

June 09, 2025

Council President Mr. Martin called the June 09, 2025 Belpre City Council meeting to order at 7:30 pm. The roll was called with the following members present: Mr. Ambrozy, Mrs. Dennis, 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. Absent from the meeting was Mr. Ferguson.

Council President Mr. Martin asked everyone to please rise for the Prayer and remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance. City Auditor Mrs. Nolan 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 26, 2025 meeting minutes. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to approve the minutes of May 26, 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:**

Last week we were notified that we received \$85,000.00 from the Department of Development Housing Technical Assistance Program. This funding is to help us modernize outdated zoning regulations and update our development strategy. We are looking forward to working on this critical issue related to our growth as a community.

On Friday I was able to tour Guardian Structural Technologies a housing manufacturing company in Cleveland. They have a very innovative process to build homes that are highly efficient and affordable.

The Rockland Avenue Paving Project has been occurring. They are working hard to complete the project with all the rain delays.

We have had two Ribbon Cuttings since we last met. The MMH Cosmetic Office and the relocated Fitness with Phyllis. We have another ribbon cutting this Thursday at 3pm at the

Cawley Hospice. Please join us if you are available. John will be representing the city as I will be in Columbus at the Mayor's Conference on Wednesday and Thursday.

We have had two meetings with WWW intrastate planning commission to discuss paving and road safety concerns. We will be working to develop a paving plan for the federal roads as they are currently scheduling FY 2028/2029 funds. We have not had a strong plan in the past to be able to schedule these types of projects.

**Reminders:**

June 16<sup>th</sup> at 6pm Architectural Structure Point will be here at 6pm to present the park plan. This is open to all citizens.

The 28<sup>th</sup> Multi Cultural Festival will be June 20-22 in Civitan Park. They have lots of exciting stuff planned for the event.

**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.

Safety-Service Director Mr. Kirby presented his report before council. It is as follows:

**Police Department:**

- Dispatch renovations are now completed. They are now working on getting the new cruisers ready for duty, installation package and decals.

**Street Department:**

- Installing caution lights on the highway to assist with driver attention. You may have also noticed the speed monitoring sign that has been installed on Campus Drive.
- Repairing the roadways that have involved roadcuts due to water line repairs.
- Ongoing road patching throughout the city.

**Water Department:**

- Ongoing water meter and MXU replacements.

Council President Mr. Martin asked the SSD if the caution lights will be installed in the same places that they are now. According to Mr. Kirby not to his knowledge.

**City Auditor Mrs. Nolan** presented her report before council. It is as follows: Thank you Mr. President and Council, knowing that I was going to be absent for the May 26 Council meeting, the Auditor report was sent in an email to Finance Chairman Mr. Ferguson on Wednesday, May

21st. Upon reading the minutes of the May 26 meeting, it was noted the Auditor's report was not given. The following is that report: The April 2025 Expense/Revenue Budget Reports, Check Register, Payroll journal, and Receipts ledger were emailed to Council Wednesday, May 21, 2025. The Bill Adjustments and Credit Memo Reports for April 2025 were emailed to Council Wednesday, May 21, 2025. These reports will need Councils approval. I am currently working on the OWDA Annual Financial Information form due July 1, 2025.

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

Mrs. Dennis made a motion to accept the April Credit Memo as presented. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

City Law Director Mr. Webster had no report.

City Treasurer Mrs. Cassady had no report. Mrs. Cassady thanked Mr. Ferguson for presenting her Treasurer's Report at the last meeting.

#### **Communication and Petitions:**

Council President Mr. Martin announced that the Mayor and I have been in discussion regarding city codes. I would ask all council members to review their Council Committee Referral List and either take action on them or have them removed from their committee assignment.

#### **Reports of Standing Committee:**

Mr. Ferguson Finance/Audit Committee was absent. No report was given in his absence.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee had no report. Mrs. Dennis asked to have the intoxilyzer removed from her committee as it has been completed.

Mr. Locke, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer Committee reported that he has attended two meetings with Triple W (WWW). Mr. Locke stated that it takes years in advance to prepare for paving. We are looking at streets and storm sewers.

Mr. Ambrozy Utilities Committee reported that on June 5<sup>th</sup> he attended the EDG review meeting. Mr. Ambrozy also stated that he has had calls from two different constituents regarding non-paving issues.

Mr. Seebaugh Parks and Recreation Committee announced the Multi-Cultural Festival that will be held June 20-22 in Civitan Parks. He stated that this is a pretty decent event along with many different types of food. Mr. Seebaugh also announced that the Spring sports has pretty much wrapped up for the spring. Belpre Soccer ended this past weekend. You should be able to get your breakfast and lunch at Wendy's and Burger King now without a huge line.

Mrs. Campbell Planning and Zoning/Economic Development informed the clerk that the following items can be removed from the Council Committee Referral List: C-3 Zoning can be removed. Mayor Abdella stated that the C-3 Zoning is part of the Housing plan that is being worked on. She also mentioned the Business Tax. Mrs. Campbell asked if the Moratorium could be removed from her committee assignments. She was informed by Mayor Abdella that this still needed action. Mrs. Campbell and Ms. Riffle are to get together to discuss.

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

Ms. Riffle Rules Committee thanked Mrs. Campbell for excusing her from the May 26, 2025 meeting. Prior to this evening's meeting my committee met to discuss changing the time of our regular council meeting to 6:30 pm once legislation has been prepared and approved by council on three different readings. Mr. Webster asked if she was wanting this in place for the first meeting in September. According to Ms. Riffle if possible. Ms. Riffle also announced that Music by the River has started and will be held every Tuesday evening.

**PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL – AGENDA items only** – None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS: -**

Mrs. Dennis brought before council for second 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.

Mrs. Dennis brought before council for second 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. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

Mrs. Campbell brought before council for second reading **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 moved to suspend the rule of council on three different days to allow for the third reading of **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 brought before council for third reading **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 moved this be **Resolution #31, 2024-2025** and duly passed. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

**New Business:** none

**PERSON APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:**

Nicki Adams 2204 Murray Street, Apt. 4 presented the clerk with a petition of 114 signatures of residents that had signed the petition in the hopes of getting Hutchinson Street also known as Parker Alley fixed. Ms. Adams talked about the condition of the road and how hard it is for citizens to use the road and also safety concerns. Ms. Adams stated that the alley also needed stop signs or speed bumps. A copy of her report is on file in council chambers along with the petition.

Ms. Adams also addressed the city pool.

Mr. Seebaugh announced that the pool will not be open this year. We are in hopes that the Architectural Structure Point meeting will help with plans for the park and the pool.

Harlen Colvin 732 George Street addressed council regarding the dry wells in the city along with the city pool. Mr. Colvin stated that the reason the dry wells and the pool is in the shape they are is because of the lack of maintenance. Mr. Colvin stated that the Gas Company had put new lines in and had marked the area for OOPS to be able to locate the new lines. Once they have been marked, they have to be acted upon within a few weeks or they will have to come back and be marked again. Mr. Colvin stated that it has been 20 years since the dry wells have been cleaned out and the city needs to act upon. Mr., Colvin stated that he had removed two inches of sod from the area in front of his house however the mud is packed down which does not allow water to soak into the dry well.

Jeff Johnson 733 George Street addressed council regarding a riser. He commented that the water was getting down in the dry well pit. He is in need of a new riser. Mayor Abdella stated that she would contact Clint in the morning about the riser. Mr. Johnson gave the information to the SSD.

**Adjourn:**

Ms. Riffle made a motion to adjourn at 8:10 pm. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Council President Mr. Martin

Clerk of Belpre City Council Mrs. Meredith