

April 28, 2025

Council President Mr. Martin called the April 28, 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 April 14, 2025 meeting minutes. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to approve the minutes of April 14, 2025 as presented and to 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 as follows allowing time for others to speak on a particular topic.

Communications:

- Sergeant Fields - Recognition – Sergeant Kirby put a few things together about Sergeant Fields. Sergeant Fields started his law enforcement career in 1988 with the Village of Pomeroy and then went to the Meigs County Sheriff Department after two years. This is where I first met Sergeant Fields. June of 1992, he started his career with the City of Belpre. I can't begin to count the number of reports, complaints, and public services he has taken. He has been recognized by the public and the media for how well he serves the public being courtesy and kind no matter what the situation is. During my time as a police officer, I would go to Sergeant Fields regarding questions that I might have and didn't know the answer. This tells you what kind of officer Sergeant Fields is. If Sergeant Fields didn't know the answer, he would get you one. He has worked 344 overtime hours in 2024. He is a great person. He was recognized by the Muskingum Valley Beverly-Waterford Chamber of Commerce on April 22, 2025. Mayor Abdella stated that

she always torments Sergeant Fields about living in his car. Tonight, I want to present him with a care package so that he can have to put in his car.

Chief Stump acknowledged Sergeant Fields also on his accomplishments.

- Dave Starcher, Acting Captain for the Belpre Volunteer Fire Department, a probationary fireman and an additional fireman along with Chief Stump, Lieutenant Gunner and Sergeant Kirby were recognized for their efforts regarding a gas leak on Barclay Street. Mr. Starcher contacted Little Hocking Fire Department and put them on stand-by in case they needed back up. These gentlemen responded to Barclay Street and they kept this area safe by going door-to-door to notify residents that they needed to evacuate. If they needed assistance they were there to help. They blocked streets and kept our community safe. Mayor Abdella stated that she was so glad they are a part of our team.
- Senator Husted office was in to discuss the city and our needs. They addressed what they were working on and asked if they could be of assistance to us.
- Regional Income Tax Agency Annual Meeting - We need to appoint a Delegate and an Alternate Delegate to attend the meeting and cast votes on Behalf of the City of Belpre. Currently the City does not have a delegate form on file for them to allow anyone from the city to attend and vote. This can be a voice vote by Council. I am requesting to be the delegate, and Mrs. Nolan as the alternate delegate for this meeting on June 18, 2025 in New Albany Ohio.

City Projects:

- WWTP project – We interviewed 4 firms during the RFP process. We are finalizing our selection.
 - We are looking into state and federal funding opportunities for this project.
 - We have completed the initial interviews and will be selecting a company to provide us a scope and fee.
- Trash Contract – Bids due to City May 1
- SCADA Project Schedule – Pre-Bid meeting tomorrow.
- Water Tank and 10" Water Main Extension has been awarded and we will be moving forward.
 - Stonegate Construction - Water Line
 - Mid Atlantic Storage - Tank

Legislation Pending

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

Discussion Legislation:

- Plumbing Code for new construction and room additions, not maintenance.
- Business License for Belpre
- Invasive plants – specifically bamboo

Projects

- Well 2 Rehab
 - Survey Complete
 - Project Paused due to meter project needs
- MXU – Radio replacement- Core an Main specialist coming May 8 to help resolve installation issues.
- 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 Awarded

- EPA Drinking Water Grant - Filed: Generator and Signage for area of well field. – We were awarded the generator and source water protection funding.

Grants Pending:

- Strategic Development for funding to assist with Zoning and strategic Development opportunities.

President of Council Mr. Martin asked Mayor Abdella if she wanted to be the delegate for the Regional Income Tax Agency and Mrs. Nolan as the alternate. Mayor Abdella stated that this

was correct. Ms. Riffle made a motion for a voice vote to appoint Mayor Abdella as the delegate and Mrs. Nolan as the alternate for voting purposes for the Regional Income Tax Agency annual meeting.

Mayor Abdella asked that the paperwork be signed this evening so she could get it submitted.

President of Council Mr. Martin recognized Dr. Lori Hawkins and asked if she would like to speak at this time. Dr. Hawkins appeared before council to share information and pre-emptively advocate for continued community water fluoridation here in Belpre. She has been a dentist here in Belpre for 26 years. Dr. Hawkins wanted to emphasize the benefits of community fluoridation and address fears and misinformation. A copy of her report is on file in council chambers.

Safety-Service Director Mr. Kirby reported the following updates within the city on April 14, 2025.

