

May 12, 2025

Council President Mr. Martin called the May 12, 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, and Treasurer Mrs. Cassady. Absent from the meeting was Mrs. Meredith

Council President Mr. Martin asked everyone to please rise for the Prayer and remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance. Council President Mr. Martin 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 28, 2025 meeting minutes. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to approve the minutes of April 28, 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 to council. The Belpre Women's Club is participating in a Mono filament fishing line recycle project partnering with Boat USA Foundation. In front of me are 3 ft. tall PVC devices that was presented by the Belpre Women's Club. They also provided metal signs that will be placed by the bins for recycling fishing lines in the park by the pond and boat ramp, stating what they are for. When the bins are filled, they will be sent to Burkley for recycling. Eventually a sign will be placed at the extra parking area below the pool and next to the river. This idea was seen by someone that was at the beach and they thought this would be a good idea for Belpre to be used at the park.

Communications:

- Mr. President, I am requesting an executive session at the end of tonight's meeting for the purpose of discussing contract bids, and real estate transactions.
- May is a month to celebrate: It is Public Services Workers, Police and EMS weeks. So please take time to recognize each of these dedicated professionals.
- On Friday I attended the ground breaking for the Marietta Levy Project. What a great addition to Marietta this project will be.

- There has been a lot of community discussion related to grass mowing or the lack of it on several properties. We are working to correct that with our Code Enforcement. Also, Water Soil and Conservation sent a flier to all homes related to the grass in storm drains. We are also getting calls related to alley repairs. The street crews are working on patching as time permits. Alleys are the last to get fixed after the streets.

City Projects:

- MXU – Radio replacement – Core a Main specialist coming May 8 to help resolve installation issues. We have determined that some of the replacements are not divorcing from the old radios. This is not affecting the billing just how the team reads the meter.
- Trash Contract – Bids are being reviewed. Award will be Thursday May 15, at 3pm.
- SCADA Project Schedule – This project is being reviewed due to needing to add the storm water pumps to the system. The dept heads will be able to view their data via a web version once complete.
- Today I was able to go with Craig and Clint to tour all booster and lift stations in order to build a comprehensive repair plan.

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.

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.
 - Working with vendor for generator.

Grants Pending:

- Strategic Development for funding to assist with Zoning and strategic Development opportunities.
- Belpre Community Foundation
- United Way

Safety-Service Director Mr. Kirby reported the following updates within the city on May 12, 2025.

Police Department:

- The week of May 11th through May 17th is National Police week, which is to honor and remember law enforcement officers, particularly those who have lost their lives in the line of duty. The formal observation, Peace Officers Memorial Day, is held on May 15th.
- The Dispatch office is continuing to get updated. The new floor has been put down and the walls are now getting painted. All new electric outlets dedicated to both consoles have been installed. Access control panels are being installed to make it easier to access the building for employees and to make it easier to monitor entry.
- Our department participated in Operation Blue Sky 2025. It was a procession that travelled through Marietta, Belpre, Parkersburg, Vienna, and Williamstown to honor all officers who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving and protecting their communities.

Street Department:

- Continue street patching throughout the city.
- Installing a swing at Civitan Park by the pond.
- Preparing to install speed signs on Campus Drive and Washington Blvd to help slow traffic down.

Water Department:

- On May 1st, Councilman Ambrozy and myself, along with some members of the water department went to Dekalb, Illinois to tour the Aquastore factory (CST-Composite Storage Tanks) where the city's future water tank is being produced. It was amazing to see all the steps it takes to create such a tank. We would like to thank Hydro Dynamics Company for hosting us to attend.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan – Thank you, Mr. President and Council - The Peoples Bank CD opened December 3, 2024 matured May 3, 2025 with total interest earned of \$6,809.20 over 5 months. Thursday, May 8, I re-invested \$369,859.59 with a CD at Citizens bank. IF in the event we need to pull the money the penalties are waived because we are a municipality.

The Tax Budget was completed last week and emailed to Council Friday, May 9, 2025. The Tax Budget is due to the County July 15.

