

July 14, 2025

Council President Mr. Martin called the July 14, 2025 Belpre City Council meeting to order at 7:34 pm. The roll was called with the following members present: Mr. Ambrozy, Mrs. Dennis, Mr. Ferguson, Mrs. Campbell, and Mr. Locke. 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 Council persons Ms. Riffle and Mr. Seebaugh.

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 June 23, 2025 meeting minutes. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to approve the minutes of June 23, 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:

- The Music by the River concerts is in full swing. They have experienced a couple of rain delays but these events are up and running again. The rain delays have been rescheduled for Wednesday evenings. Please watch for the rescheduled dates.
- The Belpre Alumni Ice Cream Social and Car show was a big hit over the weekend. Everyone loves ice cream.
- Lee street is complete. They will be working on stripping tomorrow. We are working on the road grading inventory so that we can get pricing on the next area we want to focus on.
- On July 4th I had the pleasure of attending the flag raising and retirement ceremony at the Masonic lodge that was held in conjunction with the Belpre Area Veterans. What a wonderful and moving event. Hearing Eric Clark tell the story of "Old Glory" was very emotional and inspirational. I don't think there was a dry eye at the event.

- On July 9th I had the pleasure of attending the celebration of the Northwest Territory ordinance. The governor was present for the celebration. It was a wonderful event. There is so much history in our area to celebrate.
- The preconstruction meeting for the tank project was held on July 3rd and you will begin seeing activity in the area.
 - Water Tank – Mary Street tank will be the first thing coming off line. Demolition is set for the end of July.
- July 11th was the last day for our code enforcement Brandon as he is returning to Florida.
 - We at least got to teach him to drive in snow.
- July 15th there is a presentation here in council chambers at 3pm by Guardian Structures to present the ability to build panelized housing. It is a new technology.
- Golf Carts – We have had 17 register their vehicles and get inspections. I hope all owners that intend to drive them on the road ways as described in our ordinance secures the appropriate permits and licensing. The fine for not licensing is \$150 and is listed as a minor misdemeanor.
- SB 195 is working on incentives for volunteer firefighters. One is a property tax reduction and another is a tuition waiver program. We will keep our eyes on these incentives. We are hoping to improve the number of volunteer firefighters in rural areas.

Projects

SCADA – Bid opening pushed back. The bid as read, \$522,500 was the only bid on the project. The Engineer's estimate for the base bid is \$505,000. Micro-Comm, Inc. submitted a bid of \$522,500 which is above the Engineer's estimate of \$505,000.00. This project is within the 20% margins; however, I would like a voice vote to move forward.

Digester Clean out is complete and will be coming in under budget

Park Plan – working on Phase one funding

WWTP – Planning and Design

Legislation

- Moratorium
- Manufacturing Storm water coverage area
- Supplemental Appropriation for 2025

Upcoming Events

- Homecoming July 31 – August 2, 2025
 - Kids Fishing Derby

- Road Race
- Fireworks
- Parade

Along with all the other events happening in the park.

Grants Awarded

- Housing Technical Assistance Grant – Finalized – Scope of work pending
- Police Department Training.
- 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.
- Source Water Signage

Chief Stump talked before council about the danger officers are facing in 2025. The leading culprit is being under staffed. At the request of the mayor, we are going to begin inter departmental training on our own as far as defensive tactics and firearms training goes. Myself and Sergeant Campbell are instructors and will be putting in a lot of training beginning with our own agencies. We are going to get more mandatory training for our officers. We are in the process of looking for candidates at the academy. Local academies are having a hard time getting 10 candidates. With the number of agencies trying to pull from a pool makes it difficult to get candidates. If you go toward Columbus there third year patrolman are making around \$117,000 per year. We are trying to draw attention that we have a police academy here. We shot a promo video today to share. We are trying to push a big public safety boost to bring awareness for the need of people. I encourage the scouts that are her tonight that have a good foundation in scouting to consider someday the possibility of attending an EMS fire and police academy even if it is volunteer. If anyone knows of individuals who may be interested, please have them contact us.