Police Department:

- Mayor Abdella, Chief Stump, Sgt. Fields, and I attended the Muskingum Valley Beverly-Waterford Chamber of Commerce dinner on April 22nd where Sgt. Fields received the Public Safety Award and was recognized for his outstanding achievements. He also was given a Commendation Metal from the National Society Son's of the American Revolution.
- The week of April 13th through the 19th was National Public Safety Communicators Week that honors and gives thanks to the dispatchers who answer 911 calls, dispatch emergency services, and provide critical life-saving assistance. We want to thank all of them for doing what they do and their dedication to the job.
- On the 29th of this month, the department is preparing to move the dispatch center to another office to get ready for the renovations that will occur in May.
- This past Saturday was National Prescription Drug take back day that was held at the police department where people were able to get rid of their old medications. We had a fantastic turn out. Thanks to Chief Stump for manning the table.
- On April 19th, officers responded to several calls involving misc. lines down and tree branches in the road throughout the city from the rainstorm.
- On April 24th, the department received the two cruisers from Statewide. We are now only waiting for the equipment and decals to be added before they get assigned and be used for duty.
- Patrolman Cook has accepted a position with another agency and resigned from his position as Patrolman effective the first week in May. We wish him good luck in his new adventure.

Street Department:

- Continue street patching throughout the city.
- They were called out last Saturday to remove trees and debris from the roads and alleys from the rainstorm.
- Continuing to work on replacing signage, stop signs, street signs, etc.
- The catch basin on Richmill Ave. that needed rebuilt is now completed. It took approximately 1 week to install.

Water Department:

- Began the annual exercise of the critical values throughout the city that is required by the EPA which will continue till completion. Critical is annually and non-critical every 5 years which all will be put on a rotation for the future.

Sewer Department:

- Set up the water hauling station for the season which is now open to the public.
- Hosted and toured members of the Fire Dept. around the facilities in the event of an emergency. The buildings at the plant will soon have building numbers placed on the sides to help identify each to make it easier for the fire department and or police dept.

Code Enforcement:

- Assisting people with permits and how to obtain. He has had several people applying that were unaware of the process but now know what's required. We continue to have a huge volume of permits being requested for residential and commercial use.
- Also be mindful when cutting your grass and keeping it out from the roadway. We understand all the rain we have been getting. Just a reminder.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan – Thank you Mr. President and Council, Tuesday, April 15, our Records Retention Committee met. We discussed and proposed disposal of old records as listed on Form RC-3 of the Ohio History Connection/State Archives under Section 149.31 ORC.

Julian & Grube were on site Wednesday, April 16 verifying invoices, expenditures etc. for 2024 Audit. The Annual ARPA filing for 2025 was completed Tuesday, April 22.

The Tax Budget will be completed for next Council meeting and will need assigned to the Finance Committee.

I attended the Park Planning Committee meeting Wednesday, April 23.

We received and paid for 2 new Police Cruisers we budgeted for and were delivered last week.

The March 2025 Expense/Revenue Budget Reports, Check Register, Payroll journal, and Receipts ledger were emailed to Council Thursday, April 24, 2025.

The Bill Adjustments and Credit Memo Reports for March 2025 were emailed to Council Thursday, April 24, 2025. These reports will need Councils approval.

Mrs. Dennis stated that the tax year has come and gone. Do you have an estimate of what has been taken in? Mrs. Nolan stated that we have looked at it but she did not have an estimate with her. Mayor Abdella stated that we have taken in a substantial amount of money.

Mrs. Dennis made a motion to accept the Bill Adjustment Report for March as presented. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

President of Council asked Mrs. Nolan if she had the Tax Budget prepared. She stated that she did not, and that she was still working on it. President of Council Mr. Martin stated that once it is ready he will assign to committee.

Mr. Locke stated that the report doesn't show shut offs. Mrs. Nolan stated that he was correct. That report does not report shut-offs. If you need to see this I can see about having it put on the report. Mr. Locke said it wasn't necessary.

City Law Director Mr. Webster had no report.

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassady thanked the Auditor Mrs. Nolan for sending out her report as she was in the mountains. Mrs. Cassady stated that the March Treasurer's Report is before you this evening. All members of council were emailed the report and copies appear for the public at the back of the room. Mrs. Cassady stated that the March Treasurer's Report does need approved by council. Mr. Ferguson asked if we could get rid of the .59 in Fund 2214 Recreation Facilities. Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the March 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.

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

Mr. Locke, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer Committee thanked Mr. Seebaugh for excusing him from the April 14, 2025 meeting. Mr. Locke had no report. Mr. Locke also requested that the Amendment to the Golf Cart legislation be removed from the committee referral list as it has been completed.

Mr. Ambrozy Utilities Committee reported that on April 17, 2025 he took an in-depth Waste Water Treatment facility tour by Mr. Barker.

Mr. Seebaugh Parks and Recreation Committee announced that the parks are getting a little more active now that the weather is getting warmer and that the Spring Sports have started. There must have been 30 people walking the track today.

