

February 24, 2025

Council President Mr. Martin called the February 24, 2025 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, Mrs. Campbell, Mr. Locke, Ms. Riffle and Mr. Seebaugh. 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.

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 February 10, 2025 meeting minutes. Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the minutes of February 10, 2025 as presented and bypass the reading. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mayor Abdella requested that we go into Executive Session at 7:34pm for the purpose of discussing Collective Bargaining. Ms. Abdella asked that Mrs. Nolan be present for the discussion. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to adjourn from Executive Session at 7:51pm. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to return to the regular council meeting at 7:53pm. 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:

- I continue to participate in the "Meet the Funders Program with the ARC". I am working with them to present the Water Tank since it is a shovel ready project. I will be creating a document about the project to take to my presentation. I will send each of you the material once it is created.

- We have been busy collecting data and information and making alteration based on feedback for the Park Plan. We are closing in on the financial component so the City can decide the best plan to move forward.
- There is a variance hearing on February 25, 2025 to review the request by the hospital to move forward.
- ODNR will be here on Friday to review the trees that have been planted during phase one for reimbursement. We have stalled on phase two due to federal funding concerns.
- We have scheduled Software Solutions to be on site on April 8, 2025 to do training on Utility billing and reporting.
- We are meeting with Kathy Davis from WCSCD to review all previous construction projects. We have determined that we are missing several post construction certificates and maintenance and operations plans. We will be reaching out to businesses to get the necessary documents.
- I have requested that our Website Vendor create a couple of new pages that will allow more information from the city related to "projects" to show a photo progression of each one as they occur. The other is a "legal notices" page. This will assist the city in publishing legal notices to the community instead of the current method of news paper ad. This is the best practice method that is happening across the nation.

City Projects:

- MXU – Radio replacement.
 - Work plan being developed – Radios ordered – Plan to install by sections in the community. The order has been placed for all of them.
- Lead Service Line – Sheet back to the EPA. Will work on collecting the rest of the data over 2025-2026.
- Communication Tower - Parts being ordered – work to conclude Mid-March.
 - Repeaters need replaced.
 - LED Lights to be replaced once received. Still waiting on them.
 - Connections to Emergency power for lights.
- WWTP project – beginning process for RFQ – Due to the city by 2-28-2025
- Well 2 Rehab
 - Survey Complete
 - Project Paused due to meter project needs

- Water Tank and 10" Water Main Extension
- Bidding and Construction
- Bidding adds runs Jan 24 and Jan 31,
- Pre-Bid February 4 at 1pm
- Bid Opening February 27 at 1pm
- Loan Award March 2025
- Construction March 2025 to March 2026

SCADA Project Schedule – This project is being moved out a week. Advertise

Legislation Pending

- Oneil Center - Slight Increase
- Trash Contract – To Bid

Grants Pending

- EPA Drinking Water Grant - Filed: Generator and Signage for area of well field.
- VFA Grant Due Jan 15, 2024 - 10K matching grant

Grants to be submitted:

- Marietta Community Foundation
- Belpre Community Foundation
- United Way
- State Farm - 10K Police and Fire

Safety-Service Director Mr. Kirby reported the following updates within the city on February 24, 2025. They are as follows:

Police Department:

- Transitioning pistols to Smith & West 9mm. New pistols will come with Red Dot Optics. They will go through the transition training when available for certifications.
- Process of updating the Record Management System to the latest version for their reporting system.

Street Department:

- Updating the mapping system which will include storm drains, signs, roadmaps, and other information that pertains to pertinent information.
- Call outs for snow removal and tree cleanup.
- Continue patching roads; planning on Lee St. tomorrow or Wednesday, weather permitting. Working on quotes from paving companies to redo the road, estimation cost, \$200,000 to spend from the general fund.
- Maintenance on small equipment and vehicles to keep them up and running.