Jon Neff, Scout Master was present with his troop as some of the boy's present are working on their Communication Merit Badge. Cale Mahoney has been working on some requirements such as giving speeches, attending meetings and their active listening skills. After tonight's meeting they will report back to us what they learned from attending the council meeting this evening. Another thing we are working on is Camp Kootaga. Troop 91 is trying to work on saving the camp. They have a down payment in hand and once the foundation gets a hold of it, we are going to have other uses for the camp. Big movement for Economic Development.

Mr. Locke thanked Jon Neff and the scouts for helping out at the Ice Cream Social. They helped a lot.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to move forward on the SCADA bid. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mayor Abella explained the SCADA Project to the scouts.

Safety-Service Director Mr. Kirby provided council with the updates within the city:

Code Enforcement officer Brandon Miller resigned from his position, and we will be interviewing this coming week for his replacement.

We have been following up on citizen complaints and attempting to resolve what issues is happening.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan – Thank you Mr. President and Council, the 2025 trash contract was reviewed and evaluated for cost after Rumpke was awarded. No Trash Contract increase will be needed this year. The contract will be evaluated annually related to fuel charges.

Friday, July 11, 2025 President Martin reviewed and signed off on Bank Reconciliations for February, March, April and May 2025. An email was sent to Finance Chairman Ferguson requesting review of the Bank Reconciliations as well.

This morning, July 14, our RITA representative was onsite to review general instructions and reports with Mayor Abdella and myself. We are a mandatory filer for income tax. During the meeting, a report for Delinquent individuals, including non-filers, was provided to us. This report contains 2,928 individuals for the tax years 2019-2023. We will be sending letters to these individuals to file their taxes or to file the exemption forms within a specific time frame. Then they will be summoned to Mayors court in accordance with our ordinance and assessed interest and penalties. There is also a list of individuals that were on the failure to collect that totals \$241,002.38 that we will be looking to collect. Collection attempts will begin as soon as we receive RITA's collection letter template that we will customize, address, and mail. We hope to have these collection measures completed by August 1 or August 15.

The Public Depository bids have been received, and I have requested legislation to award the bid.

City Law Director Mr. Webster had no report.

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassady had no report.

Communication and Petitions: none

Council President Mr. Martin later mentioned the condition of the baseball field at Civitan Park. According to Mr. Martin the fields are atrocious. Mr. Locke and I were sitting down there the other day and there are trees growing in the fences and mowing was not done.

Mr. Locke stated that he was at the park recently and they have mowed and some of the trees have been removed from the fences.

Reports of Standing Committee:

Mr. Ferguson Finance/Audit Committee reported that his committee met on July 14, 2025 at 6:34pm for the purpose of reviewing the 2025 budget. The meeting ended at 7:15pm. Mr. Ferguson made a motion to 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 presented the City of Belpre EMS Admin Report for June, prepared by Superintendent Jeff Greenley. Here is the call volume breakdown.

Total of 127 calls

Emergency 911- 110 calls

Belpre to MMH Main – 8

Belpre to Belpre Landing – 3

Belpre to Rockland Ridge – 1

Belpre to Selby – 0

Main MMH to Belpre Landing – 0

Main MMH to Rockland Ridge – 0

Belpre to Helipad – 0

****Average Response from time call is taken at dispatch (mins, seconds).**

****Average Chute Time 2 min and 2 secs****

Mr. Locke, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer Committee reported that Lee Street is paved and will be stripped tomorrow providing the weather permits. I did attend Thursday staff meeting. Not sure what color the walls are in the conference room because they are covered with post it notes. Very informative and I look forward attending more staff meetings like that.

Mr. Ambrozy Utilities Committee reported that on July 3rd, 2025 he attended the pre-construction meeting for the water tank project, the monthly EDG Project Review meeting, and

the bid opening for the SCADA project. On July 7th, I attended a meeting with the Mayor and Department Heads to discuss the events that occurred during the 4th of July weekend and our forward plans.

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

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

Mr. Seebaugh Parks and Recreation Committee was absent. No report was given in his absence.

At this time, President of Council Mr. Martin went back to make comment under Communication and Petitions. Please see the comment made under Communication and Petitions.

Mrs. Campbell Planning and Zoning/Economic Development reported that she is continuing her research on ocean containers on residential properties. She will be calling a committee meeting once her research is complete.