City Law Director Mr. Webster had no report.

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassady had no report.

Communication and Petitions:

Received from AEP a request to file an application for public distribution rights with the Public Utilities Commission. This was assigned to **Mr. Ambrozy's committee** to monitor.

President of Council Mr. Martin asked council to consider changing the time of the regular council meetings from 7:30pm to 7:00pm. This was brought up with the last council but was not changed. I would like this council to consider. As Belpre expands with new businesses, more legislation may be needed and causes the meetings to go longer. It has also been suggested that the meetings follow the time change. Something that I would like council to consider. This was assigned to **Ms. Riffle, Rules Committee**.

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE ESTIMATED AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF PUBLIC FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR DEPOSIT DURING THE NEXT FIVE (5) YEARS FOR DESIGNATION OF PUBLIC DEPOSITORY was assigned to **Mr. Ferguson, Finance/Audit Committee**. Per Mrs. Nolan this is due August 22, 2025

A RESOLUTION SUPPLEMENTING YEAR 2025 APPROPRIATIONS was assigned to **Mr. Ferguson, Finance/Audit Committee**. Per Mrs. Nolan this is due ASAP.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BELPRE TO ENTER INTO A COMMUNITY HOUSING IMPACT AND PRESERVATION PROGRAM PARTNER AGREEMENT was assigned to **Mrs. Campbell**.

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TAX BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2026 was assigned to **Mr. Ferguson, Finance/Audit Committee**. Per Mrs. Nolan this is due to the county by July 5th, 2025.

Reports of Standing Committee:

Mr. Ferguson Finance/Audit Committee called a committee meeting at 6:30pm prior to the regular meeting on May 26, 2025 for review of the Public Depository legislation and the Tax Budget. Ms. Riffle asked if we were going to have the May 26, 2025 meeting. Discussion followed. Mr. Ambrozy stated that last year we did not have a meeting on Memorial Day. There will only be (5) voting members present. Mr. Ferguson asked if we could have the first reading on the legislation. He was informed that the first reading could be done. Mr. Ferguson asked to by-pass committee and add to tonight's agenda for first reading **A RESOLUTION SUPPLEMENTING YEAR 2025 APPROPRIATIONS**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee reported that under her committee assignment is the intoxilizer for the police department. We have decided to wait on taking this out of our budget as I wrote a grant for it this week and it has been turned in. Usually, the turn around time is pretty quick.

Mr. Locke, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer Committee reported that it has been a busy several weeks with the rain for our street department, storm sewer issues & attempting to keep up with mowing, weed eating, etc.

I have had several emails with serious issues I have shared with the administration.

I attended a "Stormwater Task Force" meeting Tuesday May 6th. Attending was the Mayor, SSD, Code Enforcement, Street Supervisor and Kathy Davis (Washington Soil & Water Conversation) providing technical storm water management.

Many current issues were discussed. As with our other infrastructure needs, stormwater has been seriously overlooked. More information concerning stormwater rules and regulations will be presented in the future.

Also, I attended a meeting with the Administration & Councilman John Ambrozy, about several issues facing the city on Wednesday May 7, 2025.

Mr. Locke read an email that had been sent to members of council from Amber Carter, owner of the Frostee Shoppe, regarding the condition of Hutchinson Street, a road behind the Frostee Shoppe. She stated that this is devastating to our business and other businesses. A copy of her email is on file in council chambers. Mayor Abdella referred this to Chris about putting some patch in to help with the issues. I know that gravel has been put down several times to help with the issue. Mayor Abdella stated that the city streets would be attended to before any alley's are paved. Mr. Locke was asked to reach out to Mrs. Carter.

