

March 24, 2025

Council President Protem Mrs. Dennis called the March 24, 2025 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, 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. Absent from the meeting was President of Council Mr. Martin.

Council President Protem Mrs. Dennis 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 Protem Mrs. Dennis 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 Protem Mrs. Dennis asked for a motion for the March 10, 2025 meeting minutes. Mr. Ambrozy announced that he had informed the clerk that he had actually attended two separate meetings that he had reported on under the Utilities Committee. Mr. Ambrozy made a motion to amend and accept the March 10, 2025 minutes under his report to read on March 6, 2025 he attended the EDG meeting and on **March 7, 2025 he attended the RFQ document review meeting for our new Waste Water Treatment Plant** as amended and by-pass the reading. A vote was taken on the amended minutes as presented with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to approve the March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting minutes as presented and by-pass the reading. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Ms. Riffle made a motion to excuse Mrs. Dennis from the March 10, 2025 minutes as she was working. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye except for Mrs. Dennis who abstained.

#### **Reports of City Officials:**

Mayor Abdella presented her report before council. It is as follows:

#### **Communications:**

- We are working on the backflow letters to go out to all citizens and businesses that are required to have a backflow and to have them inspected annually. We will be posting information for the people with swimming pools for them to help protect our water system.
- There has been significant discussion related to Lee Street. I am requesting the finance committee consider a supplemental appropriation for 70K in order for me to repave Lee Street. We did go out and get three bids and the lowest one was \$69,500.00.
- We have been discussing water meters, fluctuation in water bills for citizens and how water bills are calculated. I would like Mr. Ambrozy to schedule a time to discuss these issues
- Statewide drill for Tornado. Lots of areas unable to hear the siren. Evaluating call system.
- We will be updating our Federal Aid Routes over the next few months. This will be shared with the Street committee for input as we proceed.
- Enbridge will be working in the area checking for Gas leaks. Homeowners may have received a notice from Enbridge in the mail.

#### **City Projects:**

- MXU – Radio replacement.  
Work plan being developed – Radios ordered – Plan to install by sections in the community.
- WWTP project – beginning process for RFP Interviews first week of April for selection of those to interview.
- Well 2 Rehab – currently on hold
  - Survey Complete
  - Project paused due to meter project needs
- Water Tank and 10" Water Main Extension
  - Stonegate Construction – Water
  - Mid Atlantic Storage Tank
- SCADA Project Schedule - Reviewing

#### **Legislation Pending**

- Trash Contract – Need prior to April 4 so we stay on bidding schedule to make the deadline in case we change companies. By the beginning of June they will need 30 days to collect trash cans and distribute new ones if we should change companies.

**SCADA** – Prior to April 15 – Loan Documents and Bid documents prepared.

- Legal Notices to Website. Prior to end of April
  - Pending property discussions, two that need assigned to Mayors Court.

#### **Projects:**

- 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
  - Connections to Emergency power for lights.

#### **Grants Pending**

- EPA Drinking Water Grant - Filed: Generator and Signage for area of well field. We were awarded the generator portion of the grant. I have not heard about the source water portion as far as the signage. Able to obtain the generator and will be installed on Well 1, 2, and 3.
- VFA Grant Due Jan 15, 2024 - 10K matching grant – we were not awarded this grant. Other potential grants we can apply for in order to get gear.

#### **Grants to be submitted:**

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

Mr. Ferguson asked if the Tornado Siren is the same one that the Chemical Plants put in. Mayor Abdella stated that the tornado sirens are located at Depot Park and the City Building. Those are the only two tornado sirens. The Industrial sirens are tested on the first Saturday of every month.

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

**Police Department:**

- Completed the firearm transition training for the new handguns (Smith & Wesson 9mm) We would like to thank Marietta PD for having their officer conduct the training – it was greatly appreciated.
- Sent our firearms instructor to train and received a certification to be a Red Dot pistol instructor. We can now train our own officers in house.
- Completed the annual jail cell inspections.
- Chief Stump ordered two cruisers from Statewide – no timetable on arrival for delivery. We will be getting quotes for outfitting and decals.
- Continuing further renovations within the offices/clean-up.