Mrs. Campbell made a motion to add to tonight's agenda for first reading **AN ORDINANCE TO EXTEND THE ONE YEAR MORATORIUM ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INPATIENT OR OUTPATIENT ADDICTION FACILITIES, INCLUDING SOBER LIVING HOMES AND RECOVERY HOMES, WITHIN THE CITY OF BELPRE FOR AN ADDITIONAL PERIOD OF ONE (1) YEAR.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Campbell made a motion to add to tonight's agenda for first reading **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND BELPRE CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTION 1149.01 © LOT, YARD AND HEIGHT REQUIREMENTS FOR "C" AND "M" DISTRICTS.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Ms. Riffle Rules Committee was absent. No report was given in her absence.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL – AGENDA items only – None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: -

Mrs. Campbell brought before council for second reading **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND BELPRE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCE SECTION 121.01(A).** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

Mr. Webster explained the Belpre City Code of Ordinance to the scouts present. We have to submit ordinances and resolutions to council for approval. They are sent to committee where they decide whether or not to request legislation. Once legislation is prepared it is placed on

the agenda and must be voted on three times where it is the final reading. Once it is passed it is adopted and becomes part of our Codified Ordinances for the City of Belpre. There are ways to pass in one night by suspending the rules of council. The legislation will have an emergency clause in the language of the legislation.

New Business:

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for first reading **A RESOLUTION SUPPLEMENTING YEAR 2025 APPROPRIATIONS**. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

Mrs. Campbell brought before council for first reading **AN ORDINANCE TO EXTEND THE ONE YEAR MORATORIUM ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INPATIENT OR OUTPATIENT ADDICTION FACILITIES, INCLUDING SOBER LIVING HOMES AND RECOVERY HOMES, WITHIN THE CITY OF BELPRE FOR AN ADDITIONAL PERIOD OF ONE (1) YEAR**. Mr. Locke pointed out a typo to the legislation. He said that they need to amend 6 months to 1 year. Mr. Webster stated that the legislation would be amended before the next meeting. Mr. Ferguson asked when it would become effective? Mr. Webster stated that it is one year from when it becomes effective. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

Mrs. Campbell brought before council for first reading **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND BELPRE CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTION 1149.01 © LOT, YARD AND HEIGHT REQUIREMENTS FOR “C” AND “M” DISTRICTS**. Mr. Locke asked what the EPA representative thought about this.

According to Mayor Abdella this pertains to a manufacturing storm water coverage.

Manufacturing has 35% coverage and Commercial has 85% coverage. Manufacturing property can be used for your coverage area that it is zoned. We have three manufacturing properties within the City of Belpre, one being Pioneer Casting, Boxers Bed and Biscuits and the site of the new Woman's and Children's Hospital at Marietta Memorial. The site is on manufacturing and if we take it and make it a C1 the hospital site will be in compliance when they start to build as Commercial Property. 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:

Amanda Wires, President of the Belpre Homecoming Committee appeared before council inviting all members of council to the opening ceremonies on Thursday, July 31st at 6:30pm. Amanda stated that we will do the introductions and we would like to recognize everyone and the role you play in our community. Our sponsors will also be present.

Bobbie Walker stated that she really appreciates the communication between the Homecoming committee and the City of Belpre.

Jesse Wonycott 805 Main Street requested that the contact information for SOPEC, along with the rates and aggregation be added to the cities website.

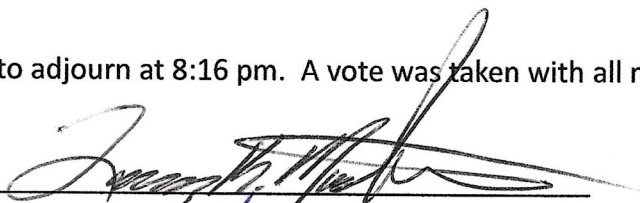
Karen Locke 726 Tuttle Street requested that the golf cart requirements for the City of Belpre be added to the city's website.

Kim Martin 208 Elm Street stated that she gets a lot of questions regarding golf cart requirements. It would be helpful to have those requirements added, to the website. The information is also in the packet that individuals pick up from the police department.

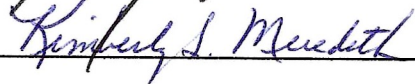
Adjourn:

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to adjourn at 8:16 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 Martin", written over a horizontal line.

Clerk of Belpre City Council Mrs. Meredith

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