Mr. Ambrozy Utilities Committee reported that on April 30 and May 1st, 2025 I was in the Chicago area with the Safety-Service Director Joe Kirby along with Clint and Jerry from the water department to tour the Aquastore factory (CST-Composite Storage Tanks) where the city's future water tank is being produced. We were able to observe how our water tank is fabricated and built. Now we know what we are getting. This will help with future trouble shooting. It was very educational. On May 7, 2025 I attended a meeting regarding sewer issues on Elizabeth Street and a cleaning of the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Mr. Seebaugh Parks and Recreation Committee asked about the lighting at Civitan Park by the basketball court. He was informed that the issue has been fixed and the light timer has been moved to the center. The Belpre Soccer Club held a fund raiser to raise money for a child that passed away from brain cancer. It was \$1 for every goal scored plus Burger King matched the amount raised for the goals, plus we sold bracelets to help raise money plus we received donations from other individuals. The fund raiser was called "Score a Goal for Jack Day". Mr. Seebaugh stated that they raised about \$500. We had also raised a couple thousand dollars for a child that had leukemia a couple years ago. Hope we can continue spreading positivity.

Mrs. Campbell Planning and Zoning/Economic Development wished the dispatcher a Happy Birthday. Mrs. Campbell thanked the fire department for the display of the American Flag on Washington Boulevard the night of Operation Blue Sky 2025. This was to honor all officers who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving and protecting their communities.

I will be attending a meeting on Thursday at 9:00 for Ordinance 1149.01.

Mrs. Campbell asked about the CHIP legislation. Mrs. Campbell called a committee meeting for May 26, 2025 at 7:00pm for the purpose of discussing the CHIP legislation.

Ms. Riffle Rules Committee reminded the public about the sign ordinance and where the signs can be placed when having garage sales, and how long they can be posted. They are not to be on city property.

Also, as a reminder you still have a couple days to file your Financial Disclosure forms for the Ethics Commission. If you are late filing you will pay a fine.

Ms. Riffle asked about the benches and the swings down by the pond that folks can sponsor. Ms. Riffle asked if this is on the website? Mayor Abdella stated that she thought it was however most call to city building to see what is available.

Ms. Riffle asked about the status of the Marietta/Belpre Health Department. Mayor Abdella stated that Barb is going to retire at the end of July. We are still waiting on our accreditation report.

Ms. Riffle stated that we were talking about pot holes and who is responsible for fixing if the hole is at the end of the parking lot. Mayor Abdella stated that it is the property owner. One that stands out to me is near the Dollar Tree.

Ms. Riffle called a Rules Committee meeting for June 9th at 7pm for the purpose of discussing a possible time change for our regular meeting of council.

Ms. Riffle stated that with the levy passing our future is set for us for the next time. Regardless of what was said and how you voted this is a small town and people are your neighbors. It would be nice if folks can move on in a more positive way.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: - None

New Business:

Mr. Fergusons brought before council for first reading **A RESOLUTION SUPPLEMENTING YEAR 2025 APPROPRIATIONS.** Mrs. Nolan explained the income tax refund. Mr. Ferguson asked if

anyone had any questions about the refund? Hearing none. He continued with the review of the exhibit. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson moved to suspend the rule of council on three different days to allow for the second and third readings of **A RESOLUTION SUPPLEMENTING YEAR 2025 APPROPRIATIONS**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for the second and third readings **A RESOLUTION SUPPLEMENTING YEAR 2025 APPROPRIATIONS**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson moved this be **Resolution #30, 2024-2025** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

PERSON APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Karen Locke 726 Tuttle Street added to the street repair, Gene Street. Also, down at the boat ramp some of the holes down there need repaired. I know we can't pave the street but would like to see some patching.

Mr. Locke stated they are repairing Poplar Street, and Carlisle Street. Mayor Abdella stated they were also repairing Blennerhassett Avenue.

Mrs. Dennis made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Real Estate transactions and contract bids. President of Council Mr. Martin stated that there would be no further action taken at this evening's meeting other than to adjourn from Executive Session and Adjourn from this evening's meeting. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

A motion was made to adjourn from Executive Session at 8:50pm. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Adjourn:

A motion was made to adjourn at 9:00 pm. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Council President Mr. Martin



Clerk of Belpre City Council Pro tem Ms. Riffle

