

December 09, 2024

Council President Mr. Martin called the December 09, 2024 Belpre City Council meeting to order at 7:30 pm. The roll was called with the following members present: Mr. Ambrozy, Mrs. Dennis who was late in attendance, Mr. Ferguson, 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 Councilman at Large Mr. Godfrey.

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 November 25, 2024 minutes. Mr. Locke made a motion to accept the minutes of November 25, 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 stated that she would like to deviate from the order of her report to ask Chief Stump to come forward to recognize Patrolman Whittington and K9 Broski. K9 Broski started his service with the City of Belpre in 2017 and been with us for 9 years. During his time of service, he has gotten a lot of dope off the streets, assisted other agencies as well as working with the city here. He has worked all over and has given 7 good years to the City of Belpre. We are happy for him to go and enjoy his retirement however he will be missed. Patrolman Whittington has been a great K9 handler with him. They have been a great team. We will be having cake over in the administration office if you all would like to come over, have some cake and bid him an enjoyable retirement. Mayor Abdella stated that he gets the first piece of cake though.

Communications:

- The Tree City USA application is almost complete and submitted. We have planted all the trees for the park.
 - 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 – We will not be receiving this grant. Due to the fund not having enough to cover our request. We would have had to pay a total of \$420,000. We will be exploring options to pave the critical ones. (Lee and Maple).
 - o Working on a Grant for the Fire Department for turnout gear. (10K)

- 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.

- Lead Line Survey – Today I received the form ack from the EPA and we are required to do lots of work on this project by year end.
- We have received a request from the Peace Officer training program at Washington State Community College for a cruiser that is being decommissioned in order to be utilized for training of new recruits. The police dept is in the process of decommissioning a 2013. After discussion we would probably receive \$500 if sold at auction. We would like to transfer it to the training program at Washington State.
- Tonight, you will be receiving legislation to allow the City of Belpre to become an Ohio-America 250 community. There will be lots of things happening throughout the state in 2026. Our Historical Society has been selected to be a part of the Underground Railroad Trail.

City Projects:

- SCADA System for all Lift and Booster Stations to communicate with the plants
- Proposal to be reviewed and approved.
 - Lead Service Line Inventory Second Phase to occur in 2025 – Complete the door-to-door canvas.
 - WWTP project – Discussion of needs
 - Well 2 Rehab
 - Survey Complete
- Water Tank and 10" Water Main Extension
 - Bidding and Construction
 - Bidding Jan 1 to February 1
 - Loan Award March 2025
 - Construction March 2025 to March 2026

Council President Mr. Martin asked if Broski would remain with Patrolman Whittington during his retirement. Mayor Abdella stated that Patrolman Whittington would have to pay \$1.00 for Broski to remain with him.

Mr. Locke made a motion to transfer a cruiser to Washington State Community College. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

President of Council Mr. Martin informed the clerk to enter Mrs. Dennis in role call as she is now present for voting.

Safety-Service Director Mr. Kirby announced that the Code Enforcement now has courtesy warning door hangers. This will be used as a tool to help assist residences in complying with the ordinances set by the city.

Code Enforcement Miller is working on a proposed fee schedule for code violations. The fine will be dependent on prior warnings and violations. The fines may be imposed repeatedly, depending on the severity of each offense.

Returning calls about what type of water service line residences have.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan reported Tuesday, November 26, 2024 Mayor Abdella, Law Director Webster and I met for our 2nd half year Records Retention Meeting. Mayor Abdella provided a new Records Retention Policy.

In February 2024 Peoples Bank offered a CD with 5% interest for 9 months. With this rate being much higher than the low fluctuating bank account rate, \$350,000.00 was moved to a CD. The CD matured on November 29 and earned \$13,050.39 in interest.