Sewer Department:

- Cleaning digester/getting quotes working with the contractor and engineer.
- Repairs made to the blower motor at the plant.
- Weekly EPA water testing

Water Department:

- Repairing leaking setters throughout the city
- Deactivating/activating MXU's radios for the water meters due to programming issues
- Continuing service orders, checking for leaks throughout the city

Sewer Department:

- Replaced pump at the sewer plant
- Clean tanks
- Daily maintenance at the plant such as water samples, etc.
- On February 18th, the crew responded to Bellview and Farson Street for a leak. They repaired an 8" line.
- On February 22nd, the crew responded to Florence Street under the railroad bridge for a leak. They repaired a 6" line.
- They will be conducting shut-offs this week for non-payment customers.

At this time, Chief Stump recognized Patrolman Cook on a routine stop that captured a large number of Methamphetamines. The gentleman stopped was wanted by the US Marshall due to a failed drug test.

Mr. Ambrozy addressed the number of water leaks within the city and asked what may be causing them. According to Mayor Abdella it may be caused by age of the pipes. Bad weather freezing and unthawing. There is no real explanation.

Mr. Ambrozy asked if there is any prevention. The situation is being addressed.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan reported that the past two weeks were spent finalizing the 2025 Budget and adding Assets into VIP that the State Auditor recommended.

The January 2025 Expense and Revenue Budgets were emailed to Council Friday, February 21, 2025.

The "Bill Adjustments: report for January 2025 was emailed to Council Thursday, February 20, 2025 and will need Councils approval.

President of Council Mr. Martin asked for a motion on the "Bill Adjustment Report". Mrs. Dennis made a motion to accept the "Bill Adjustment Report" for January 2025 as presented. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Locke asked Mrs. Nolan if there was enough money to pay for the truck for the fire department. She stated that the EMS/Fire Levy Fund totaled \$332,000 and the cost of the new truck was either \$368,000 or \$369,000 for which she needed to verify. Mayor Abdella stated that we should receive \$200,000 from the County from property taxes which will cover the remaining cost of the truck.

Make note that on the "Actual Revenue" where we were this past year.

City Law Director Mr. Webster had no report

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassady thanked Mrs. Nolan for submitting my report at the last meeting. Our family was under the weather. Tonight, council should have received copies of the January 2025 Treasurer's Report and the Year-to-Date Treasurer's Report for 2024 that needs council approval. Copies have been placed in the back of council chambers.

President of Council Mr. Martin asked for a motion on the January 2025 Treasurer's Report. Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the January 2025 Treasurer's Report as presented. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

President of Council Mr. Martin asked for a motion on the Year-to-Date 2024 Treasurer's Report. Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the Year-to-Date 2024 Treasurer's 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 had no report. Mr. Ferguson made a motion to add to tonight's agenda for first reading **AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING CALENDAR YEAR 2025 ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee had no report. Mrs. Dennis did present Mr. Greenley's EMS Report. It is as follows:

Dear Council Members,

We have had another good month in Belpre. Last month, we received 172 total calls. We transported 131 of them to the ER, had 17 refuses, and had 1 patient that was already deceased when we arrived. We did 20 transports last month to or from Marietta Memorial Belpre and the main Marietta Memorial Marietta campus. 2 to Rockland Ridge and 2 to Belpre Landing. Our average time from dispatch to scene was 6 minutes and 17 seconds.

During my last report, we had some discussion on the response versus chute time. I discussed the chute time with our administrator and he is working with his team on that metric. Last month our average chute time (which is the time from when we receive the call and when we leave the station) is 2 minutes and 12 seconds. It was stated during our meeting that 2 minutes is the goal time and we are just slightly above that. We will continue to report this metric each month moving forward.

The new 490 ambulance is in service and the crews have been very appreciative of it. There were no major issues with 491 during the course of the month. As always, please let us know if you have any questions. It is our honor to be able to serve the people of Belpre.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Greenley

Chairman

City of Belpre EMS, Inc.

Mr. Locke, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer Committee reported that we discussed changing the current Golf Cart Ordinance. Particularly the Sticker/Inspection fee. Current there is a \$40 charge to get a sticker. In the past this included the (\$25 sticker, \$15 inspection) this has presented problems for the Clerk of Courts. Separating the 2 items would be the cure for the issues. It is recommended that the current ordinance be amended to represent this change. Also changing the dates of the beginning & ending was recommended. Change it to "April 1st to March 31st instead of the July 1st to June 30th we have currently.

