

July 28, 2025

Council President Mr. Martin called the July 28, 2025 Belpre City Council meeting to order at 7:32 pm. The roll was called with the following members present: Mr. Ambrozy, Mrs. Dennis, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Locke, Ms. Riffle and Mr. Seebaugh present. Also present was Mayor Abdella, Safety-Service Director Mr. Kirby, City Auditor Mrs. Nolan, and Treasurer Mrs. Cassady. Absent from the meeting was Council persons Mrs. Campbell, City Law Director Mr. Webster 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 July 14, 2025 meeting minutes. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to approve the minutes of July 14, 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:

- I had the pleasure of participating with the County America 250 committee meeting last week. We will be holding meetings for the local community to get involved in Belpre's Celebration.
- Over the past couple of weeks, we have been interviewing several candidates for the code enforcement position. We have had many good candidates apply for the role.
- We had the electrician in to discuss the generator for our well head. The project total will be \$110K. We received 50K towards the project. The remainder will come from the water fund. This will put wells 1-2-3 on emergency power. We are waiting on the surveyor to give us the proper elevations so the generator will be out of the flood plain.
- The Source water signage is being created locally and will be placed in the parks to help educate the community as to why we limit activities and parking on the grass.

- The shelter farthest away from Blennerhassett will be removed before the end of August to allow the building of the new All-Inclusive Playground. We are working with a builder to construct a new smaller shelter. Then we will add another in the spring.
- With all the heavy rains over the past few weeks we have been experiencing some extensive storm water issues. We have had several residents into the City building to discuss the issues. We have determined that a public meeting related to storm water needs to occur so we can do some planning. I will be asking Jeff Carr, Kathy Davis and Chris Barringer to participate in the meeting. I am hoping to get everyone's schedule coordinated by the end of August.
- On Friday I had a good conversation with the EPA leadership related to current and planned projects within the city and the possibility of partial grant funding for the projects. In our discussion we discussed the WWTP or Water Reclamation Facility and the needed rebuild of the Rockland lift station. In the end they reminded me that our rates are still very low and explained the rate increase we had and our goals going forward.
- Mr. President we are working on some new policies that will be presented for consideration and approval.
 - Several from the auditor's office that will need reviewed and accepted into our policy manual.
 - We are also working on one for the police department to allow them to take home their cars within 30 miles. We are also determining how this affects benefits if at all. We have asked the accounting firm to confirm the IRS rules.

Projects

SCADA – Documents are being sent to the EPA so that we can complete and begin this important project.

Park Plan – working on Phase one funding

WWTP – Planning and Design

Legislation

- Moratorium
- Manufacturing Storm water coverage area
- Supplemental

Upcoming Events

- Homecoming July 31 – August 2, 2025

- Kids Fishing Derby
- Road Race
- Fireworks
- Parade

Grants Awarded

- Housing Technical Assistance Grant – Finalized – Scope of work pending
- 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

Safety-Service Director Mr. Kirby presented updates within the city. They are as follows:
 Backflow Inspection Status – 175 active devices needed inspection; 168 devices have a current inspection; 4 devices are past due, consumers are actively addressing requirements; 2 devices are failed, inspectors are waiting on part replacements.

The two new police cruisers are being equipped with radios, lightbars and decals and are hopeful of being ready soon.

The police department is getting prepared for Homecoming activities for this upcoming week. There will be a recruitment tent for the police, fire, and EMS. Please stop by and see them.

The street department is also working at Civitan Park this week to get the fence put up and other duties to assist with the Homecoming activities.

On July 24, 2025, the Water department responded to the area of Congress Road for an 8-inch water line break. This occurred between 220 Congress Road to Calder Ridge and Way Road. WTAP was notified and citizens were advised a boil advisory would be in place until the water testing was completed.

City Auditor Mrs. Nolan – Thank you Mr. President and Council,

At the July 14 Council meeting I reported that we had met with our RITA representative and (quote) “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.”

On Wednesday, July 16, I received a personal phone call, as well as emails, from our RITA representatives regarding the letters. He advised that "they (RITA)" will mail the letters to the Delinquent/Non-filers the end of July and will let me know when they do. After 30 days, they will provide us with a list of non-compliant individuals. These individuals will then be summoned to our Mayor's Court.

