before council for second and third readings **AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE ADDITION AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF BELPRE, OHIO.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

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

Mr. Seebaugh brought before council for first reading **A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE CITY OF BELPRE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK, A POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY ON LATERAL TRANSFERS, AND A NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) CYBER SECURITY POLICY.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Seebaugh moved to suspend the rule of council on three different days to allow for the second and third readings of **A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE CITY OF BELPRE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK, A POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY ON LATERAL TRANSFERS, AND A NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) CYBER SECURITY POLICY.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Seebaugh brought before council for the second and third readings **A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE CITY OF BELPRE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK, A POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY ON LATERAL TRANSFERS, AND A NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) CYBER SECURITY POLICY**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Seebaugh moved this be **Resolution #19, 2024-2025** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ambrozy brought before council for first reading **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BELPRE TO PURCHASE A FORD F-350 CHASSIS-MEDIX-METRO EXPRESS TYPE III (AMBULANCE) FROM PENN CARE, INC.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ambrozy moved to suspend the rule of council on three different days to allow for the second and third reading of **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BELPRE TO PURCHASE A FORD F-350 CHASSIS-MEDIX-METRO EXPRESS TYPE III (AMBULANCE) FROM PENN CARE, INC.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ambrozy brought before council for second and third readings **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BELPRE TO PURCHASE A FORD F-350 CHASSIS-MEDIX-METRO EXPRESS TYPE III (AMBULANCE) FROM PENN CARE, INC.** Point of clarification on the fund it was coming from by Mr. Ferguson. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ambrozy moved this be **Ordinance #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 PARTIALLY VACATING AN ALLEY LOCATED TO THE EAST OF THE INTERSECTION OF WASHINGTON BOULEVARD AND WALNUT STREET.** 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 of **AN ORDINANCE PARTIALLY VACATING AN ALLEY LOCATED TO THE EAST OF THE INTERSECTION OF WASHINGTON BOULEVARD AND WALNUT STREET.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Godfrey brought before council for second and third readings **AN ORDINANCE PARTIALLY VACATING AN ALLEY LOCATED TO THE EAST OF THE INTERSECTION OF WASHINGTON BOULEVARD AND WALNUT STREET.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Godfrey moved this be **Ordinance #17, 2024-2025** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

PERSON APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Joe Ellison 307 Stone Road addressed council regarding increase in water and sewer rates.

Judy Drake 713 Oak Tree Lane addressed council in regards to the discrepancies on the water and sewer bills. She was informed that it was because of the way it was put into the system. Mayor Abdella stated that if you didn't use 1,000 gallons of water then you weren't charged a sewer charge. The mayor was one that wasn't charged so the next day they were looking into the problem. She did receive a new meter. Mayor Abdella stated that the bills should be rectified.

Jesse Wynecott 805 Main Street addressed an issue in our code in regards to a paid fire chief. Mr. Webster stated that he found the ordinance. It may not have properly got into the books. Ms. Riffle stated that they would research and hope to have it changed. Secondly, Mrs. Wynecott wanted to know if final cost of the new water tank had been calculated and if so, has it been opened to bids. Mayor Abdella stated that it is in the process of being bid.

Mr. Locke asked about the ambulance and had the box been refurbished? Mayor Abdella stated that no, it was 100% new.

Ms. Riffle asked about the reporting on the mayor's presentation, can we see the meters that are repetitive malfunctions. We are working on the critical ones first. There are 110 allied meters that can be turned on and off at Lisa's desk. They will be replaced. There are 430, ¾ inch meters that can be put in the ground. We will probably use 350 and keep some on standby until we get other meters ordered.

Mr. Locke asked how many trees have been planted? Mayor Abdella stated that we started on the park trees. The week after Thanksgiving we are going to plant the Memorial Trees. Chris wants them all in by the middle of December. Lights on the fountain went out. They are under warranty. The fountain will be removed and replaced in the Spring.

Adjourn:

Mr. Locke made a motion to adjourn. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Council President Pro tem Mrs. Dennis

Wendy Dennis Pro tem

Clerk of Belpre City Council Pro tem Ms. Riffle

Terri L. Riffle Pro tem