

May 26, 2025

Council President Mr. Martin called the May 26, 2025 Belpre City Council meeting to order at 7:30 pm. The roll was called with the following members present: Mrs. Dennis, Mr. Ferguson, Mrs. Campbell, Mr. Locke, and Mr. Seebaugh. Also present was Mayor Abdella, City Law Director Mr. Webster, and Clerk of Council Mrs. Meredith. Absent from the meeting was Mr. Ambrozy, Ms. Riffle, Safety-Service Director Mr. Kirby, City Auditor Mrs. Nolan and Treasurer Mrs. Cassidy.

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 May 12, 2025 meeting minutes. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to approve the minutes of May 12, 2025 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 presented her report to council. It is as follows:

Communications:

First, Today is Memorial Day a day to remember all that have served to protect our Freedom and our nation. I would like to thank you and Ms. Riffle for your service to our nation. Please remember those that served that made the ultimate sacrifice and those that returned home with scars that are seen and some not visible; we cannot forget the families, spouses and children that sacrificed so their loved ones could serve our nation. I hope each of you took a moment to remember this important day.

Today I had the honor of attending the Belpre Area Veterans Memorial service. What a wonderful tribute to those that served.

- Mr. President- I am requesting a voice vote for council to reappoint Joel Whitaker to the Belpre Marietta Health Board. His term is currently expiring.

Also, the Marietta Belpre Health Department received State Accreditation at the end of May. This is a big achievement. Kelly Miller was appointed as the administrator to replace Barb Bradley after her retirement at the end of July.

Desire Kerns owner of the Redwood is our other representative.

- On June 9th at 6pm the engineering firm doing the park planning will be here to reveal the plan and discuss the funding options. Also, SOPEC and their grant team is working with us to move this plan forward.
- Later this week, I will be sending the EOP (Emergency Operations Plan) out to you for your review. It is recommended that Council members take the ICS 700 (National Incident Management System - an introduction) and the ICS 100 Courses (Introductions to incident command)

City Projects:

- Trash Contract – This Bid was awarded to Rumpke; we are in the process of making the necessary contract changes. This contract allows for a spring and fall cleanup day – dumpsters
- SCADA Project Schedule – This project has been modified to make a few of the operational data upgrades that are currently not available. I did visit each booster and lift station with the department heads to be able to update the capital improvement plan.
- MXU – Radio replacement- This work is in full swing at this time. We are hoping to complete it mid-summer. Remember when we went to the water department and it was full of meters. It is now almost empty, which is a good thing.
- Backflow tracking - This EPA requirement has been a challenge. However, Angie, Clint and Chris has this process operationalized and the response from the homeowner and businesses is good, the challenges is from the service side if the backflow needs repaired as the supply chain issues have delayed them getting parts to repair commercial ones.

Legislation Pending:

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. Needing signed contract with the EPA.

Grants Pending:

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

President of Council Mr. Martin stated that there is one correction to your report. Mr. Ferguson is also a Veteran. Mayor Abdella thanked Mr. Martin for pointing that out and recognized Mr. Ferguson.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion for a voice vote to re-appoint Joel Whitaker to the Marietta/Belpre Health Board. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Safety-Service Director Mr. Kirby was absent. No report was given in his absence.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan was absent. No report was given in her absence.

City Law Director Mr. Webster had no report.

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassady was absent.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to approve the April 2025 Treasurer's Report as presented. Mr. Ferguson informed council that the auditor found the .59 cents under 2214 Recreation Facilities. He was informed that this will clear off the Treasurer's Report in May. 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 his committee met at 6:30pm prior to this evening's meeting to review the Tax Budget and the Public Depository legislation. At this time, Mr. Ferguson made a motion to add to tonight's agenda for first reading **A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TAX BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2026**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. Mr. Ferguson made a motion to add to tonight's agenda for first reading **A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE ESTIMATED AGGREGATE AMOUNTS OF PUBLIC FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR DEPOSIT DURING THE NEXT FIVE (5) YEARS FOR DESIGNATION OF PUBLIC DEPOSITORY**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee had no report however Mrs. Dennis stated that she would like to share that myself and her Artsbridge team would be headed to Columbus on Wednesday as they were nominated for a community development visitation award which they

received by the Ohio Arts Council. This is the only award in Ohio that is conferred by the Ohio governor.