Mr. Ambrozy Utilities Committee had no report.

Mr. Seebaugh Parks and Recreation Committee had no report.

Mrs. Campbell Planning and Zoning and Economic Development Committee met this evening to discuss provisions on the Proposed revision to Ordinance 1339.10 (fencing) and Notices and Order addition/revision to 1313.08. This has been passed on to Mr. Webster to draw up legislation.

Ms. Riffle Rules Committee had no report.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL – AGENDA items only –

President of Council Mr. Martin stated that there is two pieces of legislation before you this evening. One is the Third Reading of **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE BELPRE SENIOR CENTER** and the other is the first reading of **AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING CALENDAR YEAR 2025 ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS**.

No one appeared to speak on the topic.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: -

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for third reading **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE BELPRE SENIOR CENTER**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson moved this be **Resolution 26, 2024-2025** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

New Business:

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for first reading **AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING CALENDAR YEAR 2025 ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS**. Discussion followed. Mr. Ferguson stated that the revenue did not reflect an increase from last year and October of this year. 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:

Sandy Mason, Belpre resident, stated that she is a walker and as she walks, she has noticed a big drainage problem on Depot and Barkley Street. She stated that there is a manhole with 3 ½ feet of water.

Mrs. Mason addressed transportation within the city.

Also addressed were sidewalks in the city from Main Street to Washington Boulevard. She stated that there is grass, and stone on the sidewalks. She asked who was responsible for the sidewalks.

Mrs. Mason asked about the closure of Wirt Street Bridge and who was responsible for that. She was informed that it was the responsibility of CSX/BIP.

Mayor Abdella stated that Chris Barringer who is the street foreman is looking at this issue. The Storm Water System is in bad shape. There is no storm water facility. He is checking the smell in that area as well as the lift station. Horrible problem with drainage.

The mayor stated that according to the ORC property owners are responsible for replacing sidewalks.

Mr. Ferguson stated that the sewage off of Elm Street has its own private Sewage System and it is owned by the trailer park.

City Law Director Mr. Webster addressed the issue with CSX. He suggested that Ms. Mason contact the US Representative Office and ask to speak to Mr. Ruly. Local agencies can't do anything so you might want to contact the Federal Agency. BIP has been much more responsive.

Mr. Locke is interested in looking for a Grant Writer. Mayor Abdella stated that we paid the last grant writer \$1,000 a month and was not getting what we were paying for.

Mrs. Dennis stated that the payment came from the General Fund and not from the Grant.

Ms. Riffle addressed the fire truck and what the additional cost was to fix the issue. She was informed it was \$1,982.10. She was also informed that the ladder truck was taken for repair as there is a problem that the outriggers are not stable on the truck.

Also addressed was Baseball and Little League. Mr. Seebaugh stated that Baseball/Little League came to members of the Soccer Teams to see if they could help them with organizing their teams. Mr. Seebaugh stated that they were going to use their agreement and come up with a plan.

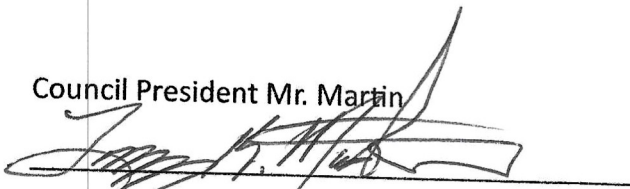
Ms. Riffle addressed the metal behind Fruth Pharmacy. She was informed that the metal was from the batting cages that were falling own.

Ms. Riffle also addressed recent Facebook comments. She stated that there will be no primary in Belpre. There are actually 10 people running for office and will be filling the positions as they are running unopposed. She stated that public office is available to everyone. It takes a lot of time, prayers, thought and worries.

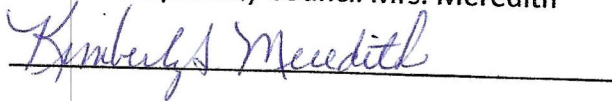
Adjourn:

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to adjourn at 8:40 pm. 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 "James H. Martin", written over a horizontal line.

Clerk of Belpre City Council Mrs. Meredith

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