We received 5 bids for the 2025-2030 Public Depository Fund Bids. I met Thursday, July 24, with a couple people from the finance committee to review the Bids. After careful consideration, we selected The Citizens Bank. Each of you has a copy of the results on your desk.

We are currently working on updating the 1998 Fixed Asset Policy to a higher threshold. Per the State IT Auditors 2024 recommendation, we are also working to create a Disaster Business Continuity Plan.

The June 2025 Expense/Revenue Budget Reports, Check Register, Payroll journal, Receipts ledger and RITA's 3rd quarter 2024 to June 2025 Summary report were emailed to Council Thursday, July 24, 2025.

The Bill Adjustments and Credit Memo Reports for June 2025 were emailed to Council Wednesday, May 21, 2025. This report will need Councils approval.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the June Bill Adjustment Report as presented. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

City Law Director Mr. Webster was absent. No report was given in his absence.

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassady reported that before you this evening is a copy of the June 2025 Treasurer's Report that needs approved by council. Copies have been submitted to council and copies for the public review is in the back. Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the June 2025 Treasurer's Report as presented. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Communication and Petitions:

Council President Mr. Martin assigned to Police and Fire Committee/Mrs. Dennis Chairperson Auto policy for the police department.

Reports of Standing Committee:

Mr. Ferguson Finance/Audit Committee had no report. Mr. Ferguson made a motion to add to tonight's agenda for first reading **A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING, THE PUBLIC DEPOSITORY FOR ACTIVE, INACTIVE AND INTERIM FUNDS OF THE CITY OF BELPRE, OHIO.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee had no report. Mrs. Dennis announced that she would be calling a committee meeting at the next meeting for the purpose of discussing the auto policy for the police department. She wanted to familiarize herself with the material before holding a public meeting.

Mr. Locke, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer Committee had no report. Mr. Locke recognized the street guys as they are mowing the heck out of Belpre.

Mr. Ambrozy Utilities Committee gave an updated report on the Water Tank Project. He said that this morning at 9:30 I took a field trip to the top of the hill where we will begin building our new water tank. No work has started yet. As I was leaving the project inspector showed up.

Mr. Seebaugh Parks and Recreation Committee announced that the opening ceremonies for the Belpre Homecoming Festival will kick off at 6:30pm on July 31, 2025.

Mrs. Campbell Planning and Zoning/Economic Development was absent. No report was given in her absence.

Ms. Riffle Rules Committee spoke briefly about the moratorium legislation.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL – AGENDA items only – None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: -

Mr. Seebaugh brought before council for third reading **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND BELPRE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCE SECTION 121.01(A)**. This legislation allows council to change the Council meeting from 7:30pm to 6:30pm. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Seebaugh moved this be Ordinance #26, 2024-2025 and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for second reading **A RESOLUTION SUPPLEMENTING YEAR 2025 APPROPRIATIONS**.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to amend addendum to appropriations. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

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

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for third reading **A RESOLUTION SUPPLEMENTING YEAR 2025 APPROPRIATIONS** as amended. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson moved this be Resolution #34, 2024-2025 and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Seebaugh brought before council for second 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. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

Mr. Locke brought before council for second 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. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

New Business:

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for first reading **A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING, THE PUBLIC DEPOSITORY FOR ACTIVE, INACTIVE AND INTERIM FUNDS OF THE CITY OF BELPRE, OHIO.** 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 reading **A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING, THE PUBLIC DEPOSITORY FOR ACTIVE, INACTIVE AND INTERIM FUNDS OF THE CITY OF BELPRE, OHIO.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Ferguson brought before council for the second reading **A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING, THE PUBLIC DEPOSITORY FOR ACTIVE, INACTIVE AND INTERIM FUNDS OF THE CITY OF BELPRE, OHIO.** 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:

Rita Lowe 315 Maple Street addressed the traffic light at Maple and Washington Blvd.


Mrs. Dennis made a motion to excuse Mrs. Campbell from this evening's meeting as she was on vacation. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Adjourn:

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to adjourn at 8:19 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

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James H. Martin", written over a horizontal line.A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Denise D. Riffle", written over a horizontal line.