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

Mr. Ambrozy Utilities Committee was absent. No report was given in his absence.

Mr. Seebaugh Parks and Recreation Committee had no report.

Mrs. Campbell Planning and Zoning reported that her committee met at 7:00pm this evening for the purpose of discussing **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BELPRE TO ENTER INTO A COMMUNITY HOUSING IMPACT AND PRESERVATION PROGRAM PARTNER AGREEMENT.** Mrs. Campbell stated that the City of Belpre had previously partnered with the Washington County Commissioners to participate in the CHIP program. The CHIP program has provided funds for repairs to numerous qualifying structures in the City of Belpre and has provided these services to the benefit of citizens of Belpre, Ohio. Mrs. Campbell made a motion to add to tonight's agenda for first reading only **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BELPRE TO ENTER INTO A COMMUNITY HOUSING IMPACT AND PRESERVATION PROGRAM PARTNER AGREEMENT.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Campbell also announced that the Cheerleader's will be at Wendy's in Belpre from 4-8pm tomorrow evening to help raise money for the cheerleading squad.

Mrs. Campbell made a motion to excuse Ms. Riffle from this evening's meeting. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

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

Economic Development had no report.

Ms. Riffle Rules Committee was absent. No report was given in her absence however Mr. Seebaugh reminded council of her committee meeting scheduled for June 9th at 7pm for the purpose of discussing a possible time change for our regular meeting of council.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL – AGENDA items only – None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: - None

New Business:

Mr. Fergusons brought before council for first reading **A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TAX BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2026.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

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PERSON APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Pam Roberts 709 Leonard Avenue asked how involved the city is with the Farmer's Market on Blennerhassett Avenue. She was informed that there is no involvement. Mrs. Roberts is handicapped and announced that there was no handicap accessibility at the market. She would like to use the market here in Belpre rather than traveling to Marietta. Mayor Abdella was going to do some checking and talk to Dr. Freed about seeing if there is a plan in place to make the market a more handicap accessible event.

Mayor Abdella announced that the bathrooms at Civitan Park are closed due to a water issue. They will be closed until tomorrow when the guys can get down there and resolve the issue. Once resolved they will be reopened.

City Law Director announced that on ESPN today there was a story about a Hockey Team in the Boston area that were in the State Championship in Massachusetts and attended a Catholic School Memorial Day Service of a veteran who had no family. The hockey team served as pallbearers for the veteran.

Mr. Webster also stated that there was a B24 airplane that was shot down in 1944 into the Pacific Ocean. There is an organization that looks for POW remains. They were able to find the B24 aircraft and the remains of 14 crew members. They were having a special service to honor these crew members. Mr. Webster stated that veterans are not forgotten.

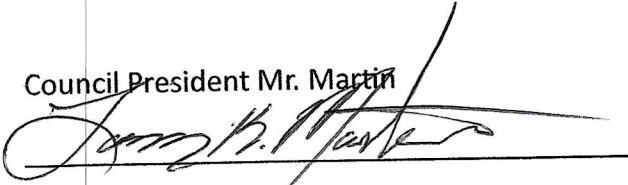
Mayor Abdella received a letter from a young lady whose parents lives in our community and is a Marine. The letter was to Staff Sergeant Bunner who was a non-commission officer for the US Marine Corp. She was recognized for her patriotism and perseverance to our country. Today I would like to recognize her and her parents who is in our community and are so very proud of her.

Mr. Martin stated that he hopes that everyone has had a wonderful Memorial Day Weekend with family and friends. He wished everyone a good rest of the weekend. He stated that our Nation is at Peace and not at war. This is phenomenal.

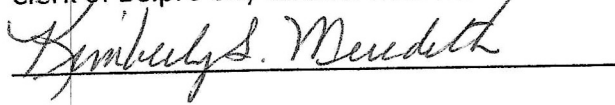
Adjourn:

Mrs. Dennis made a motion to adjourn at 7:58 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 B. Martin", written over a horizontal line.

Clerk of Belpre City Council Mrs. Meredith

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