**Street Department:**

- Continue street patching/tree trimming throughout the city.
- Continuing to work on replacing signage stop signs, street signs, yield signs, etc.
- Replacing storm sewers in needed areas especially Braun Road.

- **Water Department:**

- Continue installing the MXU radios/water meters.
- Addressing water leaks at the 700 block of Barclay Street and 900 block of Main Street.
- The guys are out reading meters this week for billing.

**Sewer Department:**

- Performing weekly testing and general plant operations.
- Weekly EPA water testing

Ms. Riffle asked about replacing storm sewers on Lee Street as there seemed to be a drainage issue. Per Safety-Service Director Mr. Kirby they are aware of the issue.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan - Thank you Mr. President and Council: The State IT Auditors were on site all day, Wednesday, March 18, 2025 for the entrance meeting to audit 2024. They verbally reviewed our current IT systems with Greg Brewster and myself. They requested security documents we obtained from SSI. A copy of our IT Policy, adopted in 2024 and added to the Personnel Policy Manual, was provided. Other items requested were network diagram, antivirus software, firewall support, software version, SSI contract and invoice, and proof of City insurance coverage for Cybersecurity.

Thursday, March 20, 2025 President Martin reviewed and signed off on Bank Reconciliations for October, November, December 2024 and January 2025. An email was sent to Finance Chairman Ferguson requesting review of the Bank reconciliations as well.

The State Auditors will be here tomorrow morning, Tuesday, March 24, 2025 to begin the 2024 Entrance Audit.

In addition to the monthly Expense/Revenue Budgets, one of the 2023 Audit Recommendations was that Council be provided the Check Register, Payroll journal, and Receipts ledger. These reports were sent to and approved by the State Auditor. The February reports for all the above were emailed to Council Thursday, March 20, 2025.

The Bill Adjustments report for February 2025 was emailed to Council Thursday, March 20, 2025. There was no credit memos issued. This report will need Councils approval.

Mr. Locke asked Mrs. Nolan about the Bill Adjustment Report. He stated that he didn't see any Utility Shut Offs. According to Mrs. Nolan there were no shut offs.

Mr. Locke made a motion to accept the Bill Adjustments report for February 2025 as presented. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

**City Law Director Mr. Webster** had no report

**City Treasurer Mrs. Cassady** reported that before you this evening is the February Treasurers Report. Copies are in the back and Council should have received by email on Thursday. Mrs. Cassady stated that the Treasurers Report needs approved by council. Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the February 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 to committee:

Supplemental Appropriation for 70K for Paving of Lee Street was assigned to Finance/Audit Committee, Mr. Ferguson Chairman.

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE AWARDING OF AN EXCLUSIVE FRANCHISE FOR THE COLLECTION OF GARBAGE AND RUBBISH WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL LIMITS OF THE CITY OF BELPRE** was assigned to Utilities Committee, Mr. Ambrozy Chairman.

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING MAYOR SUSAN ABDELLA TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE SCADA SYSTEM FOR THE WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENTS BETWEEN THE CITY OF BELPRE AND THE OHIO WATER DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY** was assigned to Utilities Committee, Mr. Ambrozy Chairman.

Mrs. Dennis verified that **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND BELPRE CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTION 1313.08© SERVICES** had been assigned to Mrs. Campbell's Planning and Zoning committee.

Soon they will be having a Grand Opening for the Ohio Valley Opry that is coming to Belpre. You can look them up on Facebook.

#### Reports of Standing Committee

Mr. Ferguson Finance/Audit Committee had no report. Mr. Ferguson called a Finance/Audit Committee meeting for April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 7:00pm for the purpose of discussing the 70K paving of Lee Street.

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

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

Mr. Ambrozy Utilities Committee announced that this morning he attended a Water Revenue Meeting here at city hall. We looked at some very interesting trends. I would like to call a Utilities Committee meeting on April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2025 at 6pm for the purpose of discussing: How Water Rates are calculated as we may be making some changes. Water Meter replacement status and Backflow Preventors and inspections.

Mr. Seebaugh Parks and Recreation Committee had no report.

Mrs. Campbell Planning and Zoning Committee reported that we had a meeting today at 7:00 pm for the purpose of discussing Code of Ordinance Sections 1313.08 © Services. I would like to add this to tonight's agenda under New Business. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Campbell Economic Development Committee had no report.