On December 3, 2024 Peoples offered 4.5% for 5 months \$363,050.93 was rolled out to a new CD that will mature May 3, 2025. I do have documentation from Peoples which states in the event the city needs the funds prior to maturity date, an exception will be granted to waive the withdrawal penalty. On the November Treasurer's report emailed this morning see fund 5602, a Water TRANSFERS line item ending in 590000 was used to make the Transfer out of 5602 to 5605 \$4.00 and 5606 \$2 for 2022 and 2023. The total transferred was \$455,174.93 which is reflected in the November month expense total of \$520,804.77. I do have an email from our State Auditor stating that a Transfer entry is what is needed to move the 2022 and 2023 years out of 5602.

I will provide the November Utility Adjustment Report the first Council meeting in January.

City Law Director Mr. Webster had no report.

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

Communication and Petitions: - none

Reports of Standing Committee

Mr. Ferguson Finance/Audit Committee reported that Finance/Audit Committee and the Utilities Committee met on December 9, 2024 at 6:30pm for the purpose of discussing the water meter project. Also discussed was the Capital Improvement Line item for the 2025 Budget.

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

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

Mr. Ambrozy Utilities Committee reported that his committee met as part of the joint committee meeting with the Finance/Audit Committee for the purpose of discussing the water meter project. Mr. Ambrozy announced that on December 5, 2024 I participated in a project review meeting with Michael Stade from EDG.

Mr. Seebaugh Parks and Recreation Committee stated that all he has was holiday cheer.

Mr. Godfrey, Planning and Zoning and Economic Development Committee was absent. No report was given in his absence.

Ms. Riffle Rules Committee announced that she needed to amend legislation that was passed at the last meeting on **AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE ADDITION AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF BELPRE, OHIO**. The legislation was assigned **Ordinance #15, 2024-2025**. This Ordinance had already been assigned to another piece of legislation therefore Ms. Riffle made a motion to amend this piece of legislation to **Ordinance #15B**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL – AGENDA items only - none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: -

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to excuse Mr. Godfrey from this evening's meeting. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

New Business:

Ms. Riffle made a motion to cancel the meeting of Belpre City Council on December 23rd, 2024. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson wished everyone a Merry Christmas and safe travels during this holiday season.

Mr. Locke asked the mayor what was the anticipated date for the dump truck that we purchased? According to mayor, Chris has been on vacation so I haven't received an update.

Mr. Locke stated that the ambulance would be here before the end of the month. According to the mayor it would not. There is a pick-up date schedule for January 10-11th. Kirby and Ryan are going to go with the vendor and tour the facility it was built in, pick up the ambulance and drive it back.

President of Council Mr. Martin asked if we had a right of refusal if it wasn't what we were expecting? According to the mayor we do have that right.

Mr. Locke asked about the 2023 police cars. Once we started looking, I had the chief contact Statewide and it would cost the same amount as 2 new 2025 police cruisers.

PERSON APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Ms. Rifle stated that she has enjoyed working with the new council that are like minded and willing to work together. It has been a tough year. I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and I'm looking forward working with you all next year.

Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Locke thanked Clint for being here this evening.

Mrs. Nolan and Mrs. Cassady wished everyone a Merry Christmas and thanked Penny for gift.

Council President Mr. Martin stated that there are 3 of us that has been here since 2007. Mr. Martin stated that he couldn't be prouder of this group, the research you are doing to get the right answer and working with the mayor on all these projects we are working on.

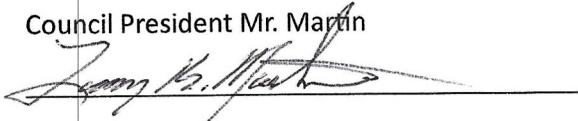
Mayor Abdella invited everyone to join together for cake and ice cream and to pet Broski one more time.

Mayor Abdella asked the clerk to remind the law director of the legislation needed for the first meeting in January 2025. They are as follows: American 250, Contract with Kathy Davis, O'Neil Center and the Health Department.

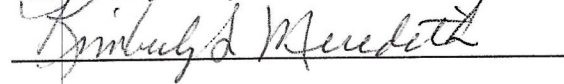
Adjourn:

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

Council President Mr. Martin

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zachary B. Martin", written over a horizontal line.

Clerk of Belpre City Council Mrs. Meredith

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