Mrs. Campbell Planning and Zoning Committee had no report.

Mrs. Campbell Economic Development Committee had no report.

Mrs. Campbell stated that she may be calling a meeting before the next council meeting to discuss what is going on with the Ohio City Ordinance.

Ms. Riffle Rules Committee had no report.

Mrs. Dennis stated that she had been notified on Facebook about the lighting at the basketball court at Civitan Park. Mayor Abdella stated that she thought the lights were on a timer but she would check with Chris about what's going on with the lights and get back with her.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL – AGENDA items only – No one appeared as we had no agenda items.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: - None

New Business:

Dru Zeppelin Sexton, MS, GISP, President, presented to council a bit of information about Mapped Out. What is GIS? GIS is Computer Mapping. We work with updating ward maps, zoning maps, camera registration and making robust website, etc.

With that said Mr. Sexton wanted to share with us all the links to the ArcGIS Solutions where you can explore the various things that you all can do with your Esri ArcGIS licensing:

[ArcGIS Community Solutions](#)

www.mappedout-gis.com

Mayor Abdella stated that I wanted Mr. Sexton to come and present to us what is available to us for our city and the city's website. I would like you all to discuss and get back with me within the next couple of weeks.

PERSON APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Ms. Riffle addressed an issue about a camper on Beach Drive that was engulfed in flames. There was a lot of support however there is concern about the amount of volunteer firemen that are showing up to help control the fire. Sometimes there is a lot that show up and other times we

may just have three. Without enough fireman, Ms. Riffle is concerned about their safety and she wanted to know if there is something we can do to help them recruit volunteers.

Mr. Locke asked the mayor if the MXU's have been ordered. According to the mayor they have been ordered and received and have put some in however there has been an issue with programming. We have contacted the company and someone is supposed to be here May 8th, 2025 to troubleshoot and work with the guys on site to resolve the issue. On-line training wasn't working out.

Mr. Locke asked the mayor about the water meters. According to Mayor Abdella we do not have the water meters. This is going to be a substantial loan and we need to see where we are now, before ordering the meters.

Mr. Locke asked about what is being built across the street and if the storm water issues were resolved. Mayor Abdella stated that all she knew was it was a building. At this point, there has been a discussion. It met the specification of less than a half of acre. We are waiting on another piece from the county.

Mr. Locke asked what the time frame was on the new Water Tank and Force Main. According to Mayor Abdella there is no timeline as of yet.

Mr. Locke asked about the dump truck. Mr. Locke stated that it should be in by now. According to Mayor Abdella she talked to Chris and he said we are waiting on parts.

Mr. Locke also addressed the fire truck. According to Mayor Abdella funds are available for both the fire truck and dump truck.

Mrs. Dennis asked that we remove the two police vehicles from her committee on the Committee referral list since they have been received. She also asked about the Intoxilyzer for the Police Department. Mayor Abdella stated that we haven't done anything with that yet.

Mr. Ferguson asked if council was considering being off on May 26, 2025 due to Memorial Day or are we planning to change the date. According to President of Council and Mr. Webster we need to determine at a later date what we should do because of legislation that may need passed.

Karen Locke 726 Tuttle Street asked council what was going in front of the Heck's Building. Mayor Abdella stated that she did not know. Mrs. Locke stated that they are putting in a lot of parking spaces. Do they have a building permit for that? Mayor Abdella stated that at one point they did. Ms. Riffle informed Mrs. Locke that Marietta Memorial is putting in six doctor's offices in the front part of the building. Mrs. Locke stated that they have been working on the drainage system between Tuttle Street, Elizabeth Street and Sycamore Street. It has helped the problem.

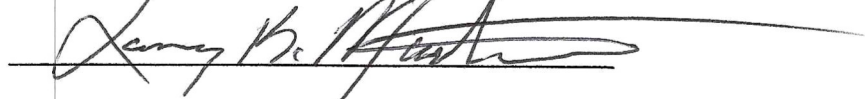
President of Council Mr. Martin stated that Dr. Hawkins takes her job very seriously. We need to take her discussion very seriously within the community. This is just not a statement from her.

City Law Director Mr. Webster stated that since Mr. Kirby has moved to the role of the Safety-Service Director it is so much easier when calling the police department and requesting to speak to Joe.

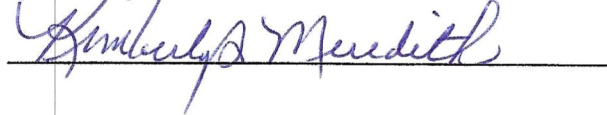
Adjourn:

Ms. Riffle made a motion to adjourn at 8:37pm. 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 B. Martin", written over a horizontal line.

Clerk of Belpre City Council Mrs. Meredith

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