Mr. Ambrozy made a motion to by-pass committee on the two items that already appear on this evenings agenda under New Business: They are as follows: **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE AWARDING OF AN EXCLUSIVE FRANCHISE FOR THE COLLECTION OF GARBAGE AND RUBBISH WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL LIMITS OF THE CITY OF BELPRE** and **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING MAYOR SUSAN ABDELLA TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE SCADA SYSTEM FOR THE WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENTS BETWEEN THE CITY OF BELPRE AND THE OHIO WATER DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Ms. Riffle Rules Committee had no report.

**PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL – AGENDA items only –**

President of Council Pro tem Mrs. Dennis stated that there is now five pieces of legislation before you this evening. Does anyone wish to appear? Hearing none we moved on to Unfinished Business.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS: -**

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for third reading **AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING CALENDAR YEAR 2025 ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson moved this be **Ordinance 20, 2024-2025** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Locke brought before council for second reading **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND BELPRE CODE OF ORDINANCES, SECTION 343.03 (D) INSPECTIONS, FEES, AND FINES**. 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 third reading of **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND BELPRE CODE OF ORDINANCES, SECTION 343.03 (D) INSPECTIONS, FEES, AND FINES**.

Mr. Locke moved this be **Ordinance 21, 2024-2025** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

**New Business:**

Mr. Ambrozy brought before council for first reading **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING MAYOR SUSAN ABDELLA TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE SCADA SYSTEM FOR THE WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENTS BETWEEN THE CITY OF BELPRE AND THE OHIO WATER DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

Mr. Ambrozy brought before council for first reading **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE AWARDING OF AN EXCLUSIVE FRANCHISE FOR THE COLLECTION OF GARBAGE AND RUBBISH WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL LIMITS OF THE CITY OF BELPRE**. 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 readings of **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE AWARDING OF AN**

**EXCLUSIVE FRANCHISE FOR THE COLLECTION OF GARBAGE AND RUBBISH WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL LIMITS OF THE CITY OF BELPRE.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ambrozy brought before council for the second and third readings **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE AWARDING OF AN EXCLUSIVE FRANCHISE FOR THE COLLECTION OF GARBAGE AND RUBBISH WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL LIMITS OF THE CITY OF BELPRE.** Ms. Riffle asked if this also included recycling. She was informed that it did include recycling. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ambrozy moved this be **Ordinance 22, 2024-2025** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Campbell brought before council for first reading **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND BELPRE CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTION 1313.08© SERVICES.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Campbell made a motion to suspend the rule of council on three different days to allow for the second and third readings of **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND BELPRE CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTION 1313.08© SERVICES.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Campbell brought before council for the second and third readings **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND BELPRE CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTION 1313.08© SERVICES.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Campbell moved this be **Ordinance 23, 2024-2025** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

**PERSON APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:**

Mr. Locke announced that we have a celebrity in the audience this evening. Chief Stumps birthday is today so wish him well.

Mayor Abdella asked the Chairman of the Finance Committee to open up the appropriation to a large communication not only the street piece but also to talk about EMS Services in the City of Belpre. We need to look at what is occurring with the ambulance service since St. Joseph Ambulance Service has been discontinued and what WVU medicine is doing to ramp up their services. They are trying to backfill. We need to look at expenses, Mutual Aid and what our part is in it.

Ms. Riffle commented that WVU Medicine had acquired employees from St. Joseph Ambulance Service. St. Joe is a major provider of transport.

Mr. Ferguson stated that he would add the 2025 Appropriations for discussion.

Mr. Locke stated that the Mayor and I talked today about the GIS Funding. Mayor Abdella stated that she thinks a presentation is needed and she will ask them to do so. There is opportunity there on things we are short on.

Mayor Abdella stated that Chief Stump would like to have an Intoxilyzer. Mrs. Dennis assigned it to Police and Fire, Mrs. Dennis Chairperson.

Adjourn:

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to adjourn at 8:09pm. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Council President Pro tem Mrs. Dennis

Lindsay Dennis protem

Clerk of Belpre City Council Mrs. Meredith

Kimberly S. Meredith